



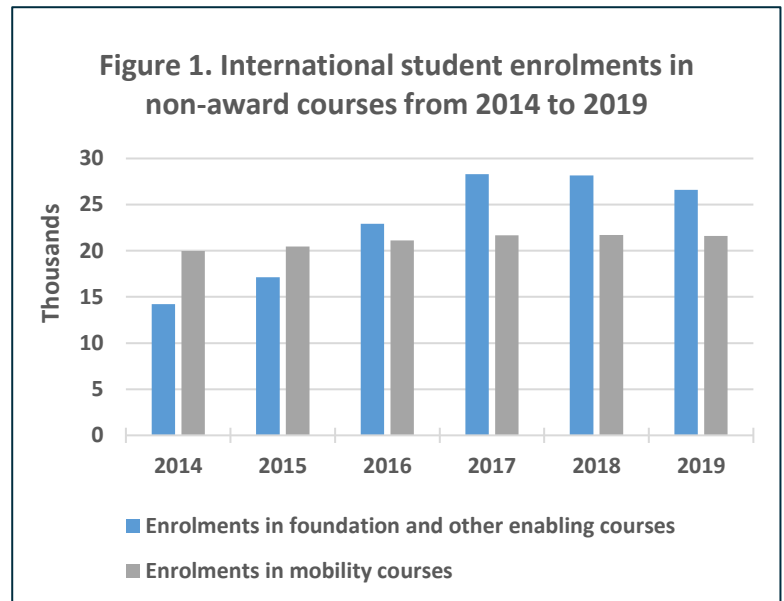
International students studying non-award courses in 2019

This snapshot provides an overview of international student enrolments in courses that do not result in an award (or qualification) that is recognised under the Australian Qualifications Framework. These non-award courses include two broad types: **foundation and other enabling** courses; and **mobility** courses, which include study abroad and student exchange programs.

In 2019, there were 956,773 international student enrolments in Australia. The non-award sector had 48,217 enrolments (5% of all enrolments), including 26,529 in foundation and other enabling courses and 21,688 in mobility courses. Foundation courses are an entry pathway into undergraduate study, while other enabling courses are an entry pathway into various other courses, including postgraduate courses. Mobility courses are undertaken by students who come to Australia for a study abroad experience or as an exchange student. The duration of non-award courses is generally less than one year.

Trends

Figure 1 shows the enrolment pattern in non-award courses. Since 2014, enrolments in foundation and enabling courses grew steadily up to 2017, but declined slightly (0.5%) in 2018 and dropped a further 6 per cent in 2019. Mobility course enrolments over the last 6 years from 2014, have been moderately stable up to 2019. The complete non-award sector declined by 3 per cent in 2019.



Top nationalities

More than half (55%) of all non-award course enrolments were in foundation and other enabling courses and most were by students from Asian countries. Students from China accounted for almost two thirds (64%) of enrolments, with the majority (70%) enrolled in foundation courses. The top five nationalities contributed over three quarters of total enrolments (77%) in non-award foundation and other enabling courses (Table 1).

Of the 45 per cent of non-award enrolments in mobility courses, almost five out of every six enrolments (82%) were by students from either the Americas or Europe. The top 5 nationalities contributed over half (58%) of enrolments in non-award mobility courses, comprising 68 per cent in study abroad programs and 32 per cent in exchange programs or other mobility activities (Table 2).

Table 1. Top 5 nationalities for enrolments in non-award foundation and other enabling courses.

| Nationality | Foundation | Enabling | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| China | 11,904 | 5,084 | 16,988 |
| Vietnam | 894 | 162 | 1,056 |
| Nepal | 293 | 607 | 900 |
| Hong Kong | 593 | 271 | 864 |
| Indonesia | 644 | 104 | 748 |
| <i>Other nationalities</i> | 4,005 | 1,968 | 5,973 |
| Total | 18,333 | 8,196 | 26,529 |

Table 2. Top 5 nationalities for enrolments in non-award mobility courses

| Nationality | Study Abroad | Exchange | Total |
|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| USA | 5,190 | 1,483 | 6,673 |
| UK | 423 | 1,450 | 1,873 |
| Germany | 892 | 651 | 1,543 |
| Norway | 1,267 | 141 | 1,408 |
| China | 753 | 326 | 1,079 |
| <i>Other nationalities</i> | 3,477 | 5,635 | 9,112 |
| Total | 12,002 | 9,686 | 21,688 |

The proportion of international students who had studied non-award courses immediately prior to commencing higher education in 2019 was 10%. International student study pathways data can be obtained from a data visualisation available [here](#) for all sectors.

For further information about this Research Snapshot contact the International Research Analysis Unit by email: IERResearch@dese.gov.au.

The Research Snapshot series can be accessed from: <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/research-snapshots/pages/default.aspx>