



End of Year Summary of International Student Data 2020

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.

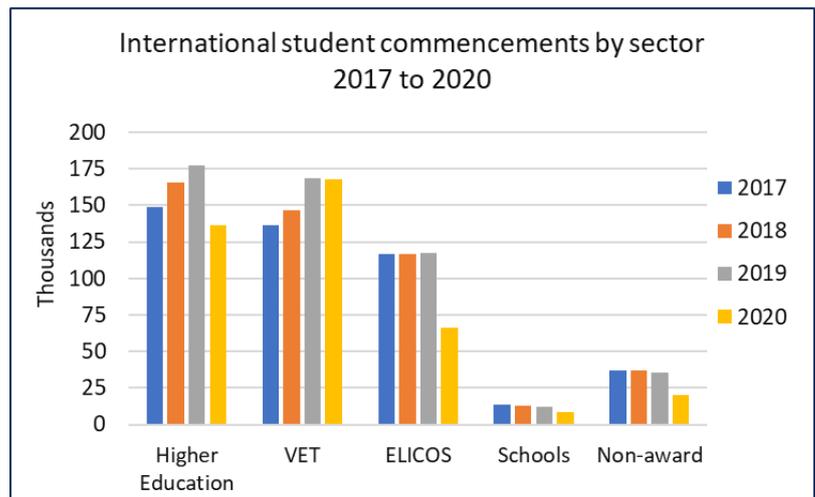
Sector

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.

Sector	Enrolments				Commencements			
	2019	2020	Growth on 2019	Share of all sectors	2019	2020	Growth on 2019	Share of all sectors
Higher Education	440,667	418,168	-5.1%	47.4%	177,155	136,138	-23.2%	34.1%
VET	281,337	307,295	9.2%	34.8%	168,415	168,041	-0.2%	42.1%
ELICOS	156,570	104,626	-33.2%	11.9%	117,386	66,531	-43.3%	16.7%
Schools	25,483	20,430	-19.8%	2.3%	11,887	8,188	-31.1%	2.1%
Non-award	48,214	31,963	-33.7%	3.6%	35,731	20,060	-43.9%	5.0%
Total	952,271	882,482	-7.3%	100.0%	510,574	398,958	-21.9%	100.0%
The top 5 nationalities contributed 58.4% of Australia's enrolments in all sectors.					Double-digit commencement changes for countries outside the top 5 with over 2,800 enrolments.			
Nationality	2019	2020	Growth on 2019	Share of all nationalities	Nationality	2020	Growth on 2019	Rank
China	260,042	229,448	-11.8%	26.0%	Vietnam	13,017	-20.5%	6
India	142,821	148,684	4.1%	16.8%	South Korea	12,218	-24.9%	7
Nepal	68,920	71,117	3.2%	8.1%	Thailand	11,437	-23.6%	9
Brazil	40,763	33,563	-17.7%	3.8%	Malaysia	10,587	-27.6%	10
Colombia	31,716	32,877	3.7%	3.7%	Taiwan	7,953	-26.6%	13
Other nationalities	408,009	366,793	-10.1%	41.6%	Japan	6,809	-35.5%	14
All nationalities	952,271	882,482	-7.3%	100.0%	USA	5,352	-40.9%	17

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](https://www.education.gov.au/international-education) website of the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment or contact IEResearch@dese.gov.au.