



People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China is one of the most important export markets for Australia's international education sector, with the largest number of commencements and enrolments in 2006. China has the world's largest population – over 1.3 billion – with 21.1% in the 15–29 age group¹. China is the world's fifth largest economy, with GDP growing 10.7% in 2006 and 10.4% in 2005. Preliminary statistics suggests continued strong growth throughout 2007².

A total 792,000 Chinese students are currently pursuing study abroad across all sectors worldwide. The vast majority (73.6%) are enrolled at the higher education level, including academic exchanges and visits. In 2006, a record 134,000 students travelled abroad for study, an increase of 13.0% over 2005. China is also the sixth largest study destination country with 141,000 international students in 2005³.

China is a key market for all of Australia's traditional English-speaking competitor countries. The United States is the largest recipient of Chinese students (16%), followed closely by the UK (14%) and Australia (13%). Australia's robust quality assurance mechanisms are key to maintaining international student numbers from China. In 2005, Chinese students paid AUD914.8 million in tuition fees and contributed AUD1.8 billion to Australia's national income⁴.

Higher Education

- In 2006, China was the largest source country, with enrolments growing 14.6% over 2005.
- Major fields of study included 'Business Administration, Management' (56%), 'Computer Science, Information Systems' (10%), 'Economics' (9%) and 'Engineering, Surveying' (6%). Due to domestic shortages, growth is expected in the fields of engineering and health.
- Moderation in overall student growth is expected over the coming years.

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

- In 2006, China was the largest source country, with enrolments growing 13.1% over 2005.
- Major fields of study were 'Business Administration, Management' (46.8%) and 'Services, Hospitality, Transport' (33.7%).
- Non-government providers accounted for 83.2% of Chinese VET enrolments, compared to 84.0% in 2005.
- Strong growth in VET is expected over the coming years as China faces the issue of skilled worker shortages.
- Australian VET is well regarded in China.

ELICOS⁵

- In 2006, China was the largest source country, with enrolments growing 8.1% over 2005.
- Non-government providers accounted for around 59.6% of Chinese ELICOS enrolments, compared to 57.9% in 2005.
- The ELICOS sector is expected to continue to grow with strong demand.

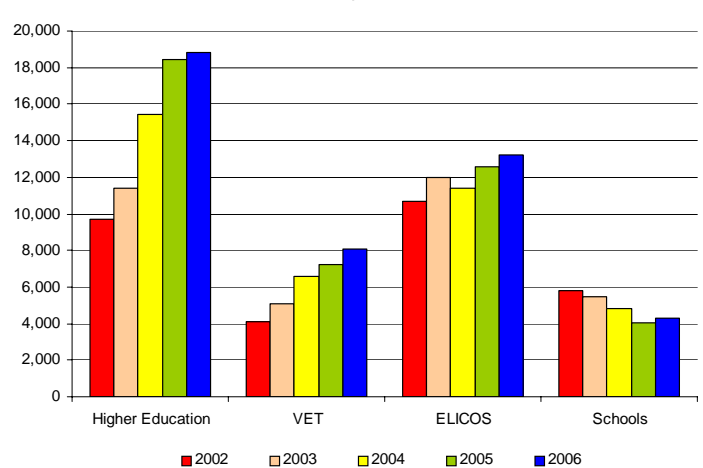
Schools

- In 2006, China was the largest source country, despite enrolments declining 7.2% over 2005, commencements grew by 5.9%.
- The major reason for the decrease was a change in the Chinese Government's policy on school students studying abroad to promote foundation programmes in China.

Transnational Education (TNE)

- Australia is currently the largest provider of TNE programmes in China with more than 300 programmes and some 30,000 students.
- There is some uncertainty about the future viability of TNE programmes in China with an increasingly tight supervision and approval policy environment.
- There are a range of economic and regulatory issues facing TNE programmes in China.

Commencements by Sector, 2002 to 2006



	2002		2006		Growth on 2002
	Number	Ranking	Number	Ranking	
Commencements	31,844	1 st	46,400	1 st	45.7%
Enrolments	48,175	1 st	90,293	1 st	87.4%

¹ China Statistical Yearbook 2006

² World Bank, East Asia Update, 2007

³ Chinese Ministry of Education

⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics

⁵ ELICOS students in Australia on a student visa only. A 2005 *English Australia* survey found that about half of all ELICOS students in Australia are on a student visa.