



International student numbers¹

Australian Education International monthly data provides student 'enrolment' and 'commencement' numbers rather than actual student numbers. This snapshot provides an overview of what is known about the number of international students studying in Australia on a student visa in 2007.

International student numbers by sector				International Student Enrolments 2007
Sector	2006	2007	Annual growth on 2006	
Higher Education	163,173	170,108	4.3%	177,760
VET	74,176	107,932	45.5%	121,422
ELICOS	70,549	92,682	31.4%	101,824
Schools	24,235	27,049	11.6%	27,426
Other ^a	25,227	26,599	5.4%	26,753
Total	317,039^b	371,691^b	17.2%	455,185

^a 'Other' includes study abroad, foundation, enabling and other non-award courses that do not lead to a qualification under the Australian Qualifications Framework.
^b The total is less than the sum of components as students can study in more than one sector.

During 2007, 371,691 students on a student visa studied in Australia — an increase of 17% over 2006. This growth was mainly from the Vocational Education and Training (VET) (46% growth) and the English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) (31% growth) sectors. Enrolments numbered 455,185, as some students enrolled in more than one course during the year.

Sector distribution varied with nationalities, with high proportions of Malaysian and Indonesian students studying in the higher education sector, Indian students in the VET sector, Korean, Japanese and Brazilian students in the ELICOS sector and United States of America (USA) students in the 'other' sector.

Students from China constituted the largest group, making up 22% of all international students. This was followed by India (14%) and the Republic of Korea (7%). The top 10 nationalities accounted for approximately 69% of all international students.

There were more male international students than females (55% compared to 45%). This was primarily due to a predominance of male students from South Asian countries including India (80%), Nepal (76%) and Bangladesh (86%). In contrast, nearly two-thirds of Japanese students (65%) were female. Most other nationalities had a balanced gender distribution.

Nearly half (48%) of international students were between 20 and 24 years of age, with the next largest groups aged between 25 and 29 (25%) and between 15 and 19 (15%). The overall average age of all international students was 23.7 years. Students from Malaysia (65%) and USA (79%) were predominantly in the 20 to 24 age group while students from India tended to be slightly older with most enrolments at the tertiary level. Students from the Republic of Korea, China and Japan were more evenly distributed across the age groups. The average ages of international students in higher education, VET and ELICOS sectors were similar (between 24.0 and 24.6) while students from 'other' and schools sectors tend to be younger with average ages of 21.5 and 16.7 respectively.

Nationality	International student numbers by age (years)					Total Students	Percentage distribution of international students by sector				
	≤ 19	20 – 24	25 – 29	≥ 30	Average		Higher Education	VET	ELICOS	Schools	Other
China	19,007	44,167	16,888	2,477	22.3	82,539	45.8%	16.2%	23.3%	11.2%	3.5%
India	4,133	28,872	15,876	2,881	23.8	51,762	42.8%	41.4%	14.8%	0.1%	0.9%
Republic of Korea	7,169	8,260	7,603	4,719	23.6	27,751	18.3%	22.0%	40.0%	17.4%	2.3%
Malaysia	3,051	12,156	2,091	1,277	22.7	18,575	77.3%	12.8%	1.7%	3.9%	4.2%
Hong Kong	4,573	8,905	1,811	784	21.9	16,073	47.9%	24.2%	10.7%	8.2%	8.9%
Thailand	1,323	4,092	6,146	3,170	26.2	14,731	25.7%	33.2%	36.2%	3.8%	1.1%
Japan	2,285	5,456	2,808	2,869	24.8	13,418	20.1%	25.7%	40.5%	8.6%	5.1%
Indonesia	3,184	6,544	1,830	906	22.5	12,464	54.2%	26.9%	10.7%	3.4%	4.8%
USA	598	9,128	1,176	680	22.5	11,582	21.2%	10.3%	0.1%	1.0%	67.4%
Brazil	715	3,519	3,734	1,409	25.4	9,377	4.5%	35.7%	57.2%	2.1%	0.5%
Other nationalities	14,071	48,446	33,325	17,577	24.8	113,419	40.6%	27.4%	20.2%	4.1%	7.8%
Total	60,109	179,545	93,288	38,749	23.7	371,691	40.1%	25.4%	21.8%	6.4%	6.3%

¹ International student numbers relate only to international students in Australia on a student visa and are derived from AEI data by matching a number of different variables such as date of birth, name and gender.