



Transnational education in the public VET sector

This snapshot provides an overview of Australian public vocational education and training (VET) institutions educating students overseas in 2014. It includes students enrolled in award and non-award programs. These programs may be offered directly by an Australian VET institution or through a partnership arrangement.

Data for the public VET sector comes from an annual survey conducted by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER) and commissioned by the Australian Government. The survey asks institutions about the programs they deliver outside Australia (offshore) and student enrolments in these programs during one year. This snapshot also compares those findings with enrolments data on international students studying in Australia (onshore) on a student visa.

In 2014, there were 33 public institutions delivering Australian VET qualifications to offshore students. The number of providers declined from 36 in 2013. The total number of program enrolments offshore has been declining since 2009 from 64,819 to 44,833 in 2014 by an average annual decline of 7.1%. The offshore program enrolments were down by 10.0% from 2013¹. Onshore international student enrolments with public VET institutions declined from 2009 to 2013 by an average annual decline of 12.6%. In 2014, the VET public sector enrolments onshore grew by 15 per cent over the same period in 2013 (Figure 1).

Location

The top five countries for offshore public VET provision in 2014 were China (65.8%), Kuwait (8.0%), Fiji (4.1%), Hong Kong (2.9%) and Mongolia (2.1%). For comparison, the top five countries of origin for international student enrolments in Australia were India (16.0%), Vietnam (8.7%), the Republic of Korea (7.6%), China (7.2%) and the Philippines (5.4%) (Table 1).

Level of study and field of education

Diploma was the top level of study for VET students for both offshore (37.4% of enrolments) and onshore in Australia (38.8%). Management and Commerce was the top broad field of education for both offshore (49.7% of enrolments) and onshore in Australia (27.5%).

Public VET institutions delivering programs offshore, delivered those programs either in English (78.6%) or in a combination of English and the local language (20.4%). A small proportion of programs (1.0%) were delivered in the local language only. Australian public institutions active offshore mainly provided teaching in classrooms (90.8%) or otherwise involved work experience or fully on the job (4.6%). Around 61 per cent of offshore public VET programs were taught by local teachers in the country of delivery, and 33.4% were taught by teachers from Australia. Of the 519 VET programs delivered offshore by public institutions, although majority of programs (71.1%) were of less than one year duration, more than half of program enrolments (52.7%) were in VET programs with duration of a year or more.

The full NCVER reports for 2014 and previous years are at: <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/transnationaleducationdata/pages/transnational-education-data.aspx>.

¹In 2014, programs delivered fully online were included in the data collection and this change in scope has been applied retrospectively, therefore all time series data in the current report include programs delivered fully online. Skill sets were collected for the first time in 2014. Therefore, the terms 'program' and 'program enrolments' have been introduced for the 2014 offshore collection to replace 'course' and 'course enrolments'.

The calendar year data for onshore enrolments were extracted from YTD Oct 2015 data available at <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/international-student-data/pages/default.aspx>. For further information about this Research Snapshot or the Research Snapshot series contact: Research and Analysis Unit by email IEResearch@education.gov.au. The Research Snapshot series can be accessed from <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/research-snapshots/pages/default.aspx>

Figure 1 : Public VET enrolments by onshore and offshore students (2006-2014)

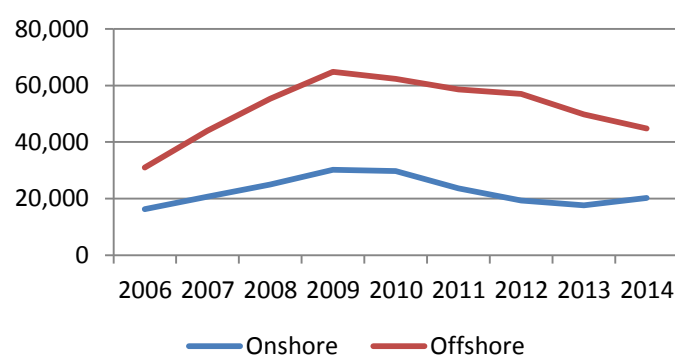


Table 1: Public VET enrolments by country of delivery / nationality (2014)

Country of Delivery / Nationality	Offshore Enrolments	Onshore Enrolments
China	29,499	1,463
Kuwait	3,575	2
Fiji	1,858	42
Hong Kong	1,293	390
Mongolia	930	13
Republic of Korea	667	1,546
Philippines	363	1,095
Vietnam	343	1,766
India	41	3,234
Other	6,264	10,667
Total	44,833	20,218

The top 5 countries/nationalities for enrolments in each student type are shaded blue.