

Monthly Summary of International Student Enrolment Data¹ – Australia – January 2013

In January 2013, there were 242,521 enrolments by full-fee paying international students in Australia on a student visa. This represents a 7.4% decline on January 2012.

There were 26,391 commencements in January 2013, representing a 4.4% decrease over January 2012.

The January data should be interpreted with caution as most Higher Education and Vocational Education and Training (VET) commencements for first semester typically take place in February and March each year. In 2012, only 3% of Higher Education and 12% of VET commencements were in January.

In January 2013, the Higher Education sector ranked first by volume of enrolments and fourth by volume of commencements. The sector recorded a decline in enrolments of 8.6% and a 0.7% decline in commencements on January 2012 figures. By enrolments volume, the two largest markets were China (38.9%) and Malaysia (7.2%).

Recent data published by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship showed that, in the last six months of 2012, there was over 27% growth in Higher Education student visas granted to offshore applicants (compared to the equivalent period in 2011). Also, there was nearly 12% growth in ELICOS commencements in the last six months of 2012. It is anticipated that these changes will flow through to growth in Higher Education commencements in 2013. This is likely to be the result of Australian Government reforms introduced in response to the Knight Review of Australia's student visa system, notably the introduction of streamlined visa processing and new arrangements for post-study work visas.

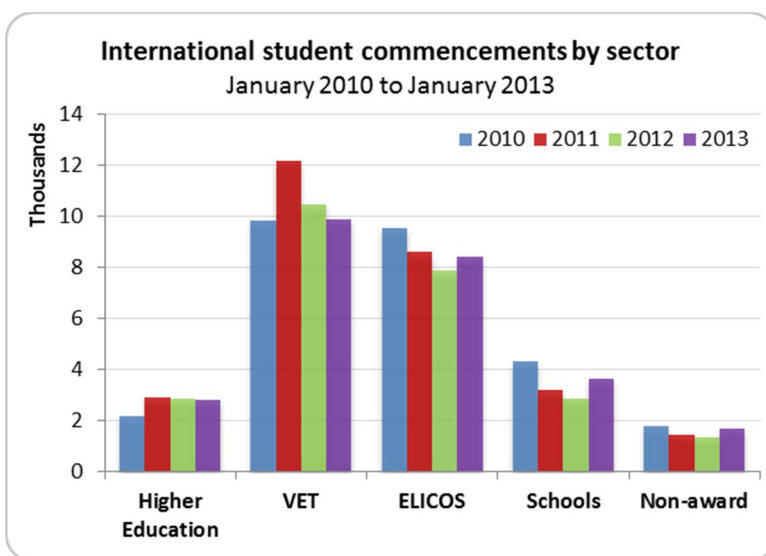
The VET sector ranked second by volume of enrolments and first by volume of commencements. Enrolments and commencements in the sector fell by 16.2% and 5.6% respectively. India had the largest share of total enrolments (25.1%) and of total commencements (16.3%) in January 2013. China was the next largest source country for enrolments with 9.8%, followed by Thailand (7.1%) and the Republic of Korea (6.6%).

The ELICOS sector ranked third by volume of enrolments and second for commencements. Enrolments grew by 14.0% and commencements by 7.2% on January 2012. This continues the growth trend seen in the second half of 2012 and may be the result of new students undertaking preparatory study ahead of commencing a tertiary education course in 2013.

China was the largest ELICOS market in January 2013 with a 26.7% share of enrolments and 19.4% of commencements. Colombia was the next largest source country for enrolments with 7.9%, followed by Brazil and Thailand (7.7% and 7.3% respectively).

The Schools sector ranked fourth by volume of enrolments and third by volume of commencements in January 2013. Enrolments for the sector declined by 1.1% however, commencements increased by 28.7% on January 2012 figures. Asia contributed 86.6% of enrolments and 77.0% of commencements. China, the largest market in the sector, accounted for 46.5% of enrolments.

Enrolments and commencements in courses such as exchange and foundation programs, included in the Non-award sector, both increased by 14.4% and 26.5% respectively. The largest markets by volume of enrolments were China (42.2%), the UK (5.8%) and the USA (5.3%).



Sector	Enrolments			Commencements		
	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2013	Growth on Jan. 2012	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2013	Growth on Jan. 2012
Higher Education	144,429	131,990	-8.6%	2,821	2,802	-0.7%
VET	70,669	59,236	-16.2%	10,460	9,872	-5.6%
ELICOS	27,698	31,570	14.0%	7,851	8,414	7.2%
Schools	12,969	12,832	-1.1%	2,814	3,622	28.7%
Non-award	6,026	6,893	14.4%	1,329	1,681	26.5%
Total in Australia	261,791	242,521	-7.4%	25,275	26,391	4.4%

The Top 5 nationalities contributed 54.9% of Australia's enrolments in all sectors					Double-digit increases & decreases in markets with over 2,500 enrolments (outside top 5)			
Nationality	Jan. 2012	Jan. 2013	Growth on Jan. 2012	Share of all nationalities	Nationality	Jan. 2013	Growth on Jan. 2012	Rank
China	80,939	74,408	-8.1%	30.7%	Nepal	6,896	-17.1%	8
India	30,052	22,737	-24.3%	9.4%	Pakistan	5,793	14.4%	9
Republic of Korea	13,305	12,463	-6.3%	5.1%	Colombia	3,983	15.0%	14
Malaysia	13,330	11,930	-10.5%	4.9%	Philippines	3,778	19.4%	15
Vietnam	11,588	11,712	1.1%	4.8%	Bangladesh	3,037	-10.0%	17
Other nationalities	112,577	109,271	-2.9%	45.1%	Sri Lanka	2,692	-16.3%	19
All nationalities	261,791	242,521	-7.4%	100.0%				

For more information: <http://www.aei.gov.au/research/International-Student-Data/Pages/default.aspx>

¹ AEI data on enrolments and commencements (including the data in this update) relate only to international students in Australia on a student visa.