

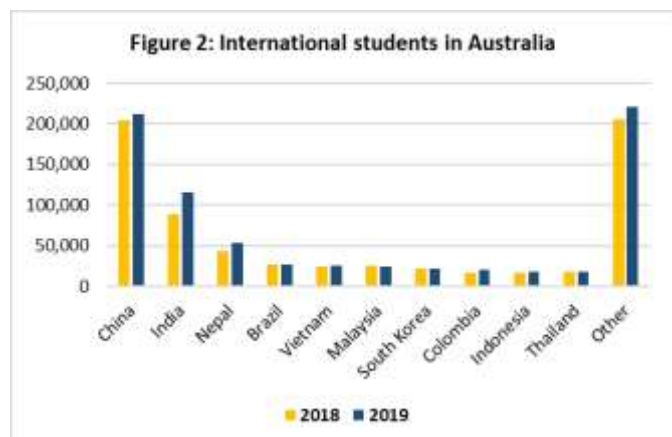
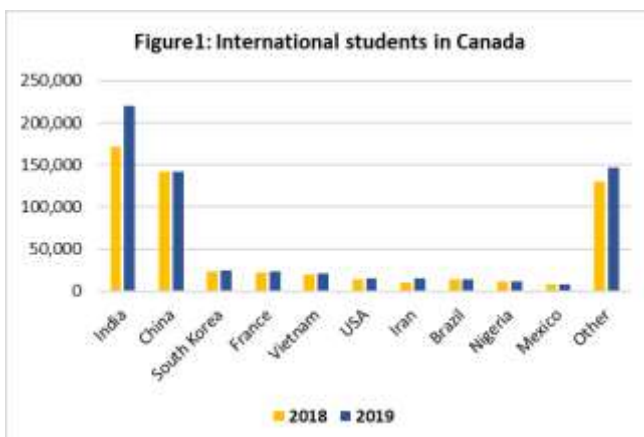


## International education sectors in Canada and Australia

This snapshot looks at the available data on international students studying in Australia and Canada. According to the latest UNESCO data (2017), Canada is the fourth most popular English-speaking study destination (ranked seventh overall) for international tertiary students, while Australia is the third most popular<sup>1</sup>. The data used in the snapshot represents each countries' latest reported full year (2019).

Canada's primary source of student data comes from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada<sup>2</sup> unlike countries such as the USA, UK and Australia whose primary data sources are education providers. Canada's counting of study permit holders incorporates the levels 'secondary or less' (13% of total), 'post-secondary' (78%) and 'other studies' (9%)<sup>3</sup>. Thus, the scope of Canada's data appears similar to Australia's multi-sector data, albeit with a larger proportion of school students (13% compared to Australia's 3%). As Canada's annual data count is of unique individuals, the most comparable Australian measure is our unique international student count.

On this basis, Canada hosted 642,480 international students in 2019, following 13 per cent growth on 2018, while Australia hosted 758,154 international students in 2019, following 9 per cent growth on 2018. Each countries' top 10 student source countries in 2019 are shown below in Figures 1 and 2.



The top 10 source countries contributed 77 per cent of Canada's total and 71 per cent of Australia's total student numbers in 2019. India remained Canada's top student source country again in 2019 following 28 per cent growth in Indian and no growth in Chinese students. China continued to be the top source country for international students in Australia, comprising 28 per cent of all international students, followed by India comprising 15 percent. For Canada, Indian students comprised 34 percent and Chinese students comprised 22 per cent of all international students. Canada also saw strong growth in students from Iran (40%) and Nepal (52%) in 2019.

In 2019, international students in post-secondary education in Canada showed a 15 per cent increase in the overall number of international students compared with 2018<sup>4</sup>, while international students in Australia's higher education sector grew 11% in that same period<sup>5</sup>.

1. According to UNESCO 2017 data, Australia is the 3rd most popular destination after the US and the UK, while Canada comes 7th following Germany, France and Russia.

2. Sourced from: [Study permit holders on December 31st by country of citizenship](#).

3. Sourced from: [Temporary Residents: Study Permit holders-Monthly IRCC Updates](#) and Study permit holders on December 31st by province/territory of intended destination and study level. Canada's colleges have some similarities to Australia's VET institutions in offering courses with primarily vocational goals. Canada's academic year commences in September and ends in June, but its count of student permit holders is reported by calendar year.

4. Sourced from: [Canadian Bureau for International Education \(CBIE\)](#).

5. Sourced from: International student data of the [Department of Education, Skills and Employment](#).

For more information, visit <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/international-student-data/pages/default.aspx> or contact [IEResearch@dese.gov.au](mailto:IEResearch@dese.gov.au).