



Offshore delivery of Australian higher education courses in 2019

Many students around the world study Australian higher education courses without coming to Australia. For example, an Australian university may have campuses in one or more countries outside Australia or deliver courses through partnership arrangements with foreign institutions, or directly deliver courses online. This snapshot outlines these different modes of offshore education delivery in the higher education sector. The data is sourced from the Australian Higher Education Statistics Collection and is limited to students in courses recognised in the Australian Qualifications Framework.

There were 521,948 overseas students studying Australian higher education courses in 2019. Around 22% of those students were studying offshore. Of these, 41,505 students were enrolled in programs provided at offshore Australian university campuses¹, 67,236 were enrolled in programs delivered through partnerships between Australian and foreign institutions or other programs and a further 7,937 were enrolled in online (distance) education (Table 1).

Level of study and field of education

The most popular qualifications were Bachelor (62%) and Masters by coursework (23%) degrees (Figure 1). The top broad fields of study were Management & Commerce (49%), Engineering & Related Technologies (12%), Society & Culture (9%) and Information Technology (9%).

Age and Gender

There were very similar age and gender profiles for offshore students and international students in Australia in 2019. In both cases, the majority were between 20 to 24 years of age, and there were slightly more male students in each case (51% offshore and 52% in Australia).

Location

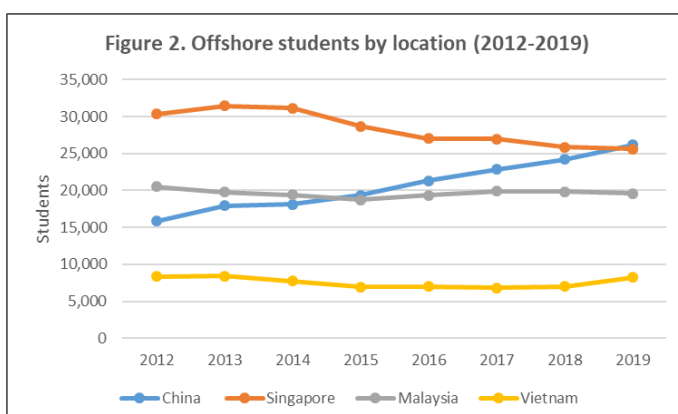
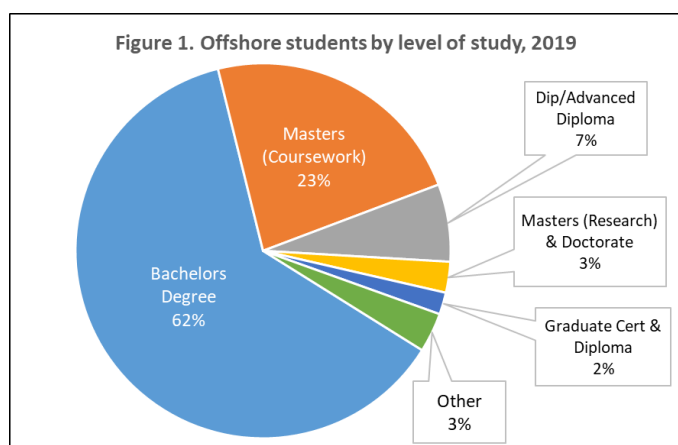
Figure 2 shows the top countries for students enrolled in Australian offshore programs. These top countries represent study locations but not necessarily the nationalities of those students. For example, almost 23 per cent of students undertaking Australian university programs in Singapore were not permanent residents of Singapore.

Type of attendance

While international students studying in Australia are primarily full-time students, in accordance with their student visa requirements, offshore students showed more flexibility with only 77% being full-time in 2019.

Table 1: Higher education delivery to international students

Delivery to	Students		% Growth on 2018
	2018	2019	
International students in Australia	364,518	401,930	10.3%
Students at offshore campuses	39,080	41,505	6.2%
Students in offshore partnerships and /or other programs	65,894	67,236	2.0%
Students offshore in distance education	7,354	7,937	7.9%
Sub-total of all offshore students	112,328	116,678	3.9%
Students reported with no information	3,141	3,340	6.3%
Grand total	479,987	521,948	8.7%



¹ Curtin University (UAE, Malaysia, Mauritius & Singapore), James Cook University (Singapore), Monash University (Malaysia), Murdoch University (UAE), University of Newcastle (Singapore), University of Wollongong (UAE & Malaysia), RMIT University (Vietnam x 2), Swinburne University (Malaysia).