



Update on enrolment deferrals in 2020

As detailed in a recent [Research Snapshot](#), there has been a substantial rise in student deferrals in 2020, involving either a delayed commencement or a temporary suspension of an existing enrolment. For the year-to-date May 2020 there were 60,870 deferrals, 45,597 more than in the same period in 2019 (15,273). Figure 1 shows deferrals month-by-month and Tables 1 and 2 show deferrals by sector and by nationality.

Until when are students deferring?

Of the 60,870 deferred enrolments in the year-to-date May 2020, 12 per cent (7,355) had resumed studying. Another 58 per cent (35,318) had deferred their start date to the second half of 2020 and 22 per cent (13,392) had either deferred their start date to 2021 or later, or had not yet determined a new start date. It may be that some with start dates in the second half of 2020 will opt to further defer their start date into 2021 due to being unable to travel to Australia in 2020. Others may opt to resume their studies online.

New or continuing students?

Of the 60,870 deferrals, 64 per cent (38,949) had already commenced before deferring. Any enrolment that has commenced and been subsequently deferred remains in the year-to-date count of enrolments for that year. The majority of the deferred enrolments that had already commenced (38,949) had commenced before 1 January 2020 (29,618) and the majority of those (23,569, 80%) were in higher education. Of the 21,921 deferrals made prior to commencing, fifty per cent were in higher education.

Figure 1: Enrolment deferrals, month-by-month, all sectors

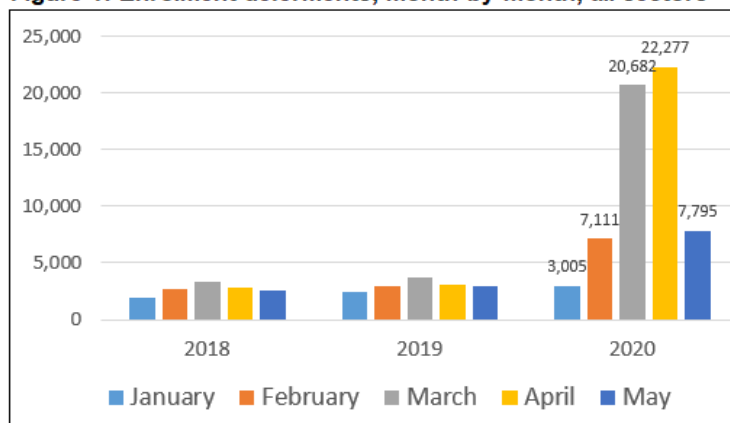


Table 1: Enrolment deferrals by education sector, year-to-date May 2020

Deferment - Compassionate or compelling grounds	2018	2019	2020	Volume increase (from 2019 to 2020)
Higher Education	5,439	5,783	39,954	34,171
VET	5,585	6,718	10,791	4,073
ELICOS	2,066	2,350	5,488	3,138
Non-award	156	170	2,447	2,277
Schools	251	252	2,190	1,938
Grand Total	13,497	15,273	60,870	45,597

Table 2: Enrolment deferrals by nationality, year-to-date May 2020

Deferment - Compassionate or compelling grounds	2018	2019	2020	Volume increase (from 2019 to 2020)
China	2,360	2,678	38,293	35,615
India	2,073	2,666	4,590	1,924
Colombia	739	861	1,938	1,077
Brazil	896	924	1,568	644
Vietnam	664	599	1,558	959
Others	6,765	7,545	12,923	5,378
Grand Total	13,497	15,273	60,870	45,597