



Tuition fees for international students

This snapshot outlines how tuition fees for international students compare between OECD countries using the latest available OECD data. In 2015, there were 4.6 million students who travelled overseas to study a tertiary qualification.¹ However, there are costs for international study with the largest costs generally being living expenses and tuition fees.

Across the OECD countries with data on tuition fees for international students, the average annual tuition fees for full-time bachelor's degree students in public institutions were \$5,194 (USD PPP) in 2015.² However, tuition fees for international students varied greatly among OECD countries, as illustrated in Figure 1.³ Some key countries, such as the UK, did not report international student fees data to the OECD.

Countries with no fees

In 2015, there were nine OECD countries that did not charge tuition fees for domestic students studying bachelor's degrees at public institutions. Four of these countries also did not charge tuition fees for international students: Finland, Norway, the Slovakia and Slovenia. Other countries, such as Germany, also had no tuition fees, but did not report fees data to the OECD.

Countries with high tuition fees

The countries with the highest tuition fees for international students in 2015 were English speaking countries and Sweden. All of these countries had annual average tuition fees above \$10,000 (USD PPP) for bachelor's and master's degrees at public institutions.

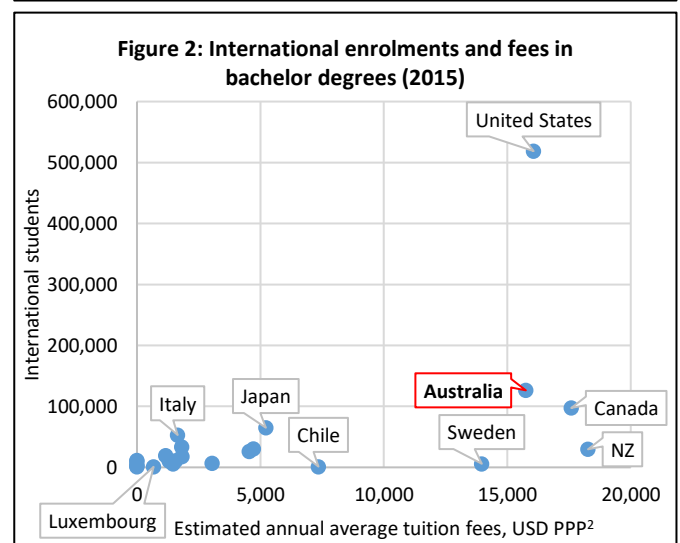
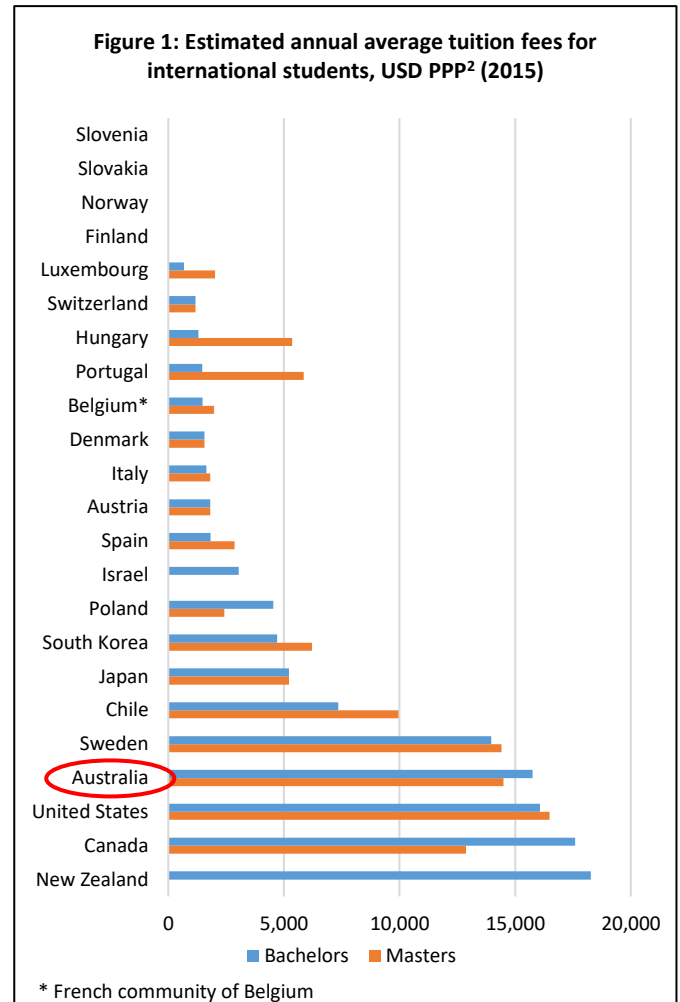
Tuition fees by level of education

In most OECD countries, the annual average tuition fees for international students in public institutions were similar for bachelor's and master's degrees. However, in Chile, Portugal and Hungary fees for master's degrees were more than \$2,000 (USD PPP) higher than for bachelor's degrees. In Canada and Poland fees for bachelor's degrees were significantly higher than master's degrees.

Fees for doctorates were very different to bachelor's degrees for some countries. Slovenia and the US had significantly higher fees for doctorates, but New Zealand, Poland and Sweden had much lower fees for doctorates (zero in Poland and Sweden).

Enrolments and tuition fees

Enrolments of international students varied between OECD countries, from the US with over 500,000 international bachelor's degree students to Luxembourg with less than 1,000. As Figure 2 shows, countries with high fees often had high enrolments of international students. However, some exceptions, such as Sweden and Chile, had high fees and low enrolments of international students.



1 *Education at a Glance 2017: OECD Indicators*, page 295-6.

2 Estimated annual average tuition fees for full-time international students. Fees are in equivalent US Dollars converted using purchasing power parities (PPP).

3 *Education at a Glance 2018: OECD Indicators*, Table C5.1. New Zealand and Israel did not have data for master's degrees. For countries that reported a range of fees the middle of the range was used. See the source table for more details of differences in data reporting between countries.