In 2020, there were 882,482 enrolments generated by 686,104 full-fee paying international students in Australia on a student visa. This represents a 7% decrease in enrolments on 2019 compared with an average annual enrolments growth rate of 7% per year over the preceding five years. Commencements decreased by 22% on 2019. This compares with the average annual commencements growth rate of 1% per year over the preceding five years.

**Sector**
The higher education sector ranked first by volume of enrolments in 2020 and second by volume of commencements, after VET. Enrolments in higher education dropped by 5 per cent, while enrolments in VET increased by 9 per cent. Postgraduate research enrolments and commencements decreased by 1% and 18% respectively, while other postgraduate commencements also decreased by 28% on 2019 figures. Bachelor degree commencement dropped 14% over the same period.

**Nationality**
In the higher education sector, the top two source countries were China (38.4% of enrolments) and India (19.0%). In the VET sector India contributed the largest share of enrolments (21.0%) followed by Nepal (10.6%) China (7.1%) and Brazil (6.8%).

In the ELICOS sector, China was the largest source of enrolments (23.6%). Colombia was the next largest nationality (14.6% of enrolments), followed by Brazil (10%) and Thailand (6%). In schools, China was the largest source of enrolments (44.7%), followed by Vietnam (20%) and South Korea (6%).

Enrolments and commencements in non-award courses (including exchange and foundation programs) decreased by 34% and 44% respectively.

China (42%), the USA (12%) and the UK (3%) accounted for more enrolments in non-award courses than any other nationality.

**Source:** Provider Registration and International Student Management Systems (PRISMS). The data on enrolments and commencements in this update relate only to international students on a student visa.

For more information, visit the International Education website of the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment or contact IEResearch@dese.gov.au.