

## Student Visa Statistics Higher Education Update - December 2016

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

The visa statistics show only the principal course, not separate components in a course package, as in PRISMS data. The data show lodgements (applications) and grants for students offshore and onshore. The figures here refer to primary applicants only, not dependents also on the student visa. Primary applicants are typically 90% of higher education coursework visas, and 70% of PG research visas, where many older students bring families. We report consolidated figures for the 6 months to December 2016. Monthly and quarterly figures are also available in the tables. The differences between lodgements and grants are due to varying grant rates and processing times.

The new Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF) began from July 2016, and students and agents took a while to familiarize with the new system. There had been a spike in lodgements in June, and some initial processing delays. Hence year on year comparisons need to be interpreted against this context.

Onshore grants (students already here and transferring or extending courses) recovered, especially in VET (+26.6%) and HE coursework (+10.7%) after declines in recent years.

Offshore applications are usually new students, and more indicative of genuine growth trends. Offshore grants for the 6 months increased over the previous year (+7.3%). However this was uneven across sectors: standalone (non-packaged) ELICOS (+16.9%), Schools (2.7%), VET (+2.6%), HE coursework (+11.6%), PG research (+15.6%), while non-award, mostly study abroad/exchange declined (-28.2%). The NA figure may be an anomaly, as lodgements declined by only -5% compared to a peak year in 2015.

**Table 1: Lodgements and visa grants for primary applicant 6 months to 31 December 2016, compared to the previous year**

	All sectors		HE coursework		PG research	
	Students	Change	Students	Change	Students	Change
Lodged total	150,105	5.8%	73,436	3.8%	3,524	15.9%
Lodged offshore	101,462	4.2%	52,592	1.4%	2,457	26.1%
Lodged onshore	48,591	9.4%	20,824	10.3%	1,065	-2.5%
Grants total	139,752	10.3%	71,724	11.4%	3,061	10.3%
Grants offshore	92,748	7.3%	52,366	11.6%	2,057	15.6%
Grants onshore	46,961	16.7%	19,340	10.7%	1,003	0.6%

HE coursework offshore visa grants for the period varied by country. China, India, Nepal, Indonesia and Sri Lanka all showed double digit growth, while Hong Kong, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Canada and Bangladesh declined.

**Table 2: Visa grants offshore HECW by country, 6 months to 31 December 2016**

		<b>Offshore Grants</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Share</b>
	Total	52366	11.6%	100.0%
1	China	24152	15.8%	46.1%
2	India	8563	22.2%	16.4%
3	Nepal	3233	61.2%	6.2%
4	Vietnam	2111	9.0%	4.0%
5	Hong Kong	1395	-9.5%	2.7%
6	Malaysia	1327	-16.3%	2.5%
7	Indonesia	1205	13.9%	2.3%
8	Pakistan	1169	-30.6%	2.2%
9	Singapore	999	0.6%	1.9%
10	Sri Lanka	996	51.4%	1.9%
11	Philippines	527	-12.7%	1.0%
12	Canada	480	-11.6%	0.9%
13	Bangladesh	466	-15.7%	0.9%
14	Korea S	414	6.4%	0.8%
15	USA	392	-4.2%	0.7%
	Other	4937	-3.3%	9.4%