Australia has one of the best higher education systems in the world.
This handy data snapshot gives a sense of the profound economic, social and cultural contributions of Australia’s world class universities.

Catriona Jackson
Universities Australia
Chief Executive
Our universities educated more than 1.4 million Australian and international students in 2018 and directly employed 130,000 full-time equivalent staff.
ALL ENROLLED STUDENTS 2018 = 1,562,520

Domestic students 1,082,533
International students 479,987

Bachelor 992,089
Other undergraduate 65,845
Postgraduate coursework 390,390
Postgraduate research 66,455
Enabling 28,389
Non-award 19,352

Commencing students 631,854
Continuing students 930,666

COMMONWEALTH FUNDED STUDENT PLACES IN 2018 624,703

Source: Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), Selected Higher Education Statistics - 2018 Student Data
39 outstanding universities are members of Universities Australia.
Australia has 41 local universities (including a small specialist university) and two overseas institutions that operate here. All 37 of Australia’s public universities are Universities Australia members, as are two of the four private universities.

**UNIVERSITY SIZE BY NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS**

- **11** universities with <10,000 enrolments
- **6** universities with 10,001-20,000 enrolments
- **6** universities with 20,001-30,000 enrolments
- **7** universities with 30,001-40,000 enrolments
- **3** universities with 40,001-50,000 enrolments
- **1** university with 50,001-60,000 enrolments
- **1** university with >60,000 enrolments

**AVERAGE COMMONWEALTH GRANT SCHEME FUNDING PER STUDENT PLACE (EFTSL) IN 2018** $11,210
Australia has a diverse mix of 1.5 million students in our world class higher education system - more than 1.4 million of them at UA member universities.
DOMESTIC STUDENT PROPORTIONS BY CATEGORY 2018

- Studying bachelor degree: 71.3%
- Younger than 25 years old: 61.1%
- Female: 58.8%
- Studying full-time: 64.9%
- Studying on-campus: 63.3%
- Commonwealth supported students (EFTSL): 83.8%

Source: DESE, Selected Higher Education Statistics - 2018 Student Data and uCube
Local and international students pursue a wide range of academic disciplines.
COMMONWEALTH SUPPORTED AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PLACES, BY FIELD OF EDUCATION, 2018

Commonwealth supported student places **624,703**

Overseas students places **363,453**

- **Natural and physical sciences**
- **Information technology**
- **Engineering and related technologies**
- **Architecture and building**
- **Agriculture, environmental and related studies**
- **Health**
- **Education**
- **Management and commerce**
- **Society and culture**
- **Creative arts**
- **Food hospitality and personal services**
- **Mixed field programs**

Source: DESE, uCube
Australian universities make it possible to study part-time around work and family responsibilities.
STUDENT ENROLMENTS AND EQUIVALENT FULL-TIME STUDENT LOAD (EFTSL)

Source: DESE, uCube
OVER THE LAST DECADE, THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM THE POOREST QUARTER OF AUSTRALIAN HOUSEHOLDS HAS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 60%
GROWTH IN DOMESTIC UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENTS BY EQUITY GROUP

* Definition changed from postcode measures (2006 SEIFA) to postcode measures (2016 SEIFA)
** Definition changed from 2006 MCEETYA to 2016 ASGS

139% increase in students with a disability

111% increase in Indigenous students

66% increase in students from low SES*

48% increase in regional and remote students**

Source: DESE, Selected Higher Education Statistics - 2018 Student Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2008</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Students with a disability</td>
<td>24,311</td>
<td>58,157</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigenous students</td>
<td>7,038</td>
<td>14,871</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students from low SES*</td>
<td>90,467</td>
<td>150,114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional and remote students**</td>
<td>110,124</td>
<td>162,985</td>
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More than 360,000 higher education students graduated in 2018.
NUMBER OF AWARD COURSE COMPLETIONS FOR ALL STUDENTS, BY COURSE LEVEL

- Undergraduate
- Postgraduate
AUSTRALIA'S UNIVERSITY COMPLETION RATES REMAIN HIGH.
40.6% of 25-34 year olds in Australia now have a Bachelor degree or higher.
PROPORTION OF PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA AGED 25-34 WITH A BACHELOR DEGREE OR HIGHER

Source: ABS 6227.0, Education and Work, May 2019
People from major cities are twice as likely to hold a degree than those from regional and remote areas.
PROPORTION OF PEOPLE AGED 25-34 WITH A BACHELOR DEGREE OR HIGHER, BY REMOTENESS AREA

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Remoteness Area</th>
<th>2010 (39.6%)</th>
<th>2019 (40.6%)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Major cities</td>
<td>39.6%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inner regional</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outer regional, remote and very remote</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>23.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia average</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ABS 6227.0, Education and Work, May 2019
WITH A REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE, AUSTRALIA IS ONE OF THE TOP DESTINATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLMENTS

Source: DESE, uCube
Our universities welcome students from all around the world.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY COUNTRY OF PERMANENT HOME RESIDENCE

Source: DESE, Selected Higher Education Statistics - 2008 and 2018 Student Data
THE EDUCATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IS AUSTRALIA’S 4TH LARGEST EXPORT BEHIND IRON ORE, COAL AND NATURAL GAS.
THE VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION EXPORTS

Source: ABS 5368.0, International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, Dec 2019
AUSTRALIA’S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SECTOR EXPORT IS VALUED AT $40 BILLION A YEAR
EXPORT CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION SECTOR, BY STATES (2018 - 19)

Note: Only includes the value of education-related travel exports.

Source: ABS International trade: Supplementary Information, Financial Year, 2018-19 (Cat. No 5368.0.55.003)
AUSTRALIA’S WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INCREASINGLY ATTRACTS GLOBAL AND INDUSTRY FUNDING.

Source: DESE 2019, Research Income Data 1994 to 2018 and Research Block Grants Allocations 2001 to 2020
SOURCES OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INCOME (IN 2018 DOLLARS)

- Research block grant funding (SRI Source)
- Australian Government competitive grants
- Australian Government - CRC
- State and local government
- International funding
- Industry and other funding

$ million

Australian universities have diversified their sources of **INCOME** in recent years.
2017 TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE ($32 BILLION)

- Australian Government grants: 36.5%
- HELP payments: 17.1%
- International student fees: 23.3%
- Upfront student contributions: 1.5%
- Other fees and charges: 5.3%
- Consultancy and contract research: 4.1%
- Investment income: 3.9%
- State and local governments: 2.2%
- Other income: 6.2%

UNIVERSITIES ALSO INVEST HEAVILY IN THEIR PEOPLE
2017 TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE ($30 BILLION)

- Academic staff expenses 28.6%
- Non-academic staff expenses 25.8%
- Other expenses 32.5%
- Depreciation and amortisation 7.2%
- Repairs and maintenance 2.6%
- Finance cost 0.7%
- Payroll tax 2.7%

As student enrolments have grown over the past decade, so have staff numbers.
TOTAL ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF, INCLUDING CASUAL STAFF (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT)

Source: DESE, Selected Higher Education Statistics - Staff Data (various years)
SOME STAFF SPECIALISE IN TEACHING OR RESEARCH BUT MANY COMBINE BOTH
NUMBER OF FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ACADEMIC STAFF, BY FUNCTION

Source: DESE, Selected Higher Education Statistics - 2018 Staff Data
These figures are a reminder of the many ways in which our universities drive Australia’s economic growth, extend the frontiers of human knowledge, make life-saving breakthroughs and help the nation to transition in an era of digital disruption.
Data as of 12 February 2020

The student data reported in this publication includes all higher education providers reporting their student data to Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) through the Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS). In 2018, 91 per cent of these higher education students studied at the 39 Universities Australia member universities.