



## Returning student enrolments in 2021

International student enrolments in the last quarter of 2020 (e.g. enrolments in November 2020) represent an opportunity to identify the number of 2020 student enrolments that are scheduled to continue into 2021<sup>1</sup>. Although 2020 has been an unprecedented year in Australian international education, the resilience of our international students is apparent from this data demonstrating that substantial numbers of international students, both in and outside Australia, will return in 2021 (see Table 1).

**Table 1: Enrolments on one day, sorted by end date of the course, 2019 & 2020**

15 November 2019			15 November 2020		
Scheduled end Date	Enrolments	Proportion scheduled to end in 2020 or later	Scheduled end date	Enrolments	Proportion scheduled to end in 2021 or later
2020 or later	466,043	79%	2021 or later	398,982	79%
Prior to 2020	120,681		Prior to 2021	103,220	
<b>Total</b>	<b>586,724</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>502,202</b>	

Although proposed end dates are only indicative, the 466,043 enrolments on 15 November 2019 that were scheduled to return in 2020 resulted in 483,508 enrolments on 1 January 2020, presumably due more ongoing enrolments being added in the month of December. Thus, there are grounds to be confident of there being at least 398,982 enrolments on 1 January 2021, if not more. Note that counting enrolments at a point in time on one day is a reliable proxy measure of the number of enrolled students on that day.

Enrolments on 15 November 2020 broken down by education sector are shown in Table 2, including the proportional change in enrolments when compared to the same day in 2019. This breakdown indicates that 94 per cent of 2020 enrolments extending into 2021 and beyond are in the higher education or VET sectors. The data in Table 2 also emphasises how 2020 enrolments in the ELICOS (down 67%) and non-award (down 54%) sectors have been most impacted by the COVID-19 situation.

The data summarised here is also available in a pivot table [here](#), enabling further analysis by state/territory, nationality, education sector and location (in or outside Australia and including the unknown component). This Research Snapshot and the associated pivot table will be updated in the release of December 2020 data.

**Table 2: Enrolments on one day, sorted by end date of the course and sector, 2019 & 2020**

15 November 2019			15 November 2020			
Scheduled end date (by sector)	Enrolments	Proportion by sector	Scheduled end date (by sector)	Enrolments	Proportion by sector	Change in 2020
2020 or later	466,043	100%	2021 or later	398,982	100%	-14%
Higher Education	280,334	60%	Higher Education	241,570	61%	-14%
VET	131,960	28%	VET	131,713	33%	0%
Schools	12,183	3%	Schools	10,428	3%	-14%
ELICOS	30,260	6%	ELICOS	10,025	3%	-67%
Non-Award	11,306	2%	Non-Award	5,246	1%	-54%
<b>Prior to 2020</b>	<b>120,681</b>		<b>Prior to 2021</b>	<b>103,220</b>		<b>-14%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>586,724</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>502,202</b>		<b>-14%</b>

How student numbers will develop after 1 January 2021 is unclear at this time. It will depend on the propensity of students outside Australia to commence new courses and the pace at which international students may be able to enter Australia as the year progresses.

<sup>1</sup> Using the PRISMS reporting item 'Proposed End Date', unless an 'Actual End Date' was reported.