

Student Visa Statistics Update June 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 principal applicants only, not dependents also on the student visa. Principal applicants are typically 88% of all student visas, and 60% of PGR 574 visas, where many older students bring families. We report consolidated figures for the 12 months to June 2016. Monthly and quarterly figures are also available in the pivot tables. The differences between lodgements and grants are due to varying grant rates and processing times.

Onshore grants (students already here and transferring or extending courses) declined for most sectors, but increased slightly (+0.8%) for VET over the previous year.

Offshore applications are usually new students, and more indicative of trends. Offshore grants for the 12 months increased over the previous year (+10.3%). However this was uneven across sectors: stand-alone (non-packaged) ELICOS (+11.2%), Schools (0.1%), VET (+30.0%), HE Coursework (+9.8%), 574 PGR (+2.1%), and non-award, mostly study abroad/exchange (+8.3%).

Table 1: Lodgements and visa grants for principal applicant 12 months to 30 June 2016, compared to the previous year

	All sectors		HECW Visa 573		PGR Visa 574	
	Students	Change	Students	Change	Students	Change
Lodged total	313 711	9.3%	156 098	4.9%	6 551	0.0%
Lodged offshore	213 883	11.3%	112 687	6.2%	4 227	4.6%
Lodged onshore	99 828	5.2%	43 411	1.5%	2 324	-7.3%
Grants total	273 695	5.4%	139 864	5.3%	6 053	-5.2%
Grants offshore	184 324	10.3%	99 256	9.8%	3 914	2.1%
Grants onshore	89 371	-3.6%	40 608	-4.4%	2 139	-16.3%

Table 2: Grants offshore HECW Visa 573 by top countries, 12 months to 30 June 2016

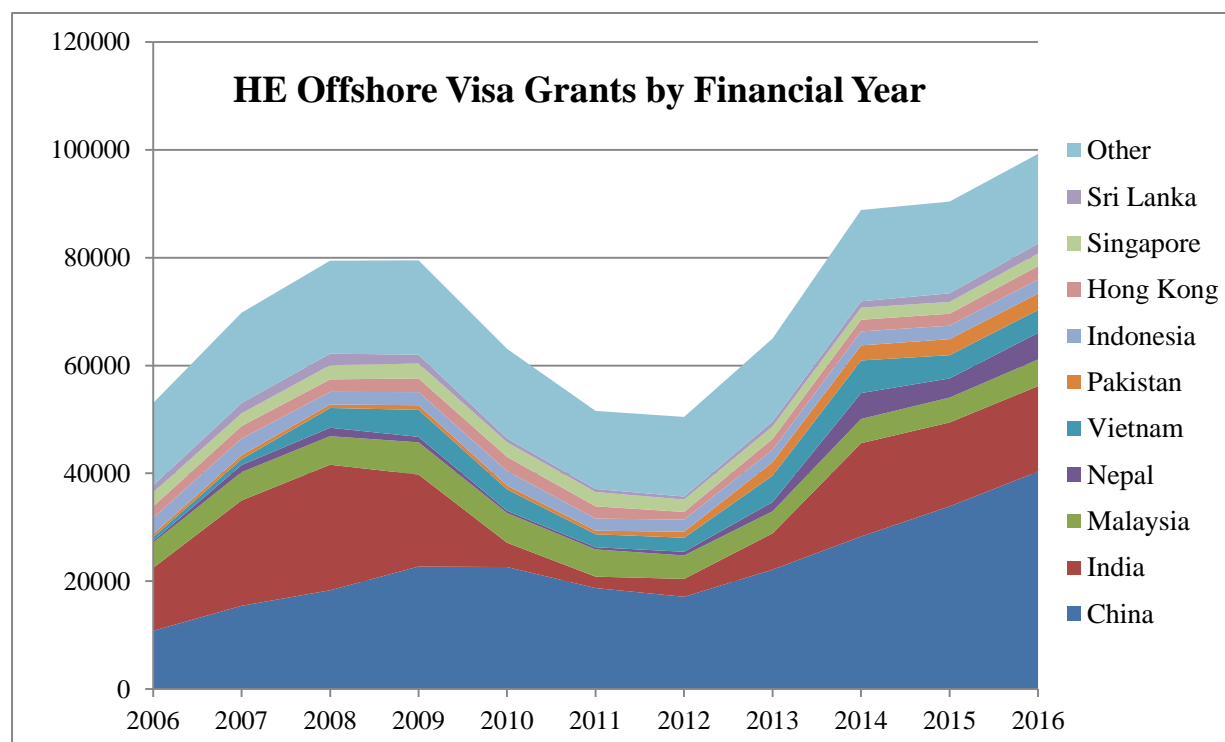
		Offshore Grants	Change	Share
	Total	99 256	9.8%	100.0%
1	China	40 336	19.1%	40.6%
2	India	15 849	1.8%	16.0%
3	Malaysia	4 939	7.1%	5.0%
4	Nepal	4 931	38.6%	5.0%
5	Vietnam	4 240	-1.6%	4.3%
6	Pakistan	3 050	2.6%	3.1%
7	Indonesia	2 627	5.4%	2.6%
8	Hong Kong	2 474	11.2%	2.5%
9	Singapore	2 334	6.9%	2.4%

10	Sri Lanka	1 845	15.4%	1.9%
11	Philippines	1 305	7.9%	1.3%
12	Thailand	1 203	-48.4%	1.2%
13	Bangladesh	1 183	11.9%	1.2%
14	Korea S	1 083	-6.7%	1.1%
15	Canada	779	2.8%	0.8%
	Other	11078	5.5%	11.2%

Offshore 573 HECW visa grants for the period varied by the country. China continued to increase, by 19%, to 41% of all grants; other notable increases included Malaysia, Nepal, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Bangladesh. Vietnam, Thailand and Korea declined. India was flat in HE, but showed strong growth in VET, up more than 4 fold.

Rejection rates have increased in some markets, amid concerns about the genuine intentions of many applicants.

There was a surge in lodgements towards the end of the financial year, ahead of the introduction of the new Simplified Visa Processing Framework from July 2016; this led to some increased processing times for a time.



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