

International students studying non-award courses in 2017

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 2017, there were 799,371¹ international student enrolments in Australia. Of these, six per cent or 49,993 enrolments were in the non-award sector, which incorporated 28,313 enrolments in foundation courses and 21,680 enrolments in mobility² courses.

Trends

Figure 1 shows the pattern of enrolments in non-award courses. Since 2012, enrolments in foundation courses

have increased at an average growth rate of 16 per cent per year to top at 28,313 in 2017. Enrolments in non-award mobility increased by 24 per cent 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 2017 at an average annual growth of 8 per cent.

Top nationalities

In the non-award sector, 57 per cent of international students were enrolled in foundation courses. The majority of these enrolments were by students from Asia and China accounted for 65 per cent of these enrolments. The top five nationalities contributed over three quarters of enrolments (80%) in non-award foundation courses (Table 1).

Of the 43 per cent of non-award enrolments in mobility courses, 81 per cent were either from the Americas or Europe. The top 5 nationalities contributed over half (58%) of enrolments in non-award mobility courses, comprising 54 per cent in study abroad programs and 46 per cent in exchange programs or other mobility activities (Table 2).

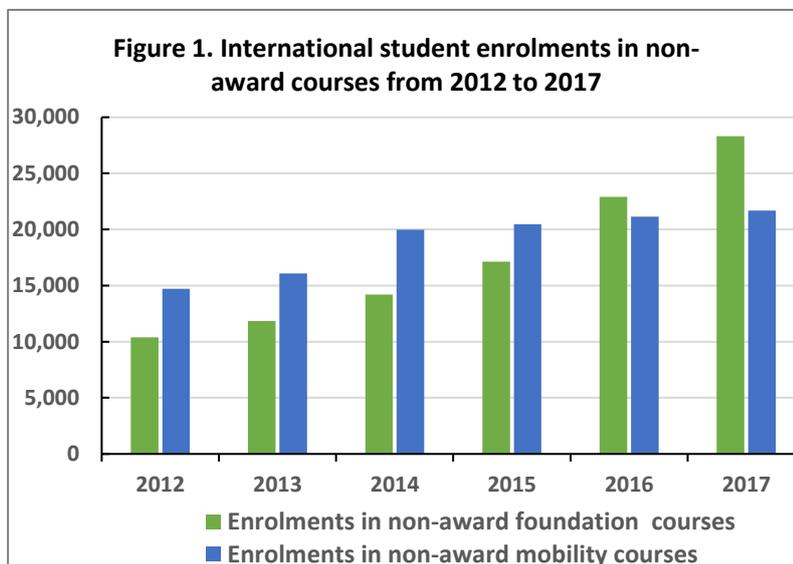


Table 1. Top 5 nationalities for enrolments in non-award foundation courses				Table 2. Top 5 nationalities for enrolments in non-award mobility courses			
Nationality	2017	Share of all nationalities	Change from 2016	Nationality	2017	Share of all nationalities	Change from 2016
China	18,410	65%	28%	USA	6,374	29%	12%
Nepal	1,316	5%	88%	UK	2,043	9%	-0.3%
Hong Kong	1,031	4%	-0.3%	Germany	1,748	8%	-3%
Vietnam	966	3%	42%	Norway	1,223	6%	8%
Malaysia	931	3%	5%	China	1,182	5%	5%
Other	5,659	20%	8%	Other	9,110	42%	-2%
Total	28,313	100%	24%	Total	21,680	100%	3%

¹ International student data is available from 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 into 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.