

Student Visa Statistics Update March 2017

Figures for March 2017 are available from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection. <http://www.border.gov.au/about/reports-publications/research-statistics/statistics/study-in-australia>

Visa data show only the principal course, not separate components in a course package, as in PRISMS data. The data show lodgments (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 2016 to March 2017; monthly and quarterly figures are also available in the pivot tables.

The visa statistics for the 6 months to March show consistent and sustained overall growth of about 15%.

Onshore lodgments (students already here and transferring or extending courses) increased by 16%, including 12% for HE Coursework and 24% for VET over the previous year. Onshore grants increased by 13%, including 13% for HE Coursework and 16% for VET. The differences between lodgments 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 by 16%. This varied across sectors: stand alone (non packaged) ELICOS (28%), Schools (10%), VET (1%), HE Coursework (18%), PG Research (17%), and non award, mostly study abroad/exchange (8%).

Table 1: Lodgments and visa grants principal applicant for 6 months to 31 March 2017, compared to same period the previous year

	All sectors		HE Coursework		PG Research	
	Students	Change	Students	Change	Students	Change
Lodged total	174,048	14.5%	87,935	12.9%	3,562	2.7%
Lodged onshore	59,335	16.3%	26,807	12.2%	1,084	-14.0%
Lodged offshore	114,668	13.6%	61,110	13.1%	2,478	12.2%
Grants total	155,716	15.6%	82,498	16.6%	3,578	7.5%
Grants onshore	50,792	13.1%	23,534	12.7%	1,012	-11.0%
Grants offshore	104,883	16.8%	58,948	18.2%	2,566	17.2%

(Note: The location of 57 lodgments and 41 grants in 2016/17 was unknown; hence some totals do not tally exactly.)

Offshore visa grants for HE Coursework for the period showed exceptional growth in some countries, and a levelling in some traditional markets. Large growth continued in China (18%), India (37%), Nepal (108%), Sri Lanka (47%), Pakistan (12%), Indonesia (14%) and USA (16%). Declines were recorded in Malaysia (-7%), Vietnam (-4%), Korea (-7%) and the Philippines (-25%).

Table 2: Grants offshore HECW by top countries, 6 months to 31 March 2017

		Offshore Grants	Change	Share
	Total	58,948	18.2%	100.0%
1	China PRC	20,610	18.7%	35.0%
2	India	11,012	36.5%	18.7%
3	Nepal	4,883	108.2%	8.3%
4	Malaysia	3,096	-6.8%	5.3%
5	Vietnam	2,080	-3.8%	3.5%
6	Hong Kong	1,652	0.9%	2.8%
7	Singapore	1,641	1.1%	2.8%
8	Sri Lanka	1,559	47.4%	2.6%
9	Pakistan	1,557	12.2%	2.6%
10	Indonesia	1,381	13.8%	2.3%
11	Bangladesh	699	7.0%	1.2%
12	Korea S	652	-7.1%	1.1%
13	Canada	627	2.5%	1.1%
14	USA	610	15.7%	1.0%
15	Philippines	529	-25.2%	0.9%
	Other	6360	-2.0%	10.8%

