



International student enrolments by nationality in 2014

This research snapshot provides an overview of international student enrolments by nationality in 2014¹. China accounted for 25.9 per cent of the total 589,860 enrolments, followed by India with a further 10.7 per cent of all enrolments in 2014. The proportion of enrolments by sector, level of study and broad fields of education in the top ten nationalities varied, as described below.

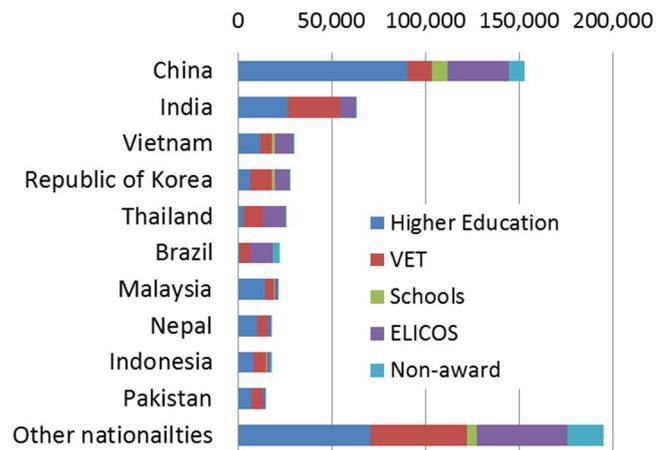
Sector

Figure 1 shows the distribution of international student enrolments by sector. China was the top nationality in the higher education (36.1% of all higher education enrolments), schools (45.5%), ELICOS (23.9%) and non-award (24.0%) sectors. India was the top nationality in the vocational education and training (VET) sector (18.8% of all VET enrolments).

Together, the top ten nationalities accounted for 71.8 per cent of enrolments in higher education and 65.6 per cent of enrolments in VET. The largest proportions of enrolments from eight of the ten nationalities were in higher education or VET. Of the remaining two nationalities, more than half (53.1%) of enrolments from Brazil and 46.0 per cent of enrolments from Thailand were in ELICOS.

Of all enrolments in the non-award sector, 44.8 per cent were from the top ten nationalities, incorporating 24.0 per cent from China. Most non-award enrolments were in foundation courses. Almost three-quarters of enrolments in the non-award sector were from the Americas and Asia (72.9%) regions. Enrolments from the Americas were largely in study abroad programs and those from Asia were in foundation courses.

Figure 1. Enrolments by top ten nationalities and sector, 2014



Level of Study

Table 1 shows that the largest proportion of enrolments from three of the top ten nationalities in 2014 were in undergraduate level courses. The largest shares of international students from India and Pakistan were enrolled in VET courses. About one in four from each nationality was enrolled in courses at Diploma/Advanced Diploma levels.

Broad Field of Education

International student enrolments in Australia are concentrated within a small number of fields of education. For each of the top ten nationalities, 'Management and Commerce' was the most popular field in both higher education and VET in 2014. In higher education and VET combined, 'Management and Commerce' accounted for 56.3 per cent of enrolments while the combined fields representing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) accounted for 20 per cent of enrolments in the top ten nationalities.

Table 1. Level of study for international students from top ten nationalities in 2014

Top 10 nationalities	Higher education			VET		Other (Schools/ ELICOS/ non-award)
	Undergraduate	Postgraduate Research	Postgraduate other	Diploma/ Advanced Diploma	Other VET courses	
China	32.2%	2.5%	24.4%	5.4%	3.2%	32.3%
India	12.5%	1.6%	27.7%	27.8%	16.9%	13.5%
Vietnam	26.8%	2.5%	10.5%	9.5%	10.5%	40.1%
Republic of Korea	20.2%	0.6%	2.8%	18.6%	23.3%	34.5%
Thailand	5.2%	1.4%	4.8%	16.8%	23.6%	48.2%
Brazil	1.6%	0.9%	1.4%	10.4%	15.5%	70.2%
Malaysia	50.5%	4.9%	9.6%	9.9%	12.7%	12.4%
Nepal	32.4%	0.9%	22.9%	17.5%	12.6%	13.7%
Indonesia	32.9%	4.5%	9.8%	18.0%	20.0%	14.8%
Pakistan	24.1%	2.7%	23.1%	25.0%	13.8%	11.2%
Other nationalities	20.9%	5.0%	10.3%	12.2%	14.2%	37.4%
All nationalities	23.7%	3.1%	15.6%	13.0%	12.4%	32.2%

Highlighted cells indicate the largest share within level of study for each nationality.

¹ Full year 2014 international student data were used for this analysis. These are available at <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/International-Student-Data/Pages/InternationalStudentData2014.aspx>.