Australian VET courses for international students

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International students in Australia

International student enrolments


Categories: Higher Education, VET, Schools, English language, Non-award
International VET student numbers

- In 2017, enrolments grew by 17% to 217,000 (=162,000 students).
- So far in 2018 (January-May) enrolments have grown by 15% to 165,000 (=143,000 students).
- 93% of enrolments are with private providers in 2018.
International students in Australia

• Education has become Australia’s third largest export after iron ore and coal

• According to the ABS, all international students studying and living in Australia contributed $30.8 billion to the Australian economy in 2017.

• International VET students contributed $5.2 billion in 2017, an 18.7% increase on their contribution in 2016.
International VET student enrolments: Major source countries

There was 15% enrolments growth in this period

Source: DET PRISMS data
Study pathways to VET - All nationalities

Sector studied before commencement of VET course in 2018

- None - 53% - 18,193
- Schools - 2% - 589
- ELICOS - 30% - 10,285
- Higher-Education - 14% - 4,732
- Non-Award - 1% - 468

Source: DET data visualisations
Study pathways to VET - India

Sector studied before commencement of VET course in 2018

- None - 52% - 1,911
- Schools - 1% - 38
- ELICOS - 3% - 124
- Higher-Education - 43% - 1,568
- Non-Award - 0% - 13

Source: DET data visualisations
Study pathways to VET - Brazil

Sector studied before commencement of VET course in 2018

- ELICOS: 84% - 2,778
- Higher Education: 0% - 5
- Non-award: 1% - 18
- None: 15% - 508
- Schools: 0% - <5

Source: DET data visualisations
Study pathways to VET - UK

Sector studied before commencement of VET course in 2018

None - 98% - 811

ELICOS - 0% - <5
Higher Education - 1% - 12
Non-award - 0% - <5

Source: DET data visualisations
A national biennial survey of over 65,000 international students in Australia.

Source: 2016 international student survey (VET sector)
The 2018 survey is currently underway.

Source: 2016 international student survey (VET sector)
International VET student employment

International students studying in Australia on a student visa may work for up to 40 hours a fortnight and for unlimited time in term breaks.

- Paid work related to field of study: 37%
- Paid work unrelated to field of study: 50%
- Unpaid work: 42%

*(these categories were not mutually exclusive)*

Source: 2016 international student survey (VET sector)
# International VET student completions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic student (onshore)</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International students (onshore)</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International students (offshore)</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>79%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NCVER
International onshore VET outcomes

A 2017 survey of over 11,000 international VET students who completed a course in Australia in 2016:

- 82% were employed or in further study.
- 89% would recommend their training to others.
- 85% would recommend their provider to others.

Source: NCVER
International offshore VET

2016 enrolments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Enrolments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>26,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuwait</td>
<td>1,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>1,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>1,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mauritius</td>
<td>1,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,526</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2016:

- 67% of enrolments were in China
- 84% were with TAFE institutes
- 59% were with providers from Victoria
- enrolments had declined 7.5% since 2015, although the number of providers grew to 224
- enrolments have been slowly declining since 2009, though mostly from China.

You may hear anecdotes of much more offshore activity, but evidence of that is yet to appear in the national Total VET Activity data.

Source: NCVER
Current research: Offshore VET students: Who are they and where are they headed?

2018 focus group and survey research with ACER. Largely focused on China.

A typical student in China choosing an Australian VET provider:

- Did not perform as well as they wanted to in the Gaokao
- Can’t afford to study overseas
- Can afford a premium “international” course in China
- Diploma-level study is most popular
- The fields of architecture/building; hospitality management; and business management/finance are most popular.

Source: DET (pending publication)
Thank you

Any questions?