

## International Student PRISMS Data 2016; Higher Education Report

The monthly Department of Education and Training (DET) PRISMS data show total enrolments and new commencements onshore by international students on a student visa, as reported by education providers. This does not include visitors who studied on other visa classes, particularly some short courses, or those who undertook Australian transnational programs offshore.

PRISMS record each enrolment and commencement, or change of course as a new instance; for example the same student progressing from an ELICOS to a HE degree course counts as two separate enrolments and commencements. Hence the number of actual students is slightly less than the PRISMS enrolment data may suggest. Figures need to be interpreted in conjunction with Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) student visa data, and DET Research Snapshots and Papers.

A total of 554,179 individual international students studied in Australia on a student visa in 2016, an increase of 11.2% over the previous year. Total enrolments were 712,884 an increase of 10.9%, and course commencements were 414,292 an increase of 10.0% - the highest ever figures. China and India were the largest source countries, with 27.5% and 11.0% of all enrolments.

Higher education was the largest sector, with 43.0% of all enrolments. Bachelor commencements grew by 9.1%, PG coursework by 18.3%, and PG Research by 2.4%.

**Table 1: Enrolments and Commencements by Sector All Providers**

Sector	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
HE	230,669	249,326	271,718	306,691	95,635	109,374	116,822	132,269	13.2%
VET	134,253	149,316	168,286	187,801	83,166	99,064	108,667	119,589	10.1%
Schools	17,740	18,405	20,534	23,325	8,755	9,633	11,023	12,426	12.7%
ELICOS	114,433	136,066	144,932	151,110	91,153	106,277	111,325	115,279	3.6%
Non-award	27,920	34,166	37,479	43,957	22,801	27,997	28,945	34,729	20.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>525,015</b>	<b>587,279</b>	<b>642,949</b>	<b>712,884</b>	<b>301,510</b>	<b>352,345</b>	<b>376,782</b>	<b>414,292</b>	<b>10.0%</b>
Foundation	8,246	10,366	12,978	16,774	5,584	7,164	8,617	11,332	31.5%
Other NA	19,718	23,821	24,502	27,183	17,247	20,850	20,328	23,397	15.1%

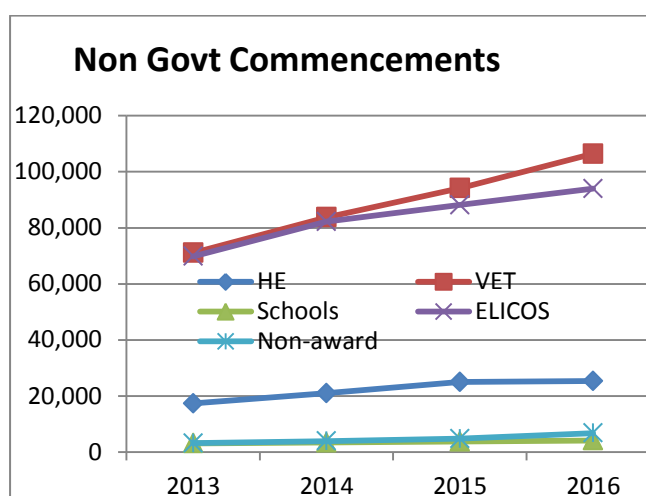
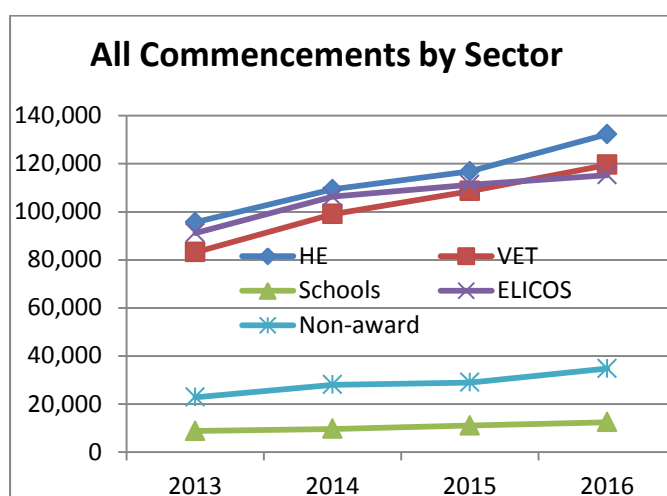
“Other NA” is non-Foundation, non-award courses, mostly short term study abroad and exchange students. A few HE enrolments are wrongly classified as Foundation, and prior to 2016 some VET courses were classified as Foundation.

Non-Government (NG) providers accounted for 51.0% of all enrolments, and 57.1% of commencements, largely in the VET and ELICOS sectors, with 90.2% and 81.0% share of enrolments respectively.

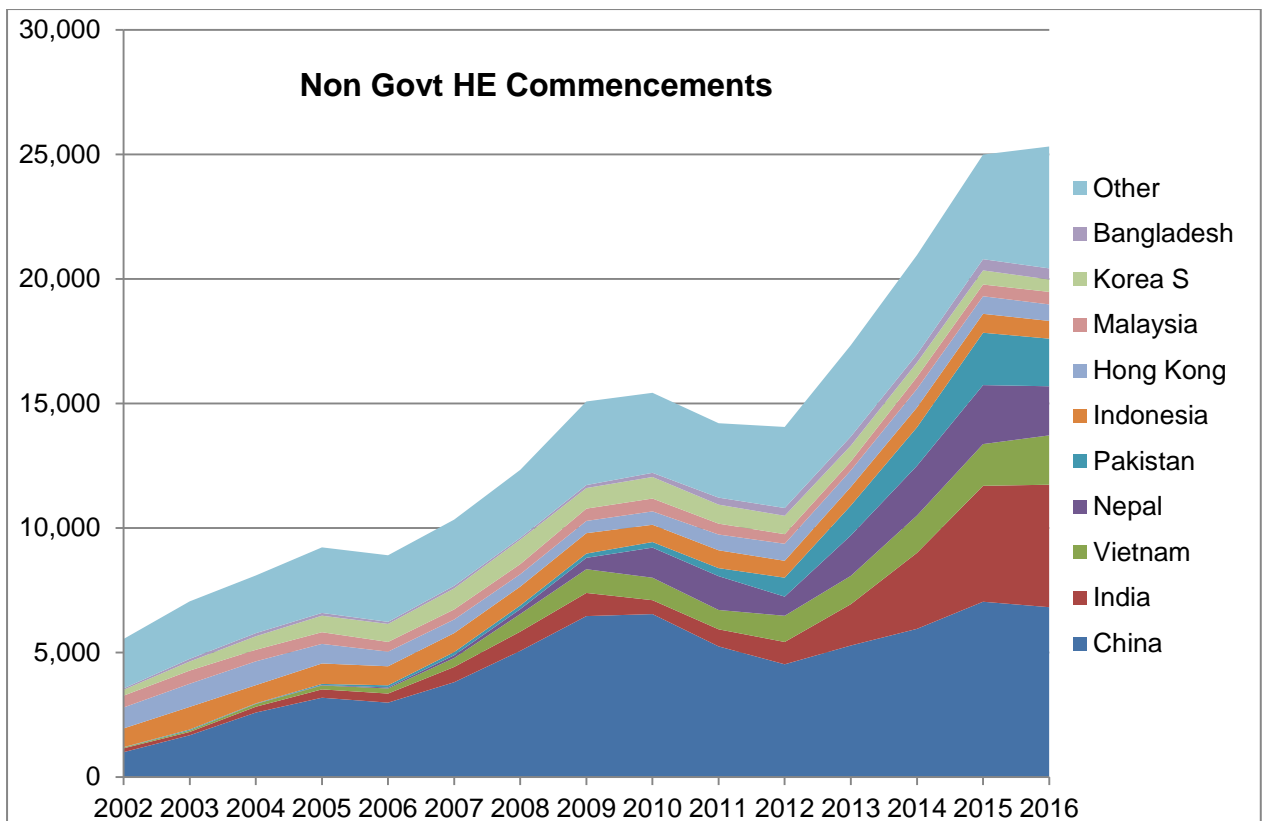
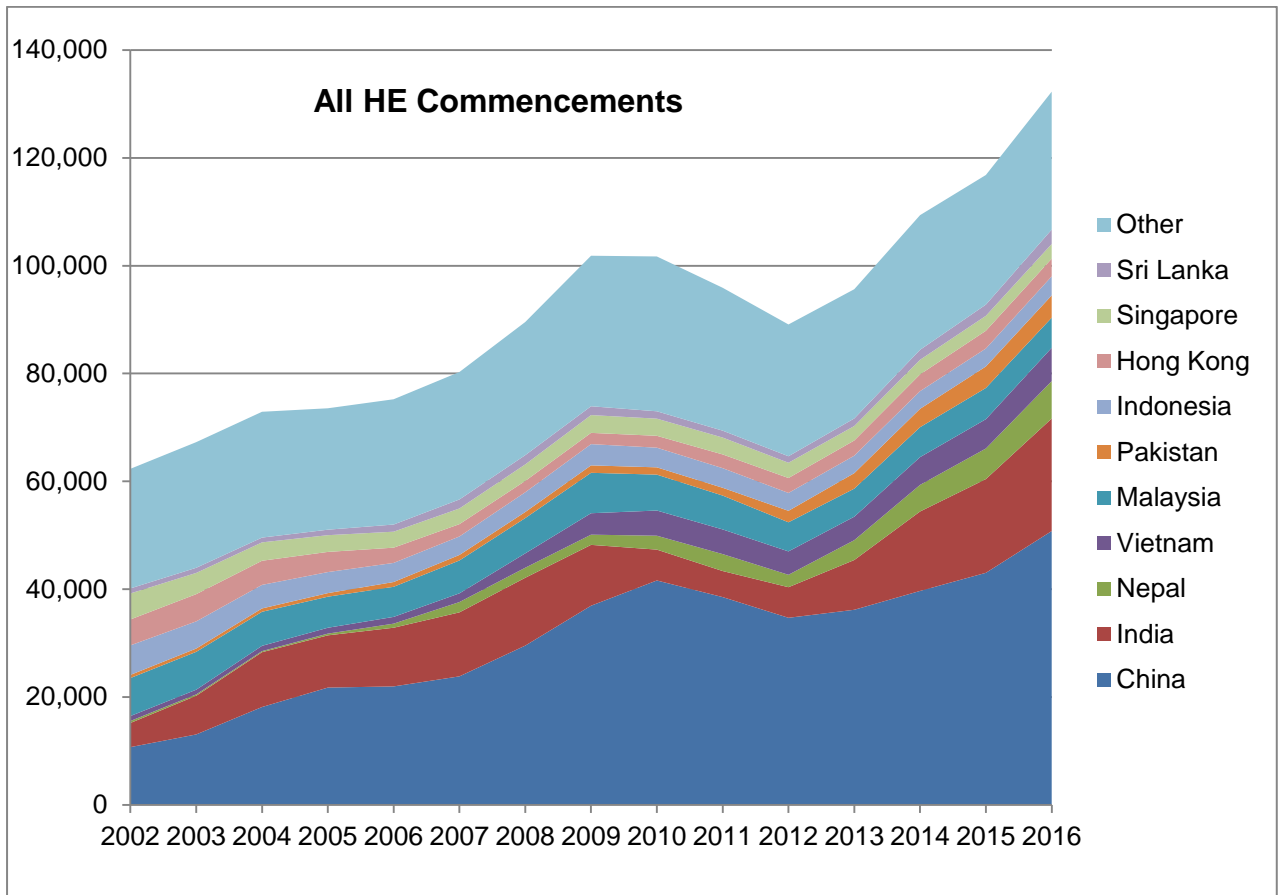
Characterization as Government and Non-Government is sometimes arbitrary, for example in the case of ELICOS and academic pathway programs controlled by or in partnership with “public” universities.

**Table 2: Enrolments and Commencements by Sector Non-Government Providers**

Sector	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
HE	33,651	40,855	48,655	54,685	17,339	20,955	24,992	25,317	1.3%
VET	116,610	129,052	148,416	169,345	71,045	83,746	94,143	106,438	13.1%
Schools	6,901	6,878	7,432	8,247	3,125	3,367	3,750	4,147	10.6%
ELICOS	87,574	104,411	114,410	122,390	69,803	82,207	88,119	93,978	6.6%
Non-award	4,355	5,316	6,701	9,260	3,162	3,873	4,735	6,744	42.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249,091</b>	<b>286,512</b>	<b>325,614</b>	<b>363,927</b>	<b>164,474</b>	<b>194,148</b>	<b>215,739</b>	<b>236,624</b>	<b>9.7%</b>
Foundation	2,743	3,640	4,782	7,120	1,841	2,505	3,146	5,035	60.0%
Other NA	1,622	1,677	1,919	2,140	1,321	1,368	1,589	1,709	7.6%

**Table 3: HE Enrolments and Commencements All Providers by Country**

All Providers	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Total	230,669	249,326	271,718	306,691	95,635	109,374	116,822	132,269	13.2%
China	85,889	89,095	96,809	112,886	36,180	39,674	43,033	50,785	18.0%
India	16,638	26,215	35,131	44,632	9,232	14,736	17,390	20,862	20.0%
Nepal	8,006	10,145	12,177	15,208	3,677	4,936	5,669	6,945	22.5%
Vietnam	11,138	11,923	12,700	13,914	4,357	5,146	5,437	6,179	13.6%
Malaysia	14,968	14,350	14,411	14,629	5,202	5,555	5,792	5,586	-3.6%
Pakistan	5,595	7,238	9,037	10,213	2,871	3,407	3,984	4,131	3.7%
Indonesia	8,715	8,469	8,473	8,754	3,243	3,277	3,337	3,534	5.9%
Hong Kong	7,370	8,097	8,280	8,555	2,821	3,115	3,285	3,282	-0.1%
Singapore	7,810	7,418	7,254	7,050	2,680	2,703	2,775	2,723	-1.9%
Sri Lanka	3,410	4,117	4,907	6,033	1,402	1,851	2,077	2,667	28.4%
Other	61,130	62,259	62,539	64,817	23,970	24,974	24,043	25,575	-4.9%



**Table 4: HE Enrolments and Commencements Non Govt Providers by Country**

Non Govt Providers	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Total	33,651	40,855	48,655	54,685	17,339	20,955	24,992	25,317	1.3%
China	9,865	11,423	13,200	14,211	5,277	5,946	7,035	6,817	-3.1%
India	2,735	4,730	7,546	10,245	1,659	3,050	4,655	4,918	5.6%
Vietnam	2,319	2,962	3,425	3,945	1,139	1,500	1,676	1,981	18.2%
Nepal	3,449	4,259	4,696	5,021	1,623	1,996	2,369	1,972	-16.8%
Pakistan	2,041	3,001	4,301	4,839	1,201	1,545	2,103	1,912	-9.1%
Indonesia	1,520	1,695	1,736	1,657	746	799	760	713	-6.2%
Hong Kong	1,334	1,432	1,451	1,428	664	745	704	663	-5.8%
Malaysia	738	853	925	973	362	478	472	502	6.4%
Korea S	1,420	1,266	1,228	1,148	634	578	568	498	-12.3%
Bangladesh	772	823	981	1,055	365	333	450	446	-0.9%
Other	7,458	8,411	9,166	10,163	3,669	3,985	4,200	4,895	16.5%

Non-Government HE providers enrolled a slightly higher proportion of students from the Subcontinent and Vietnam, and fewer from China (although still the largest source) Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore.

**Table 5: Bachelor and MCW Enrolments and Commencements by Provider Type**

Bachelor	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Govt	102,421	96,431	95,726	102,240	32,180	33,186	34,181	38,580	12.9%
Non Govt	11,928	13,268	16,468	20,117	4,656	5,387	7,586	8,591	13.2%
<b>Master CW</b>	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Govt	65,451	79,644	89,982	106,698	35,016	41,383	41,362	50,629	22.4%
Non Govt	4,816	7,826	11,184	13,431	2,922	4,453	5,796	5,839	0.7%
<b>HE Dipl</b>	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Govt	3,321	3,915	3,795	4,260	1,830	2,503	2,032	2,741	34.9%
Non Govt	14,693	17,466	18,666	19,377	8,565	9,759	10,375	10,044	-3.2%

Over all HE, Non-Government commencements grew by 1.3%, for a 19.1% share. NG Bachelor commencements grew strongly by 13.2% over the previous year, to a 18.2% total share. Masters CW grew by 0.7%, to a 10.3% share. HE Diplomas declined by -3.2%, for a 78.6% share; while some of these are in specialized fields, the majority are Bachelor pathways to mainstream fields in Business, IT and Science.

Across all providers, Bachelor and Masters Coursework commencements are the largest levels, with 35.7% and 42.7% of the total respectively; however total enrolments are about equal, with the longer duration Bachelor enrolments at 39.9% and Masters CW at 39.3% of total, the latter increasing at a greater rate in 2016, the reverse of the trend the previous year.

**Table 6: HE Enrolments and Commencements All Providers by Level of Study**

All Providers	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Total	230,669	249,326	271,718	306,691	95,635	109,374	116,822	132,269	13.2%
Adv Dipl	1,043	928	784	368	506	450	314	40	-87.3%
Assoc Deg	1,498	1,353	1,310	1,319	702	663	635	643	1.3%
Bachelor	114,349	109,699	112,194	122,357	36,836	38,573	41,767	47,171	12.9%
Bach Hons	3,678	5,746	10,444	14,757	1,501	3,419	6,576	6,800	3.4%
Diploma	18,014	21,381	22,461	23,637	10,395	12,262	12,407	12,785	3.0%
Doctorate	16,044	17,145	17,701	18,145	3,964	4,399	4,285	4,424	3.2%
Grad Cert	1,467	1,325	1,609	1,925	1,263	1,085	1,371	1,650	20.4%
Grad Dipl	2,943	2,905	2,741	2,732	1,949	2,108	1,790	1,722	-3.8%
Master CW	70,267	87,470	101,166	120,129	37,938	45,836	47,158	56,468	19.7%
Master Ext	26	37	52	54	18	11	23	25	8.7%
Master Res	1,340	1,337	1,256	1,268	563	568	496	541	9.1%

**Table 7: HE Enrolments and Commencements Non Govt Providers by Level of Study**

Non Govt Providers	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Total	33,651	40,855	48,655	54,685	17,339	20,955	24,992	25,317	1.3%
Adv Dipl	936	846	709	290	503	416	292	18	-93.8%
Assoc Deg	543	462	436	345	224	257	213	157	-26.3%
Bachelor	11,928	13,268	16,468	20,117	4,656	5,387	7,586	8,591	13.2%
Bach Hons	2	11	5	3	2	9	3	3	0.0%
Diploma	14,693	17,466	18,666	19,377	8,565	9,759	10,375	10,044	-3.2%
Doctorate	71	66	74	72	18	15	24	13	-45.8%
Grad Cert	62	117	180	205	49	101	125	164	31.2%
Grad Dipl	549	733	872	776	374	533	559	454	-18.8%
Master CW	4,816	7,826	11,184	13,431	2,922	4,453	5,796	5,839	0.7%
Master Ext	26	37	38	43	18	11	9	23	155.6%
Master Res	25	23	23	26	8	14	10	11	10.0%

**Table 8: Bachelor Enrolments and Commencements All Providers by Field of Study**

All Providers	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Total	114,349	109,699	112,194	122,357	36,836	38,573	41,767	47,171	12.9%
Dual Qual	4,067	3,470	3,038	3,074	850	644	760	913	20.1%
Agri, Envir	1,290	1,316	1,477	1,709	426	489	568	646	13.7%
Arch Build	2,417	2,326	2,272	2,474	777	746	837	919	9.8%
Creative Art	5,351	4,600	4,455	4,737	1,780	1,706	1,767	2,067	17.0%
Education	647	727	830	901	260	270	282	331	17.4%
Engineering	10,105	8,908	6,807	5,056	2,684	2,384	786	662	-15.8%
Food, Hosp	297	279	410	776	108	132	236	519	119.9%
Health	12,598	12,701	12,643	13,154	3,935	4,358	4,330	4,719	9.0%
InfoTech	6,597	6,695	7,493	9,198	2,300	2,698	3,229	4,120	27.6%
Man Comm	56,307	53,752	57,060	63,853	18,838	19,760	23,061	25,527	10.7%
Mixed Field	135	235	307	387	59	163	153	174	13.7%
Sciences	6,308	6,666	7,040	7,859	2,202	2,388	2,556	2,983	16.7%
Society Cult	8,230	8,024	8,362	9,179	2,617	2,835	3,202	3,591	12.1%

**Table 9: Bachelor Enrolments and Commencements Non Govt Providers by Field**

Non Govt Providers	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Total	11,928	13,268	16,468	20,117	4,656	5,387	7,586	8,591	13.2%
Dual Qual	9	5	5	15	1	2	1	12	1100.0%
Agri, Envir	21	5	8	10	6	2	5	5	0.0%
Arch Build	61	62	79	126	22	25	44	67	52.3%
Creative Art	1,048	1,012	976	994	333	395	378	450	19.0%
Education	6	6	9	7	1	2	5	4	-20.0%
Engineering	4	6	12	31	4	3	8	21	162.5%
Food, Hosp	72	99	185	433	29	51	114	301	164.0%
Health	169	167	192	228	51	63	84	92	9.5%
InfoTech	163	225	570	1,081	58	109	399	588	47.4%
Man Comm	9,751	11,141	13,900	16,490	3,924	4,530	6,297	6,671	5.9%
Mixed Field	23	20	18	17	13	7	8	8	0.0%
Sciences	23	9	7	12	7	1	3	9	200.0%
Society Cult	578	511	507	673	207	197	240	363	51.3%

**Table 10: Masters CW Enrolments and Commencements All Providers by Field of Study**

All Providers	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Total	70,267	87,470	101,166	120,129	37,938	45,836	47,158	56,468	19.7%
Dual Qual	2,899	4,274	3,819	2,939	1,522	2,222	749	819	9.3%
Agri, Envir	636	737	919	1,151	336	423	484	593	22.5%
Arch Build	1,821	2,173	2,701	3,407	878	1,076	1,348	1,667	23.7%
Creative Art	1,861	2,149	2,428	3,081	1,083	1,224	1,297	1,659	27.9%
Education	1,946	2,140	2,260	2,645	1,091	1,168	1,135	1,382	21.8%
Engineering	5,133	6,913	9,222	12,258	2,921	3,717	4,829	6,086	26.0%
Food, Hosp	236	409	545	426	141	219	261	68	-73.9%
Health	2,905	3,731	4,637	5,772	1,607	1,944	2,277	2,744	20.5%
InfoTech	8,363	11,181	13,105	15,999	4,626	5,591	5,575	7,511	34.7%
Man Comm	38,403	47,053	54,332	63,954	20,544	24,592	25,668	29,539	15.1%
Mixed Field	74	88	65	43	36	50	27	19	-29.6%
Sciences	1,751	2,001	2,121	2,339	907	1,046	984	1,163	18.2%
Society Cult	4,239	4,621	5,012	6,115	2,246	2,564	2,524	3,218	27.5%

**Table 11: Masters CW Enrolments and Commencements Non Govt Providers by Field**

Non Govt Providers	Total Enrolments				New Commencements				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016/15
Total	4,816	7,826	11,184	13,431	2,922	4,453	5,796	5,839	0.7%
Dual Qual	0	1	16	87	0	1	15	71	373.3%
Agri, Envir	2	15	18	19	1	14	5	9	80.0%
Arch Build	48	112	188	301	29	73	100	153	53.0%
Creative Art	91	118	103	36	47	63	29	17	-41.4%
Education	7	17	30	37	5	11	18	17	-5.6%
Engineering	52	65	57	63	28	22	22	31	40.9%
Food, Hosp	177	315	431	290	113	163	212	7	-96.7%
Health	2	3	6	9	1	2	3	4	33.3%
InfoTech	230	248	292	417	118	98	140	198	41.4%
Man Comm	3,743	6,458	9,524	11,571	2,400	3,798	5,029	5,063	0.7%
Mixed Field	16	11	2	1	7	4	0	1	
Sciences	2	1	5	1	0	1	5	0	-100.0%
Society Cult	446	462	512	599	173	203	218	268	22.9%

Management and Commerce is the dominant field, with 54.1% of all Bachelor, and 52.3% of all Masters CW commencements; for NG providers, these ratios are even higher, at 77.7% and 86.7% respectively.

## Table 12: Broad Fields of Study

Dual Qualification  
Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies  
Architecture and Building  
Creative Arts  
Education  
Engineering and Related Technologies  
Food, Hospitality and Personal Services  
Health  
Information Technology  
Management and Commerce  
Mixed Field Programmes  
Natural and Physical Sciences  
Society and Culture

## Links

Austrade PRISMS data: <http://www.austrade.gov.au/Education/Student-Data>

DET Data: <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/Pages/Data-and-Research.aspx>

DIBP visa data: <http://www.border.gov.au/about/reports-publications/research-statistics/statistics/study-in-australia>