



International Student Enrolments in Higher Education in 2006

With 44.9% of annual enrolments, higher education represents the largest sector of international students in Australia. During 2006, higher education enrolments in Australia grew by 5.2%. Similar growth is expected in 2007, building on the 4.9% growth in commencements in 2006. Double digit growth is occurring in several emerging markets with enrolments over 1,400 namely, Middle East (23.9%), Canada (13.0%), South America (11.9%)[†] and Vietnam (10.3%). Significant growth is also emerging from East Africa (8.4%)* with 2,833 enrolments in 2006.

| Nationality | Annual Enrolments | | | | Annual Commencements | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Growth on 2003 | Growth on 2004 | Growth on 2005 | Number in 2006 | Growth on 2003 | Growth on 2004 | Growth on 2005 | Number in 2006 |
| China | 36.0% | 31.8% | 14.7% | 46,075 | 35.7% | 19.6% | 2.5% | 18,936 |
| India | 45.2% | 24.4% | 14.5% | 25,431 | 41.5% | -6.5% | 16.3% | 10,975 |
| Malaysia | 3.0% | -3.3% | -2.9% | 14,932 | -9.6% | -8.9% | -2.5% | 5,247 |
| Hong Kong | 8.0% | -2.2% | -7.4% | 9,948 | -10.5% | -10.4% | -6.9% | 3,082 |
| Indonesia | -7.1% | -9.5% | -8.2% | 8,772 | -10.5% | -14.4% | -6.3% | 3,007 |
| Singapore | -9.5% | -9.5% | -5.9% | 7,862 | -14.3% | -8.6% | -5.6% | 2,757 |
| South Korea | 11.1% | 7.4% | 4.8% | 5,590 | 2.8% | 0.2% | 6.2% | 2,269 |
| Thailand | 1.1% | -8.1% | -6.3% | 4,891 | -7.7% | -16.5% | -4.3% | 2,030 |
| Taiwan | 1.5% | -5.1% | -2.2% | 3,854 | -0.6% | -11.4% | 2.5% | 1,595 |
| Bangladesh | 21.6% | 7.9% | -3.8% | 3,501 | 9.8% | -14.9% | -17.3% | 1,093 |
| <i>Sub-total</i> | 14.5% | 10.0% | 5.1% | 130,856 | 11.0% | -0.4% | 2.3% | 50,991 |
| Other | 4.8% | 2.4% | 5.6% | 41,441 | -1.4% | 0.3% | 13.3% | 18,091 |
| Total | 11.9% | 8.1% | 5.2% | 172,297 | 7.7% | -0.2% | 4.9% | 69,082 |

Top 10 markets

In 2006, 75.9% of international higher education enrolments came from Australia's top ten markets. Over one-in-four (26.7%) were from China while India and Malaysia accounted for 23.4%.

Enrolments growth from Australia's two largest markets, China and India, remained high at 14.7% and 14.5% respectively in 2006. There has been a significant rebound in commencements in our top ten markets, to 2.3% in 2006 compared to -0.4% in 2005. Overall commencements in the remaining markets are also growing strongly at 13.3%, compared to 0.3% recorded for 2005.

Level of study

In 2006, more than half (57.3%) of higher education enrolments were in Bachelor Degrees and one-third (34.0%) were in Masters by Coursework. There were 98,770 Bachelor Degree enrolments in 2006, a growth of 3.0% on 2005.

The number of enrolments in Masters by Coursework was 58,527 in 2006, a 7.8% increase on 2005.

Field of study

Nearly 43% of higher education enrolments were in 'Business Administration, Management'. This field of study continues to grow strongly at 11.1%.

The next largest field of study is 'Computer Science, Information Systems', although enrolments in this field fell by 12.0% in 2006.

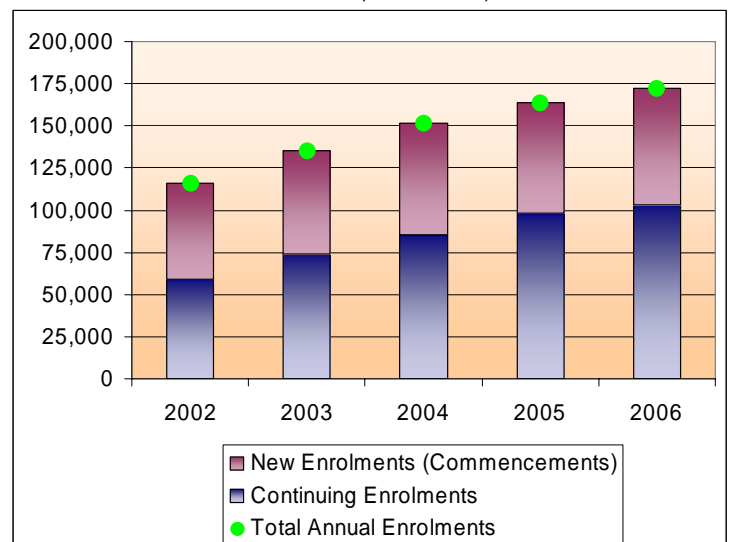
Enrolment growth is however, increasing in the health services area - Medicine, Nursing and Health Services combined. Health services enrolments growth was 21.5% in 2006 up from 18.9% in 2005.

The main health services source markets were China and Malaysia. Enrolments growth in Pharmacy and Dental Services is also increasing, 14.6% in 2006 (up from 13.7% in 2005).

State/Territory

Most (36%) higher education enrolments are in New South Wales which had 61,716 enrolments in 2006. The other jurisdictions had: Victoria - 53,801; Queensland - 24,576; Western Australia - 15,005; South Australia - 10,676; ACT - 4,066; Tasmania - 2,232; and Northern Territory - 222.

Higher Education Annual Enrolments and Commencements in Australia (2002 - 2006)



[†] Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Peru combined.

* East Africa consists of Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.