



International student numbers¹

Australian Education International Student Enrolment data reports student 'enrolments' and 'commencements' rather than actual student numbers. Research Snapshot No. 7 provides an explanation of the terms enrolments, commencements and students. This snapshot provides an overview of the basic characteristics of students enrolled in Australia in 2006, and also shows how many actual students studied in Australia over the past 5 years.

International students by sector, 2002 to 2006						International Student Enrolments 2006
Sector	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	
Higher Education	110,524	129,530	144,626	155,533	164,237	172,297
VET	48,848	51,781	53,139	59,449	74,552	83,685
ELICOS	52,570	56,546	56,235	59,032	70,246	77,468
Schools	22,856	26,595	26,967	24,798	24,341	24,717
Other ^a	23,457	25,650	25,460	25,471	25,543	25,651
Total	227,874^b	256,186^b	270,973^b	288,334^b	317,909^b	383,818

^aOther^a includes study abroad, foundation, enabling and other non-award courses that do not lead to a qualification under the Australian Qualifications Framework.

^bComponents do not add to total as students can study in more than one sector.

During 2006, 317,909 students on a student visa studied in Australia—an increase of 10.3% over 2005. These students had 383,818 enrolments, as some students enrolled in more than one course during the year. Nearly half (46%) of all students on a student visa in 2006 studied in the higher education sector, 21% in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector and 20% in the ELICOS sector. There were more

males than females (54% compared to 46%) and nearly two-thirds (65%) of these students were aged less than 25 years while 4% were aged 35 years or over. The distribution of students across individual states and territories mirrors that of the total Australian population.

Students from China constituted nearly one-quarter of all international students. More than half (57%) of the students were aged 20 to 24 years, with a further 19% aged 15 to 19 years. The higher education sector was the most popular (51%), with the next most common sector being ELICOS (19%). There were slightly more females from China than males (52% compared to 48%).

The next largest group was from India (11%) with nearly two-thirds of these students studying in the higher education sector. A further one-quarter were in the VET sector. The vast majority (83%) were male, and were older than Chinese students in that 55% were aged 20 to 24 years, and 33% were aged 25 to 29 years.

Students from the Republic of Korea (RoK) comprised 8% of all students. There were more females than males (53% to 47%). The students were spread across all age groups, with RoK having the highest proportion of students aged less than 15 years, as well as one of the largest proportions of students aged 35 years and over. The RoK students were also spread across the sectors with ELICOS being the most popular sector (42%), followed by VET (20%), higher education (19%) and the schools sector (17%).

The age profile of students from the United States of America (USA) differed from most other nationalities, with 80% of students aged 20 to 24. Most of these were in the 'Other' sector on a study abroad program.

International students by nationality, age and gender, 2006													
Age (years)/ Gender/ Nationality	<15		15 to 19		20 to 24		25 to 29		30 to 34		35+		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
China	59	45	6,962	6,616	18,727	21,099	6,698	7,210	691	1,038	257	446	69,848
India	11	2	2,083	343	16,005	2,861	9,046	2,108	932	432	191	170	34,184
Republic of Korea	1,412	1,177	2,045	1,748	2,906	4,868	3,688	2,993	1,109	1,396	591	1,065	24,998
Malaysia	56	53	1,339	1,331	5,941	6,164	1,023	911	235	303	215	308	17,879
Hong Kong	92	64	2,388	1,936	5,311	4,205	1,139	806	125	235	79	308	16,688
Japan	125	137	890	1,432	2,149	3,793	1,022	2,101	584	1,373	293	745	14,644
Thailand	59	66	663	519	1,851	2,195	2,229	3,105	656	1,161	257	492	13,253
Indonesia	47	37	1,517	1,530	3,546	3,313	973	772	264	177	257	126	12,559
USA	22	26	226	335	3,612	5,797	519	602	191	157	172	130	11,789
Singapore	37	24	280	665	1,865	2,789	1,649	729	231	184	149	189	8,791
Other nationalities	324	319	5,485	4,894	21,900	17,384	16,675	11,231	5,988	3,782	3,089	2,205	93,276
Total	2,244	1,950	23,878	21,349	83,813	74,468	44,661	32,568	11,006	10,238	5,550	6,184	317,909

¹ International student numbers are derived by matching a number of different variables such as date of birth, name and gender.