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| **May 2017** |
| Export income to Australia from international education activity in 2016 |

This snapshot highlights the latest data on international education exports released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in its *International Trade in Services* series(a).

**Size of exports**

International education activity arising from international students studying and living in Australia contributed $22.0 billion to the economy in 2016. This is a 10.5% increase from the earnings recorded in financial year 2015-16 ($19.9 billion); up 17.7% on calendar year 2015 ($18.7 billion).

The *total* export income generated by all international education activity was $22.4 billion. This comprised spending by onshore students (the ABS uses the term ‘education-related personal travel’ for this item), as well as offshore earnings from other educational services ($410 million) and royalties ($28 million) which generated an additional $438 million, as outlined in the table below.

Education-related personal travel is Australia’s 3rd largest export after iron ore ($53.7 billion) and coal ($41.1 billion). It is the largest *services* export (30.8% of total services exports), ahead of other personal travel services ($17.4 billion); and professional and management consulting services ($4.8 billion).

**Education sector**(c)

In 2016 the higher education sector generated $15.1 billion in export income (68.9% of total on-shore earnings). VET was the second largest, generating $3.7 billion in earnings (16.8%). Export income from ELICOS was $1,087 million (4.9%); schools, $872 million (4.0%); and non-award, $805 million (3.7%).

**Export income by state and territory, 2016**

(a) Sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ publication *International Trade in Services, by Country, by State and by Detailed Services Category, Calendar Year, 2016* (ABS Catalogue no. 5368.0.55.004) published on 24 May 2017. (b) Includes international students studying onshore on student visas only. (c) International students from New Zealand and those on Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade/Defence scholarships contributed an additional $187 m and $193 m respectively. (d) Export income does not include income generated through offshore tuition provided by Australian institutions.





