

State of Education in NSW

Higher education

This fact sheet focuses on key items of context and reported outcomes for the higher education sector, reported in the inaugural edition of the biennial State of Education in NSW.

Context of higher education

Students		
Student enrolments 2012 Note: Data relate to public universities and higher education providers established in NSW and which are approved to offer Commonwealth assistance	In public universities	355,900
	In other providers	35,002
	Total	390,902

Source: DIICCS RTE, Selected Higher Education Statistics 2012 – All students, Table 2.5

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student enrolments 2012	Number of students	3,251
	Proportion of domestic students	1.5%
International students 2012	Number of students	85,168
	Proportion of public university students	21.4%
	Proportion of all students	21.8%

Source: DIICCS RTE, Selected Higher Education Statistics 2012 – All students, Tables 2.5, 2.6, 2.10 and Appendix 2, Tables 2.5 and 2.6

Proportion of student population from metropolitan areas 2010	82.6%
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Source: G N Marks et al 2011, Career moves: expectations and destinations of NSW senior secondary students, NSW Board of Vocational Education and Training, Sydney, Table 2.9

Providers	
Public universities established in NSW 2012 Note: Data do not include universities established in other states (such as Australian Catholic University and University of Notre Dame) which may operate campuses in NSW)	10
Number of private providers eligible to offer Commonwealth assistance 2012 Note: Data are not available for providers operating in NSW not eligible to offer Commonwealth assistance (or Commonwealth-supported places)	35

Source: DIICCS RTE, Selected Higher Education Statistics 2012 – All students, Table 2.5

Courses		
Most common fields of study NSW 2012	Management and commerce	26.4%
	Society and culture	26.1%
	Health	11.3%
	Education	9.2%
	Creative arts	7.4%

Source: DIICCS RTE, Selected Higher Education Statistics 2012 – All students, Table 2.8

Enrolments by level of study NSW 2012 Note: Data are not available for providers operating in NSW not eligible to offer Commonwealth assistance (or Commonwealth-supported places)	Bachelor Degree (public university only)	235,203
	Total Bachelor degree	255,316
	Other undergraduate (Associate Degree and other) – public university only	5,056
	Total Other undergraduate (Associate Degree and other)	13,067
	Master Degree (by research and by coursework) – public university only	68,738
	Total Master Degree (by research and by coursework)	70,579
	Doctorate (by research and by coursework) – public university only	15,693
	Total Doctorate (by research and by coursework)	15,730
	Other Postgraduate – public university only	18,393
	Total Other Postgraduate	23,070
	Enabling/non-award courses – public university only	12,552
	Total Enabling/non-award courses	12,857

Source: DIICCS RTE, Selected Higher Education Statistics 2012 – All students, Tables 2.5

Proportion of students studying part-time 2012	33.6%
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Source: DIICCS RTE, Selected Higher Education Statistics 2012 – All students, Table 2.7

Snapshot of performance

What is going well	Needs improvement
Increasing qualification levels	
■ In 2013, 38.1% of 25–34 year olds held qualifications at AQF Bachelor level or above in 2013, on track to achieve the 2025 target of 44.0%. ■ Annual number of award course completions for all students in NSW public universities increased by approximately 7,500 from 2008 to 2010. ■ Since 2010, course completions by NSW domestic public university students increased slightly (to 55,455 in 2012).	■ Graduates experience varying success in gaining full-time employment immediately after graduation, depending on field of study.
Improving equity	
■ Proportion of undergraduate students who are from low SES areas was 17.6% in 2012, on track to increase to 20.0% by 2020. ■ Numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student course completions have risen each year since 2008 (488) to 557 in 2012.	■ Students from low SES areas are less likely to expect to go to university than metropolitan students from higher SES areas. ■ Students from provincial areas are less likely to expect to go to university than metropolitan students with similar academic ability. ■ While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people represent around 2.5% of the NSW population, they represented only 1.4% of all higher education students in 2012. ■ Male Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students achieve fewer award completions than females, a greater gap than for other students. ■ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in NSW have lower rates of progress (pass rate, 74%) than non-Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander students (88%).
Research activity	
■ NSW universities performed well in the ERA: – 7 received at least one rating of 5 for a scientific field – 2 received an overall rating of 5 for law and legal studies – 4 receiving a rating of 5 for one or more fields – 5 scoring a 4 or 5 for one or more arts based fields.	■ No NSW universities received an ERA ranking of 5 for research in the field of education.

Outcomes for students

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">2012 Australian Graduate Survey indicated 74.2% of all Bachelor Degree graduates in full-time work within four months. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">2012 Australian Graduate Survey indicated the full-time work rate for NSW Initial Teacher Education graduates was 65.9%, with 50.0% for other graduates of Education (post Initial Teacher Education/other). |
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Outcomes for students

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Higher education made up 40.3% of the international education sector in 2011, a sector which generated over \$5.8 billion in export income in 2012-13. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Numbers of completions by international students in public universities decreased slightly to 24,038 in 2012.Since 2009, numbers and market share of international education have declined with export income earnings in 2010-11 falling by over \$900 million (for higher education, VET, intensive English courses and schools combined) compared with the previous year. |
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For more information

The report is available on the CESE website at www.cese.nsw.gov.au

Further information about the report may be obtained through CESE at cese@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone on T 02 9561 1211.