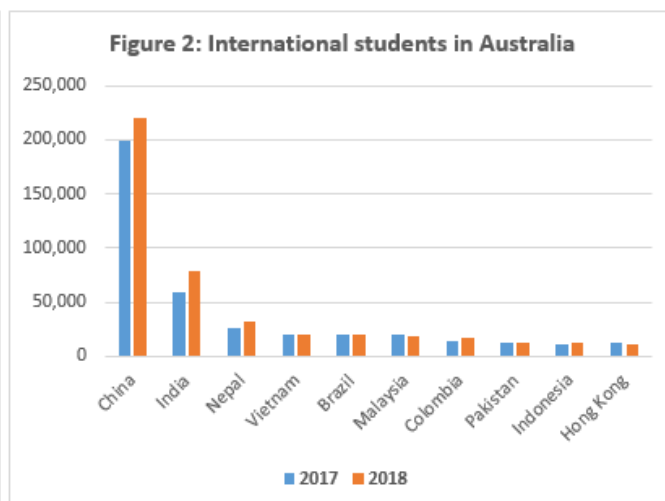
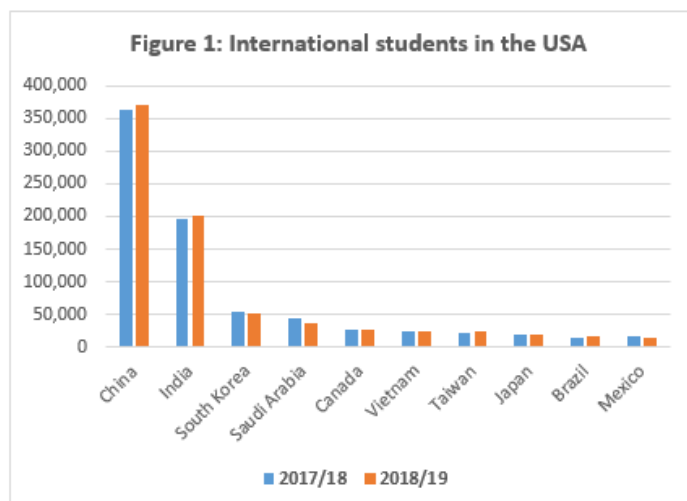




Comparison between the USA's and Australia's international education sectors

This snapshot looks at the available data on international student enrolments from Australia and the USA. The data used in the snapshot represent each countries' latest academic year (2018 for Australia¹ and 2018-19 for the USA²). According to UNESCO, the USA is the most popular study destination for international students, while Australia is the third most popular (after the UK). Thus, a comparison between international student populations of the two countries can provide some insight into Australia's relative success in the global education market.

China and India are the largest source countries of both the USA and Australia. Taken together they represent 52 per cent of USA's and 49 per cent of Australia's international student population respectively. Both the USA and Australia have experienced steady growth in China and India student numbers in recent years, suggesting the prominence of China and India in the global education market is likely to persist in the near future.



In 2018, Australia's growth rate was around 10 per cent while the USA's 2018-19 growth rate was just 0.05 per cent on the previous year. Growth from its major student source countries China and India was relatively low in 2018-19 (2% and 3% respectively). In comparison, Australia experienced moderate growth from China (around 10%) and more than 25 per cent growth from India in 2018. So far in 2019, growth in Chinese students studying in Australia has flattened to around 3%, while growth in Indian students has exceeded 30 per cent.

The top 10 countries contributed nearly three quarters of all international students in the USA in 2018/19 (72%) and Australia in 2018 (73%). Excluding China and India the other eight countries showed a cumulative decline for the USA (down 4%) but a cumulative gain for the Australia (up 7%), indicating Australia's growth arises from a wider base than just India. The USA's largest volume declines in 2018-19 are from Saudi Arabia (down 17%) and South Korea (down 4%). Australia also saw declines from these countries in 2018, but Saudi Arabia has recovered strongly in 2019, particularly in higher education (up 21%) and South Korea is showing a moderate recovery in higher education (up 7%).

¹The Australian data has been adapted to achieve a best comparable fit with the USA's data, by just using higher education, ELICOS and non-award sector enrolments (the USA does not count VET or school equivalent students in its Open Doors report).

²The USA's *Open Doors 2019* report data is summarised here: <https://www.iie.org/opendoors>.