

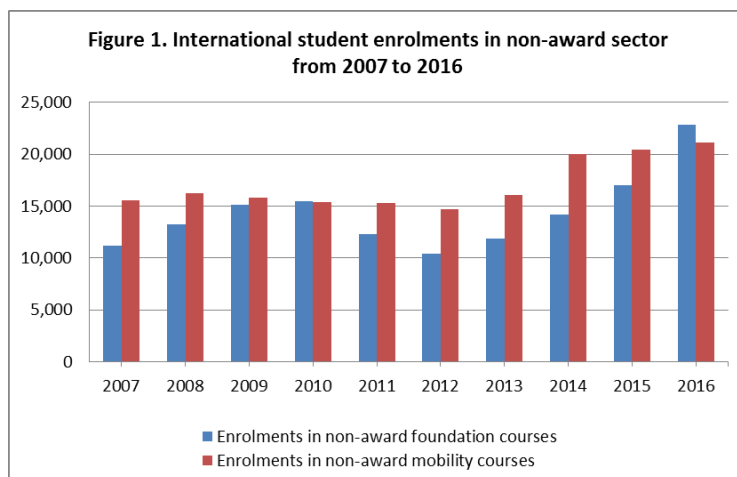
International students studying non-award courses in 2016

This snapshot provides an overview of international student enrolments in courses that do not result in an award (or qualification) that is recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework. Australian non-award courses include two broad types: **foundation** and other enabling courses; and **mobility** courses, including study abroad and study exchange programs.

In 2016, there were 712,884¹ international student enrolments in Australia. Of these, six per cent or 43,957 enrolments were in the non-award sector, which included 22,824 enrolments in foundation courses and 21,133 enrolments in mobility² courses.

Trends

Figure 1 shows the pattern of enrolments in non-award courses since 2007. Enrolments in foundation courses between 2007 and 2010 increased at an average annual growth rate of 11.3% per year. In 2011 enrolments dropped by 20.5% from 2010, that further declined 15.5% in 2012 to 10,386. Since 2012, enrolments in foundation courses have increased at an average annual growth rate of 22% per year to top at 22,824 in 2016. Conversely, enrolments in non-award mobility courses have remained relatively steady from 2007 up to 2013. These enrolments increased by 24.3% in 2014, largely due to rapid growth in Brazilian enrolments arising from the now-lapsed *Science Without Borders* programme. Although Brazilian non-award enrolments have declined since 2014, overall non-award mobility enrolments continued to grow steadily up to 2016.



Top nationalities

In the non-award sector, 51.9% of international students were enrolled in foundation courses. The majority of these enrolments were by students from Asia. By nationality, China accounted for 62.9% of enrolments. Nationalities in the top five, together contributed over three quarters of enrolments (77.3%) in non-award foundation courses (Table 1).

Of the 48.1% of non-award enrolments in mobility courses, 84.9% were either from the Americas or Europe. Table 2 outlines the enrolment contribution of the major source countries, and together the top 5 nationalities accounted for over half (56.0%) of enrolments in non-award mobility courses, comprising of 55.7% in study abroad programs and 44.3% in exchange programs or other mobility activities.

Table 1. Top 5 nationalities for enrolments in non-award foundation courses				Table 2. Top 5 nationalities for enrolments in non-award mobility courses			
Nationality	2016	Share of all nationalities	Change from 2015	Nationality	2016	Share of all nationalities	Change from 2015
China	14,365	62.9%	44.8%	USA	5,721	27.0%	4.3%
Hong Kong	1,027	4.5%	23.1%	UK	2,049	9.7%	16.4%
Malaysia	877	3.8%	21.3%	Germany	1,812	8.6%	4.0%
Nepal	700	3.1%	85.7%	Norway	1,133	5.4%	10.8%
Vietnam	682	3.0%	6.4%	Brazil	1,125	5.3%	-51.8%
Other	5,173	22.7%	19.4%	Other	9,293	44.0%	14.7%
Total	22,824	100.0%	33.9%	Total	21,133	100.0%	3.3%

¹ International student data is available at the Department of Education and Training's website at: <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/international-student-data/pages/default.aspx>

² All courses in the non-award sector were categorised into either foundation and other enabling courses or mobility courses. The enrolments flagged as foundation course enrolments in the data were supplemented by other un-flagged enrolments in the non-award sector that were also apparently foundation courses, based on the name of the course.