

## Student Visa Statistics Update March 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 6 months October 2015 to March 2016; monthly and quarterly figures are also available in the pivot tables.

Onshore lodgements (students already here and transferring or extending courses) were flat for most sectors, but increased +7.4% for VET over the previous year. Onshore grants have continued to decline across all sectors. The differences between lodgements and grants can be due to different grant rates and processing times.

Offshore applications are usually new students, and more indicative of trends. Offshore grants for the 6 months increased over the previous year (+5.5%). This was uneven across sectors: stand-alone (non packaged) ELICOS (+5.6%), Schools (2.4%), VET (+29.4%), HE Coursework (+3.6%), 574 PGR (+6.4%), and non-award, mostly study abroad/exchange (+1.1%).

**Table 1: Lodgements and visa grants principal applicant for 6 months to 31 March 2016, compared to same period the previous year**

	All sectors		HECW Visa 573		PGR Visa 574	
	Students	Change	Students	Change	Students	Change
Lodged total	152,533	6.1%	78,445	2.1%	3,471	2.7%
Lodged offshore	101,577	8.2%	54,595	2.5%	2,218	6.2%
Lodged onshore	50,956	2.2%	23,850	1.3%	1,253	-2.9%
Grants total	134,753	0.1%	70,763	-2.0%	3,329	-0.7%
Grants offshore	89,829	5.5%	49,867	3.6%	2,191	6.4%
Grants onshore	44,924	-9.2%	20,896	-13.1%	1,138	-11.9%

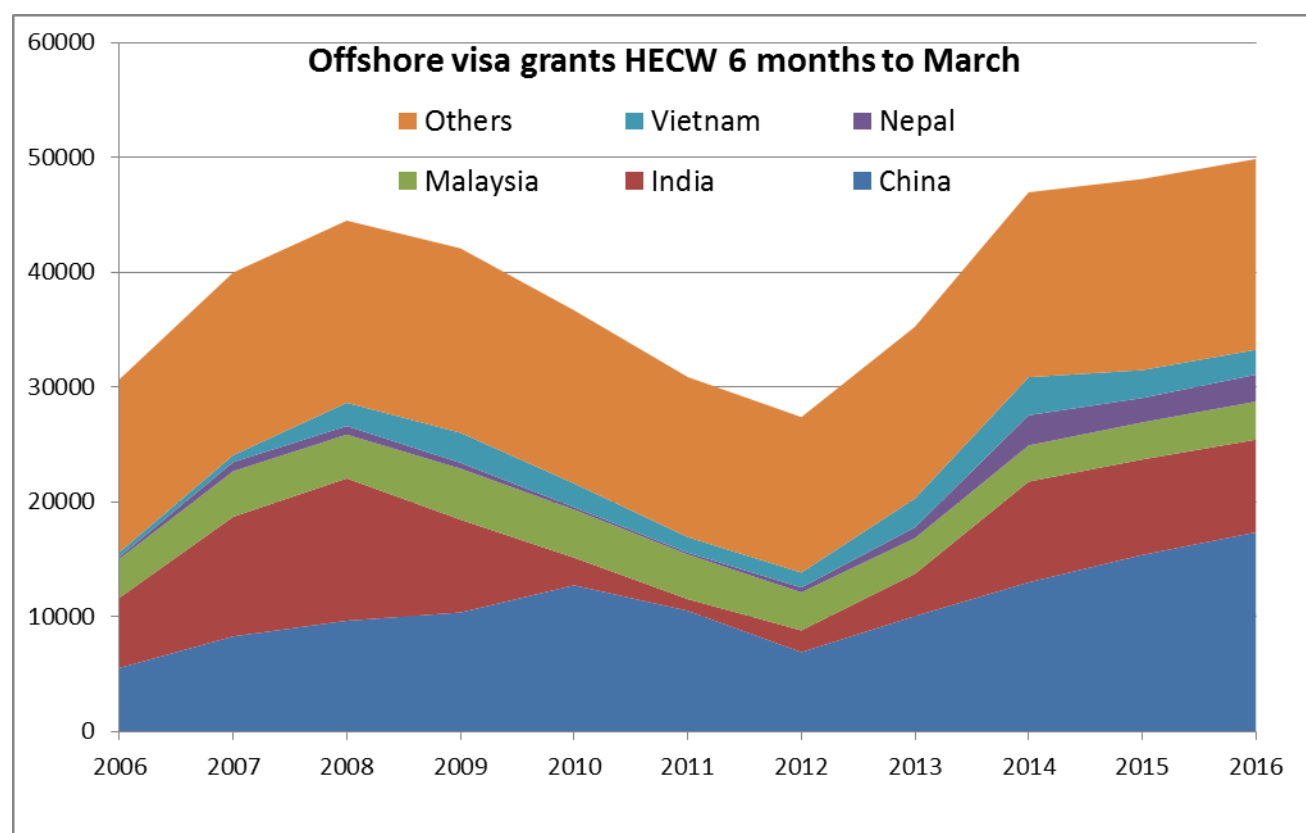
**Table 2: Grants offshore HECW Visa 573 by top countries, 6 months to 31 March 2016**

		Offshore Grants	Change	Share
	<b>Grand total</b>	<b>49,867</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
1	China PRC	17,358	12.8%	34.8%
2	India	8,066	-3.0%	16.2%
3	Malaysia	3,323	3.0%	6.7%
4	Nepal	2,345	10.2%	4.7%
5	Vietnam	2,163	-10.8%	4.3%
6	Hong Kong	1,638	12.3%	3.3%
7	Singapore	1,623	8.9%	3.3%
8	Pakistan	1,388	-20.5%	2.8%

9	Indonesia	1,213	1.7%	2.4%
10	Sri Lanka	1,058	20.2%	2.1%
11	Philippines	707	5.2%	1.4%
12	Korea S	702	-5.8%	1.4%
13	Bangladesh	653	20.5%	1.3%
14	Canada	612	3.7%	1.2%
15	Thailand	592	-49.3%	1.2%
	Others	6,426	4.2%	12.9%

Offshore 573 HECW visa grants for the period varied by country. China continued to increase by 13%, to 35% of all grants; Malaysia, Nepal, Hong Kong, Singapore and Sri Lanka also increased. India, Vietnam and Pakistan declined. India showed strong recovery in VET, up more than 4 fold in offshore lodgements, and 8 fold in grants for the 6 months.

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



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