



Offshore delivery of Australia higher education courses in 2018

Many students around the world study Australian higher education courses without coming to Australia. For example, an Australian university may have campuses in one or more countries outside Australia or deliver courses fully or partially through a stand-alone arrangement or a partnership arrangement with foreign institutions, or offer courses online. This snapshot outlines these different modes of offshore education in the higher education sector. The data is sourced from the Australian Higher Education Statistics Collection and is largely limited to students studying courses recognised in the Australian Qualifications Framework.

There were 479,987 overseas students studying Australian higher education courses in 2018. Approximately 23% of those students were studying offshore. Of these, 39,080 students were enrolled in programs provided at offshore Australian university campuses¹, 65,894 were enrolled in programs delivered through partnerships between Australian and foreign institutions or other programs and a further 7,354 were enrolled in online (distance) education (Table 1).

Level of study and field of education

The most popular qualifications for offshore students were Bachelor (63%) and Masters by coursework (24%) degrees (Figure 1). The top broad fields of education were Management & Commerce (51%), Engineering & Related Technologies (12%), Society & Culture (9%) and Information Technology (8%).

Age and Gender

There was little difference in age and gender between offshore students and international students studying in Australia. In both cases, most were between 20 to 24 years of age. There was an even split between male and female students studying offshore, while more males (52%) were studying in Australia than females in 2018.

Location

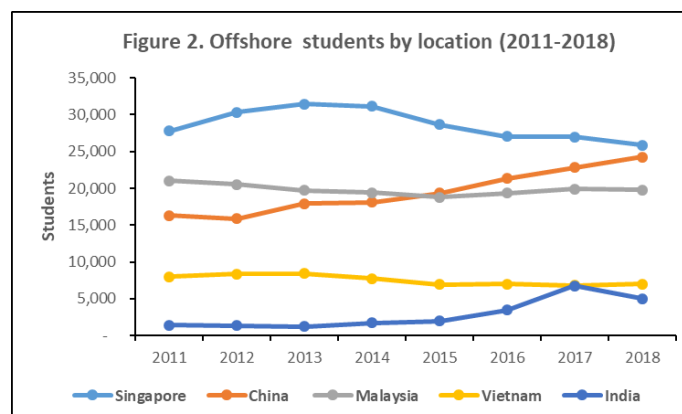
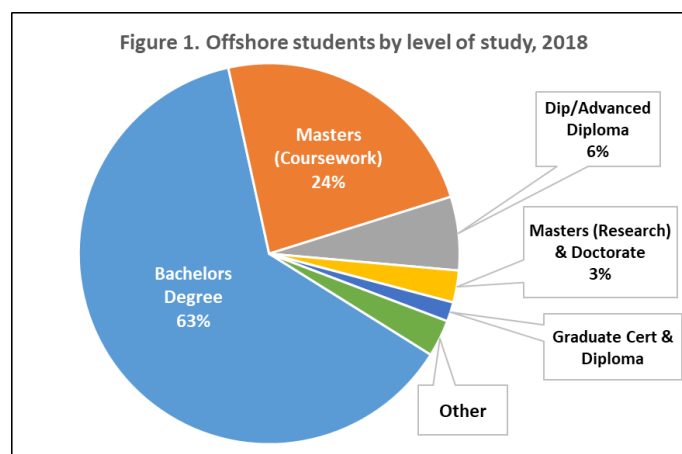
Figure 2 shows the top five countries with the most number of students enrolled in Australian offshore programs over the last 7 years from 2011 up to 2018. These top countries represent the location of institutions where students studied and not necessarily the nationalities of those students. For example, just over 20 per cent of students undertaking Australian university programs in Singapore were not permanent residents of Singapore.

Type of attendance

While onshore international students are primarily full time students, only 77% of offshore students studied full time in 2018.

Table 1: Higher education delivery to international students

Delivery to	Students		% Growth on 2017
	2017	2018	
International students in Australia	312,087	364,518	16.8%
Students at offshore campuses	39,262	39,080	-0.5%
Students in offshore partnerships and /or other programs	70,653	65,894	-6.7%
Students offshore in distance education	7,315	7,354	0.5%
Sub-total of all offshore students	117,230	112,328	-4.2%
Students reported with no information	2,121	3,141	48.1%
Grand total	431,438	479,987	11.3%



¹ Curtin University (Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore & UAE), James Cook University (Singapore), Monash University (India, Italy, Malaysia & South Africa), Murdoch University (Singapore & UAE), University of Newcastle (Singapore), University of Wollongong (UAE), RMIT University (Vietnam X 2), Swinburne University (Malaysia).