



In 2016, there were 712,884 enrolments generated by 554,179 full-fee paying international students in Australia on a student visa. This represents a 10.9% increase on 2015 and compares with an average annual enrolments growth rate of 6.5% per year over the preceding ten years.

There were 414,292 commencements (new enrolments) in 2016, representing a 10.0% increase on 2015 figures. This compares with the average annual commencements growth rate of 7.1% per year over the preceding ten years.

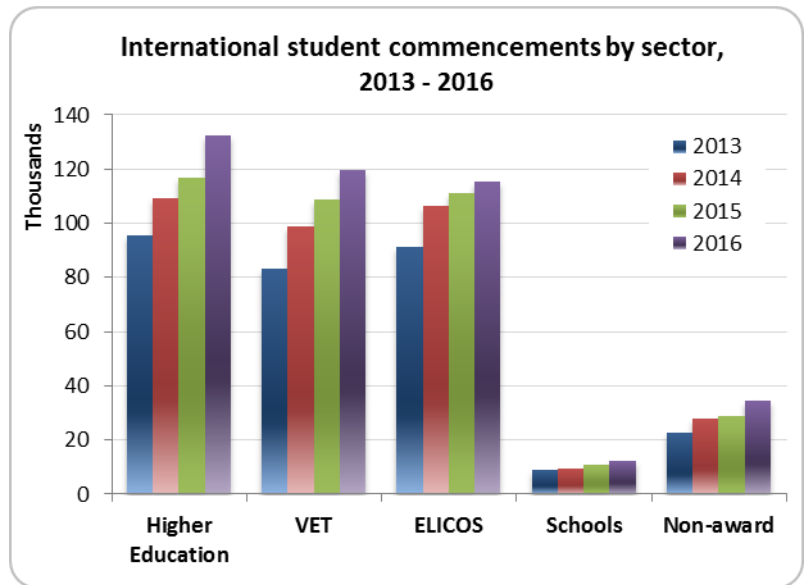
The higher education sector had the largest share of enrolments at 43.0%. Enrolments and commencements in the sector increased by 12.9% and 13.2% respectively. China and India accounted for 36.8% and 14.6% respectively of enrolments by students in higher education. Bachelor degree commencements grew by 11.6% in 2016. Postgraduate research commencements increased by 3.8%, while other postgraduate commencements increased by 18.9% on 2015 figures.

The VET sector accounted for 26.3% of total enrolments and 28.9% of total commencements. Enrolments and commencements in the sector increased 11.6% and 10.1% respectively in 2016. India had the largest share of total enrolments (14.7%) and total commencements (13.4%). The Republic of Korea was the next largest source country for enrolments with 8.6%, followed by Thailand (8.3%) and China (7.4%).

The English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector accounted for 21.2% of total enrolments and 27.8% of total commencements in 2016. Enrolments and commencements grew by 4.3% and 3.6% respectively in the sector. China was the largest ELICOS market in the period with a 27.7% share of enrolments and 26.9% of commencements. Brazil was the next largest nationality for ELICOS enrolments with 10.2%, followed by Thailand (7.8%) and Colombia (7.5%).

In 2016, the schools sector accounted for 3.3% of total enrolments and 3.0% of total commencements. Enrolments and commencements in the sector grew by 13.6% and 12.7% respectively. By nationality, China contributed the largest share of enrolments in schools at 51.8% followed by Vietnam and the Republic of Korea at 9.4% and 5.5% respectively.

Enrolments and commencements in non-award courses (such as exchange and foundation programs) increased by 17.3% and 20.0% respectively. China (35.2%), the USA (13.3%) and the UK (4.9%) accounted for more enrolments in non-award courses than any other nationality. Commencements from China and the USA increased by 47.8% and 4.2% respectively.



Sector	Enrolments			Commencements		
	2015	2016	Growth on 2015	2015	2016	Growth on 2015
Higher Education	271,718	306,691	12.9%	116,822	132,269	13.2%
VET	168,286	187,801	11.6%	108,667	119,589	10.1%
ELICOS	144,932	151,110	4.3%	111,325	115,279	3.6%
Schools ²	20,534	23,325	13.6%	11,023	12,426	12.7%
Non-award	37,479	43,957	17.3%	28,945	34,729	20.0%
Total in Australia	642,949	712,884	10.9%	376,782	414,292	10.0%

The Top 5 nationalities contributed 51.3% of Australia's enrolments in all sectors					Double-digit increases in markets with over 17,100 enrolments (outside top 5)			
Nationality	2015	2016	Growth on 2015	Share of all nationalities	Nationality	2016	Growth on 2015	Rank
China	169,687	196,315	15.7%	27.5%	Brazil	29,440	19.6%	6
India	71,992	78,424	8.9%	11.0%	Malaysia	28,504	18.2%	7
Republic of Korea	28,610	30,595	6.9%	4.3%	Nepal	22,812	15.9%	8
Thailand	27,765	30,451	9.7%	4.3%	Hong Kong	17,586	10.3%	10
Vietnam	29,362	29,766	1.4%	4.2%	Colombia	17,190	22.4%	11
Other nationalities	315,533	347,333	10.1%	48.7%				
All nationalities	642,949	712,884	10.9%	100.0%				

Data source: Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS).

¹ The Department of Education and Training data on enrolments and commencements (including the data in this update) relate only to international students in Australia on a student visa.

² Commencements in schools for the current reference period are not strictly comparable to earlier years due to recent changes to secondary school level courses at a single large provider.