

## International students in the ELICOS sector in 2014

This snapshot provides an overview of international students studying English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) in Australia in 2014. The English Australia (EA) *Survey of Major ELICOS Regional Markets in 2014* provides information on ELICOS students on any visas including student, working holiday, visitor and other types. The Department of Education and Training's international student data on enrolments and commencements relate only to international students studying in Australia on a student visa. Findings of the EA survey are weighted by data from the department to provide a useful picture of the make-up of the total ELICOS student population. However, the department's international student data should still be referred to for a more current count of ELICOS enrolments by student visa holders.

In 2014, the EA survey showed that ELICOS student enrolments grew 11% to 163,542 students (from 147,828 in 2013). The majority of the students studying ELICOS were on student visas (66%) followed by visitor (19%), working holiday (11%) and other (4%) visas (Figure 1). In comparison to 2013, the number of students on student visas increased by 18%, visitor visas by 9% and other visas by 10%. The working holiday visa type was the only one to show a decline of 17% in 2014 (Table 1).

Figure 2 illustrates the changing shares of ELICOS students on different visa types over the last seven years.

All states experienced growth in 2014 except Queensland, with NSW and Victoria both recording the highest ELICOS enrolments ever. Victoria had the strongest growth with 28%, followed by South Australia (25%), NSW (9%) and Western Australia (8%), while Queensland declined slightly by 1%.

### Nationality

The ELICOS sector continues to draw its largest numbers of students from Asia (66%, a slight increase from 64% in 2013). Students from China accounted for 18% which was the largest source of all ELICOS students in 2014. The remaining top ten student nationalities in order were: Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Brazil, Colombia, India, Vietnam, Taiwan and Italy. All the top ten nationalities showed growth in 2014, with the exception of South Korea. The top ten source countries together accounted for 74% of ELICOS students in 2014.

In 2014, 38% of ELICOS students came from the top three countries, a decline from 41% in 2013. Of these countries, 86% of Chinese students held a student visa. More than half (52%) of Japanese students were on visitor visa, which remains the most popular visa type for Japanese students. The student visa has become the dominant visa for students from South Korea (43%), overtaking the working holiday visa share of 37% (which had been the most common visa in previous years).

### Duration of study

In 2014, the average length of study remained stable at 12.9 weeks. The average length across the different visa types had declined since 2013, the exception being other visas, increasing to 8.1 from 7.6 weeks. The average length of study for student visas declined from 16.8 to 16.3 weeks, for working holiday visas the decline was from 8.6 to 8.1 weeks and for visitor visas it was from 4.9 to 4.8 weeks.

Figure 1. ELICOS students by visa type in 2014

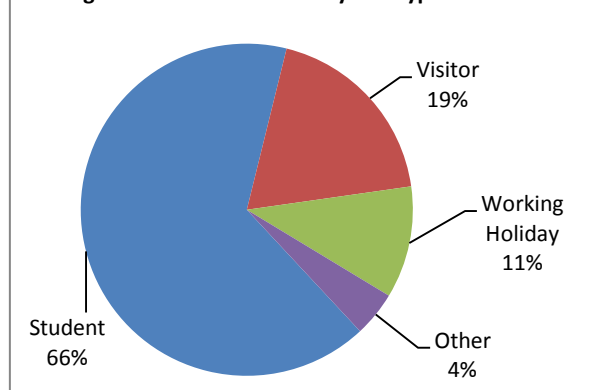
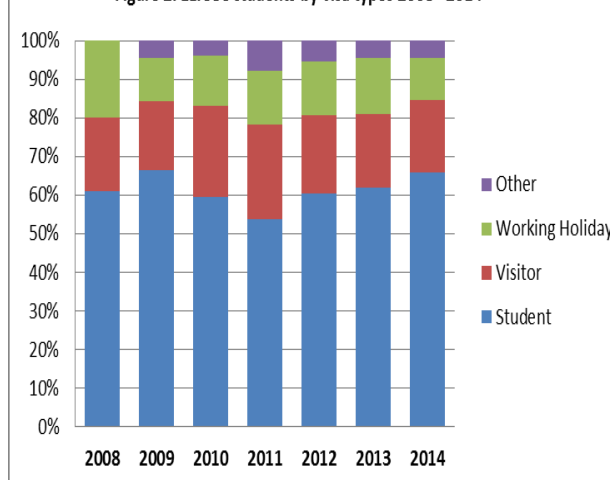


Figure 2. ELICOS students by visa types 2008 - 2014



Visa Type	2013	2014	% Growth 2013
Student	91,398	107,610	18%
Visitor	28,319	30,897	9%
Working Holiday	21,542	17,840	-17%
Other	6,569	7,195	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>147,828</b>	<b>163,542</b>	<b>11%</b>