



March 2015

## International student numbers 2014

This snapshot provides an overview of the number of international students<sup>1</sup> studying in Australia on a student visa in 2014. The department's monthly international student data records student 'enrolment' and 'commencement' numbers rather than actual student numbers. This approach avoids double counting students who follow study pathways, for example enrolling in an English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) and then a higher education course in the same year. However, at the completion of a calendar year, it is possible to reconcile enrolments data to calculate the number of students who studied in Australia over the year.

There were just over 453,500 international students from 191 countries studying on a student visa in Australia in 2014. This represents a 10.4 per cent increase over 2013 figures.

Students from China contributed 26.7 per cent of all international students in Australia, the highest of any nationality. India and the Vietnam were the next highest, contributing 10.2 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively. Nationalities in the top ten countries (see table below) together contributed 65.7 per cent of total international student numbers. Of these top ten, seven nationalities had more students in the higher education sector than any other. The exceptions were the Republic of Korea, Thailand and Brazil which had larger shares of students in vocational education and training (VET) than in higher education. Brazil had the second highest student numbers in ELICOS and in the non-award sector after China.

Across all nationalities combined, there was a slightly higher proportion of male students (52.9%) than female. The gender distribution varied with student nationality. Nine out of ten (91.2%) students from Pakistan were male. In contrast, almost two in three (64.2%) students from Thailand were female.

In 2014, the most common age range for international students was between 20 and 24 years (43.7%) while 6.0 per cent were over 35 years and 3.5 per cent were under 18 years. Students in the VET sector tended to be slightly older, where 34.3 per cent were aged 25 to 29 years. Students in the schools sector were commonly younger with 65.0 per cent under 18 years of age. Students in the higher education, ELICOS and non-award sectors were predominately aged 20 to 24 years (51.9%, 41.4% and 66.8% respectively).

**Table 1. International Student Numbers by Sector**

Sector	2013	2014	Growth
Higher Education	216,971	236,249	8.9%
VET	98,264	109,305	11.2%
Schools	17,644	18,206	3.2%
ELICOS	93,795	112,516	20.0%
Non-award	27,857	34,125	22.5%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>410,925</b>	<b>453,532</b>	<b>10.4%</b>

\* The total is less than the sum of its components as individual students can undertake study in more than one sector during the year.

**Table 2. International Student Numbers, 2014**

Top 10 Nationalities	Age group (years)							Gender Distribution		Sector Distribution				
	<18	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	≥ 35	Total	Female	Male	Higher Education	VET	Schools	ELICOS	Non-award
China	7,199	13,780	66,614	29,612	3,288	825	121,318	51.8%	48.2%	59.5%	7.4%	5.9%	21.3%	5.8%
India	161	2,804	19,559	16,644	5,703	1,509	46,380	29.0%	71.0%	48.1%	36.9%	0.4%	13.9%	0.7%
Vietnam	1,370	3,073	10,462	4,772	1,555	755	21,987	53.2%	46.8%	43.9%	17.9%	6.7%	29.0%	2.6%
Republic of Korea	1,214	857	5,739	5,549	4,245	2,574	20,178	51.1%	48.9%	27.5%	38.3%	6.4%	25.9%	2.0%
Malaysia	365	1,874	11,489	2,978	1,268	1,227	19,201	49.3%	50.7%	69.7%	18.3%	2.1%	6.2%	3.8%
Thailand	368	686	4,082	5,085	3,671	2,223	16,115	64.2%	35.8%	14.7%	36.5%	2.2%	45.9%	0.7%
Brazil	257	374	6,399	4,631	2,340	969	14,970	47.8%	52.2%	4.5%	22.6%	1.5%	52.4%	19.1%
Indonesia	443	2,536	6,502	2,161	1,059	1,025	13,726	48.0%	52.0%	52.9%	30.5%	1.5%	10.8%	4.3%
Nepal	16	1,053	5,076	5,116	1,735	495	13,491	36.9%	63.1%	59.6%	25.5%	0.1%	12.1%	2.7%
Pakistan	18	366	4,054	4,462	1,444	446	10,790	8.8%	91.2%	56.7%	30.8%	0.2%	11.8%	0.5%
Other nationalities	4,513	9,090	58,114	44,672	23,969	15,018	155,376	48.8%	51.2%	40.3%	23.2%	3.1%	22.2%	11.3%
<b>All nationalities</b>	<b>15,924</b>	<b>36,493</b>	<b>198,090</b>	<b>125,682</b>	<b>50,277</b>	<b>27,066</b>	<b>453,532</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>52.9%</b>	<b>46.3%</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>22.0%</b>	<b>6.7%</b>

Note: Highlighted cells indicate the largest shares within 'age group', 'gender' and 'sector' for each nationality.

<sup>1</sup> International student numbers relate only to international students in Australia on a student visa and are derived from the Department of Education and Training's enrolment data by matching a number of different variables such as date of birth, name and gender.