

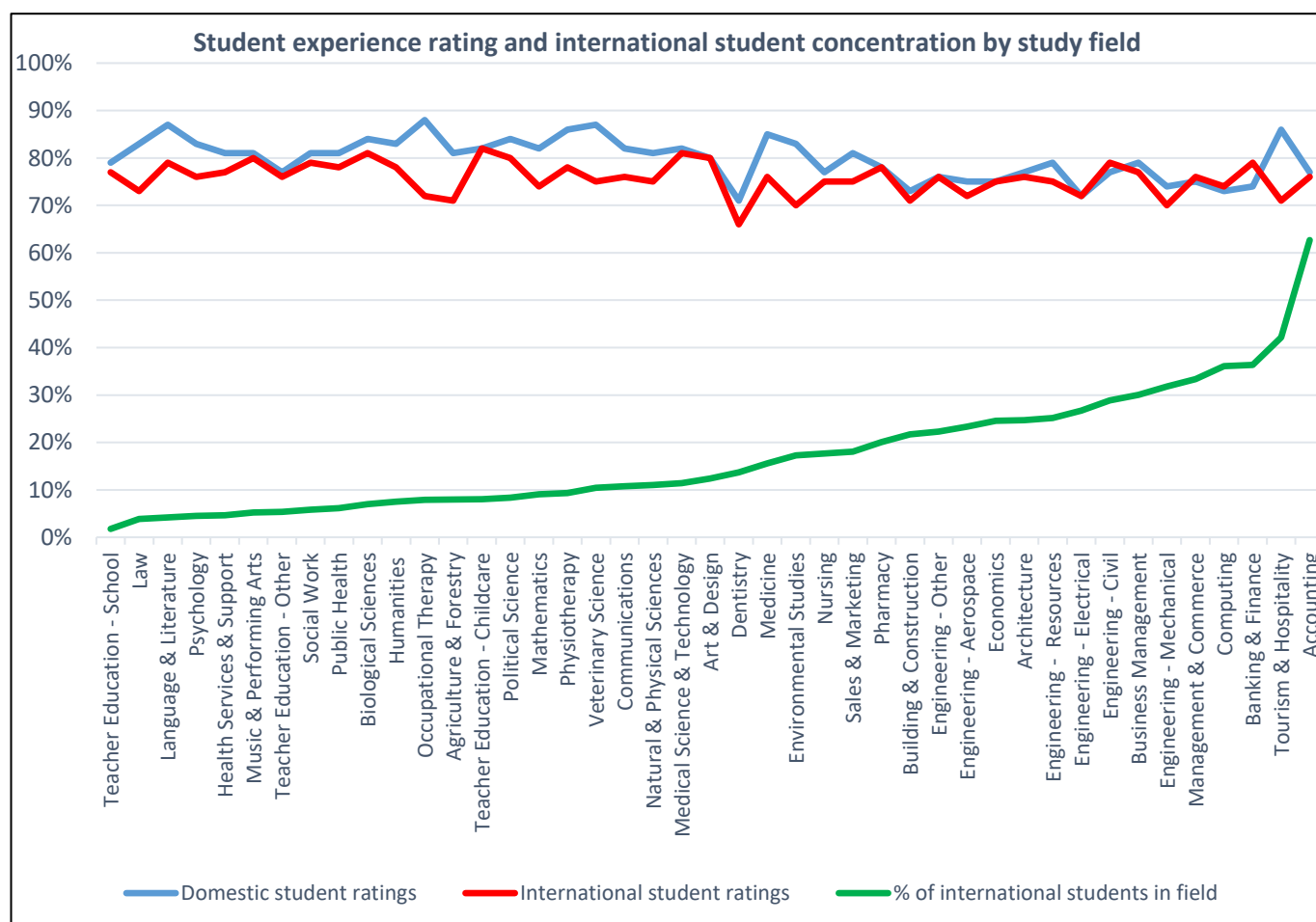


Student experience and international student concentration

The national Student Experience Survey (part of the Australian Government’s Quality Indicators of Learning and Teaching initiative) seeks feedback from both domestic and international students on how they rate the quality of their student experience in the Australian higher education sector.

It has been assumed by media commentators and others that high concentrations of international students in a course will have a negative impact on domestic students, who (for example) must manage group-based assignments with students from non-English-speaking backgrounds. Similarly, it has been assumed that international students will be disappointed at coming to study in Australia and then finding themselves in classrooms with high concentrations of other international students, including students from their home country.

Student Experience Survey data offers a way to test these assumptions. The 2018 survey data below charts overall ratings by domestic and international students for all fields of education. International students in Australia have a strong preference for business, computing and engineering fields, hence it is these fields that have high concentrations of international students. The chart below demonstrates no consistent change in domestic or international student ratings across all fields of study from low (Teacher Education – School 2%) to high (Accounting 63%) international student concentrations. Hence, this evidence does not support the assumption that overall student experience is negatively impacted by high international student concentrations.



Source: 2018 Student Experience Survey – total of 208,647 respondents of whom 32,809 (16%) were international students