



United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is one of Australia's major competitors in international education as well as Australia's second largest education market in Europe. The UK is the most popular study destination in Europe for Australian students. The introduction of tuition fees for undergraduate students (except in Scotland) has driven increased British student interest in Australia. From 2006, universities can charge up to £3,000. This amount cannot be changed until a review is undertaken in 2010, but an increase of up to £5,000 has been mooted in the British press. There is potential for further expansion in the postgraduate market in the UK, with great interest being shown in Australian postgraduate courses that are connected to an institution's demonstrated research strengths. There is increased demand among UK students for broader based general degrees.

The UK is now Australia's largest VET market in Europe with growth in 2006 of 22.2 percent, building on increases in the previous three years. Reasons for this growth include: increased in-market activity and promotion, particularly by IBT and some public VET providers, and promotions by the Australian government to attract skilled migrants with particular VET qualifications.

The UK is a major international education destination attracting 344,335 overseas students in 2005, but has suffered some declines in international student numbers in recent years. The UK market share includes a growing number of international postgraduate students: in 2006, 49% of all international students in the UK were studying for postgraduate degrees. This shift is due in part to demand for UK one year Master's degrees which are shorter than those offered in many other countries.

The UK is facing increasing competition in the ELICOS market. This is due in part to competition from other Anglophone countries such as Australia and New Zealand but also increasing provision by non-native teachers of English in some of their key markets such as China and Vietnam.

The British Government has launched the second phase of the Prime Minister's Initiative which aims to increase the number of partnerships across borders among UK universities and further education colleges and institutions overseas. Countries covered include India, China, Africa and Russia.

Higher Education

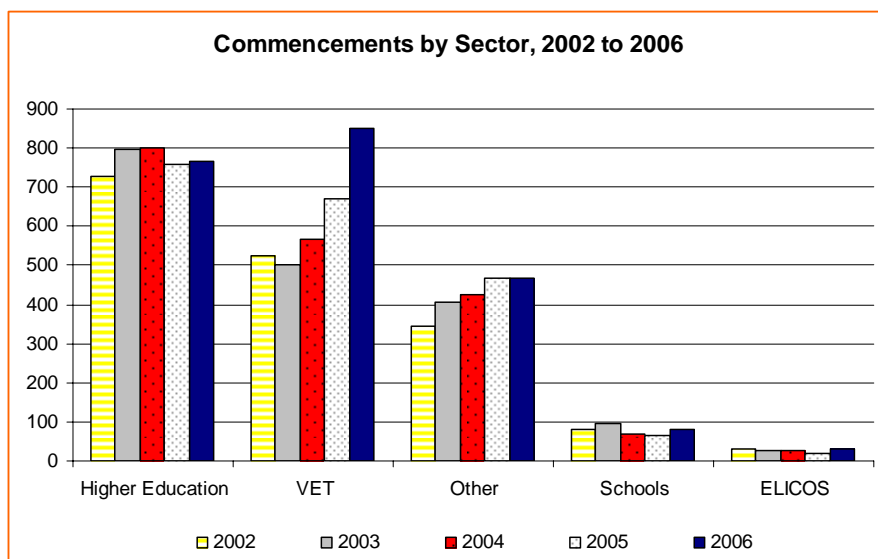
- The UK is Australia's largest higher education market in Europe.
- The most popular level of study for UK students is the Bachelor degree with 63.6% of total enrolments. Master degrees by coursework attract 19% of enrolments. The most popular subjects studied at Bachelor level are Business administration and management (21.9%) followed by Arts, humanities and social sciences (18.2%).
- The UK is the second largest source country in Europe for PhD students with 171 enrolments.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- The most popular areas of study for UK students are: Services, hospitality and tourism; Health and community services; Arts, humanities and social sciences; and Business administration and management.
- The most popular level of study is Diploma, with 47.4% of enrolments.

Schools

- The UK is the second largest market for schools in Europe, with 170 enrolments after Germany with 752 enrolments. More than three-quarters of these students are enrolled in non-Government schools, most at senior secondary level.



	2002		2006		Growth 2002 to 2006
	Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking	
Commencements	1,713	18th	2,194	18th	28.1%
Enrolments	2,900	17th	4,215	18th	45.3%