



Explanatory notes for International Student Numbers

There are a number of figures that can be used to describe the total number of international students studying in Australian institutions. This document seeks to clarify the criteria that apply to the different numbers used to describe the international student population and provide a consistent explanation for the numbers. The estimates are based on the latest available figures (which vary for particular groups) in 2018 for the full year.

Estimated number of students	Includes	Excludes
693,750*	International students studying in Australia, on a student visa in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher Education • Vocational Education and Training (VET) • Schools • English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) • Non-Award (eg. Foundation Studies, Other Programs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand students studying in Australia • International students on non-student visas in Australia and students studying off-shore by distance/on-line • Sponsored students (including DFAT, Defence, and Endeavour Leadership and Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships)
743,750	International students studying in Australia, on a student visa (693,750) plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50,000 ELICOS students studying on non-student visas in 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand students studying in Australia • International students studying off-shore by distance/on-line • Sponsored students (including DFAT, Defence, and Endeavour Leadership and Research Training Program (RTP) Scholarships)
887,946	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students studying in Australia on a student visa (693,750) • ELICOS students studying on non-student visas (50,000) • Almost 3,000 sponsored international students[#] (including DFAT, Defence, Endeavour Scholarships and Fellowships, Research Training Program in 2016) • 119,351 public higher education students studying off-shore (on a campus located outside Australia or by correspondence in 2017) • 21,845 VET students studied off-shore courses delivered by Australian Training Providers in 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International visitors on non-student visas (including persons on a Professional Development Visa) undertaking some form of study in Australia, other than ELICOS

*These students were studying on a student visa in Australia from January to December in 2018 (693,750) for all sectors – Higher Education, VET, Schools, ELICOS and Non-Award. (Note: there are more enrolments as a student can be enrolled in more than one course/ sector during the year).

Source: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) website – Estimated Number of Australian Scholarship Students (Australia Awards; Endeavour Scholarship & Fellowships and Research Training Program (RTP) – Department of Education data.