



International students in Australia up to 2019

This snapshot provides an historical analysis of the total number of international students who have studied in Australia on student visas from 2002 to 2019. The data over the period 2002 to 2019 are presented as two student cohorts: those who had studied before 2019; and those who were commencing or continuing students in 2019¹.

Nearly three million (2,895,799) international students have undertaken studies in Australia from 2002 to 2019, including 2,137,645 who were no longer studying in 2019. The largest source country over this entire period was China accounting for 20 per cent of all students, followed by India with 11 per cent. Figure 1 shows the top 20 nationalities, which together contributed 81 per cent of all international students who have studied from 2002 to 2019.

Continuing strong growth in student numbers over the period 2002 to 2019 is evidenced by the fact that just over a quarter of all international students studying between 2002 and 2019, were studying in 2019.

Table 1 shows that there were slightly more male students (51%) than females (49%), although gender distribution varied by student nationality.

Figure 2 shows that countries in the Asian region have been a major source of international students in Australia. Since 2002, students from this region make up more than two thirds (68%) of the total.

In addition to the students on student visas counted here, it is estimated that almost 860,000 English language students were studying on other visas between 2002 and 2019, including around 47,000 in 2019².

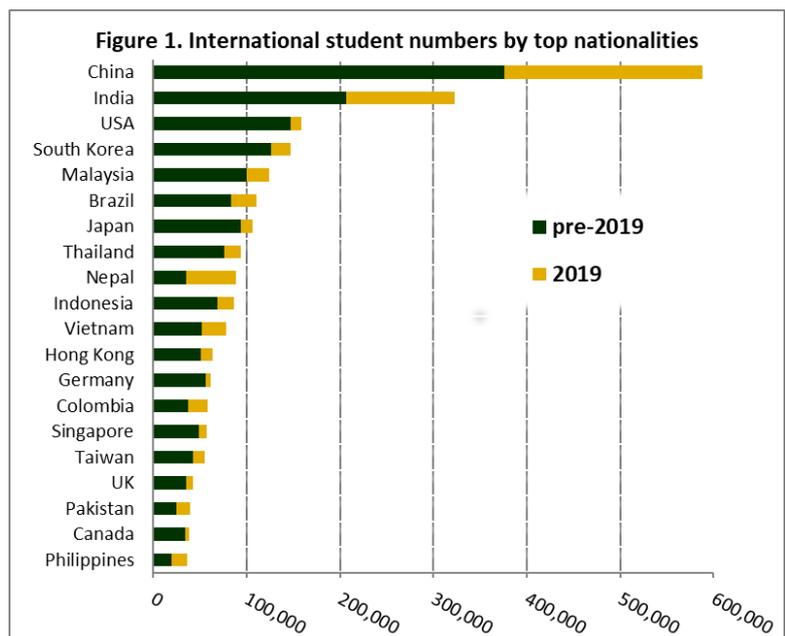
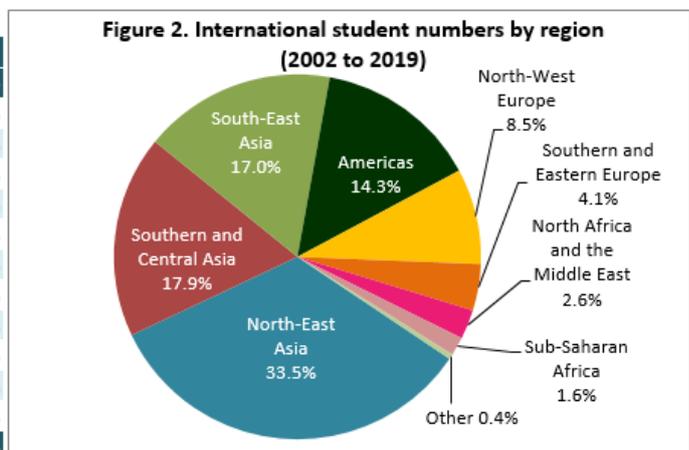


Table 1. International student numbers by nationality and gender

Nationality	Student cohort		Total	Student gender	
	Pre-2019	2019		Female	Male
China	375,801	212,264	588,065	52.8%	47.2%
India	206,697	115,607	322,304	29.1%	70.9%
USA	147,191	11,972	159,163	62.7%	37.3%
South Korea	126,012	21,175	147,187	52.4%	47.6%
Malaysia	99,998	24,361	124,359	50.1%	49.9%
Brazil	83,118	27,366	110,484	46.6%	53.4%
Japan	93,712	12,702	106,414	66.1%	33.9%
Thailand	75,929	17,498	93,427	60.6%	39.4%
Nepal	35,094	53,723	88,817	41.4%	58.6%
Indonesia	68,383	18,091	86,474	48.8%	51.2%
Other nationalities	825,710	243,395	1,069,105	48.3%	51.7%
Grand Total	2,137,645	758,154	2,895,799	49.0%	51.0%



¹ The annual 2019 [international student data](#) of the Department of Education, Skills and Employment.

² English Australia (annual regional markets surveys counts since 2002, adjusted down by 10% to account for an assumed carry-over of students between years).