

# International Students in Australian Universities 2015

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## Executive Summary

The Australian government in 2016 released data on international student numbers in Australian higher education providers in 2015. This analysis edits that data to include only the 41 Australian universities, including University of Divinity, Bond University, The University of Notre Dame Australia and Torrens University Australia Limited.

### International Student Numbers: Onshore and Offshore

In the 41 Australian universities, there were 321,109 international students, onshore and offshore, in 2015. These 321,109 international students made up 24.5% of the 1,309,927 students in Australian universities in 2015. Across the 41 universities, the proportion ranged from 2.1% to 47.5%, with the median figure 22.3%.

In the 41 Australian universities, there were 237,674 international students, onshore in Australia, in 2015. These 237,674 international students made up 19.4% of the 1,226,492 students onshore in Australia in Australian universities in 2015. Across the 41 universities, the proportion onshore ranged from 2.1% to 42.4%, with the median figure 18.4%.

### Finance 2015

The Australian Department of Education and Training in December 2016 released data from the 2015 financial statements for higher education institutions, covering 38 Australian universities, with The University of Notre Dame Australia included, but University of Divinity, Bond University and Torrens University Australia Limited excluded.

The 38 universities in 2015 earned \$5.35 billion from international student fees. From 2005 to 2015, revenue from international student fees grew from \$2.17 billion in 2005 to \$5.35 billion in 2015.

In 2015, the range among the 38 universities was from \$3.11 million to \$526.90 million. The median across the 38 universities in 2015 was \$86.98 million.

In the 38 universities, revenue from international student fees in 2015 made up 18.7% of all revenue. From 2005 to 2015, the proportion of revenue from international student fees grew from 15.2% in 2005 to 18.7% in 2015.

The range among the 38 universities in 2015 was from 1.8% to 29.6%. The median across the 38 universities in 2015 was 17.3%.

## **Fields and Levels of Study 2015**

In total, 24.5% of students in all fields of education, and at all levels of education, in 2015 were international.

45.9% of students in Business in 2015 were international, 48.0% of students in IT in 2015 were international.

31.9% of postgraduate research students in 2015 were international, 38.2% of postgraduate coursework students in 2015 were international and 19.3% of undergraduate students in 2015 were international.

## **International Students: Progress**

The standard for measuring academic performance in Australia is the student progress rate: how much of what I attempted did I pass?

Commencing international bachelor students passed 84.76% of what they attempted in 2015, and did better than commencing domestic bachelor students, who passed 83.68%. In 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 there was no difference (less than one percentage point) between the progress rates for commencing international bachelor students and commencing domestic bachelor students. But in 2012, the international cohort did better, by a percentage point, and in 2013, 2014 and 2015 international students have continued to do better.

In 17 universities in 2015, commencing international undergraduates did better than domestic students. In 15 universities in 2015, domestic students did better. In 9 universities in 2015, there was no difference (less than one percentage point).

We should interpret these results as showing that increasing numbers of Australian universities are setting entry standards, including English language entry standards, for international undergraduates that lead to successful outcomes, are preparing international students better in English language proficiency, are monitoring academic performance and are providing English language and study skills support.

Alan Olsen  
Director  
SPRE P/L  
23 December 2016

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## International Student Numbers 2015

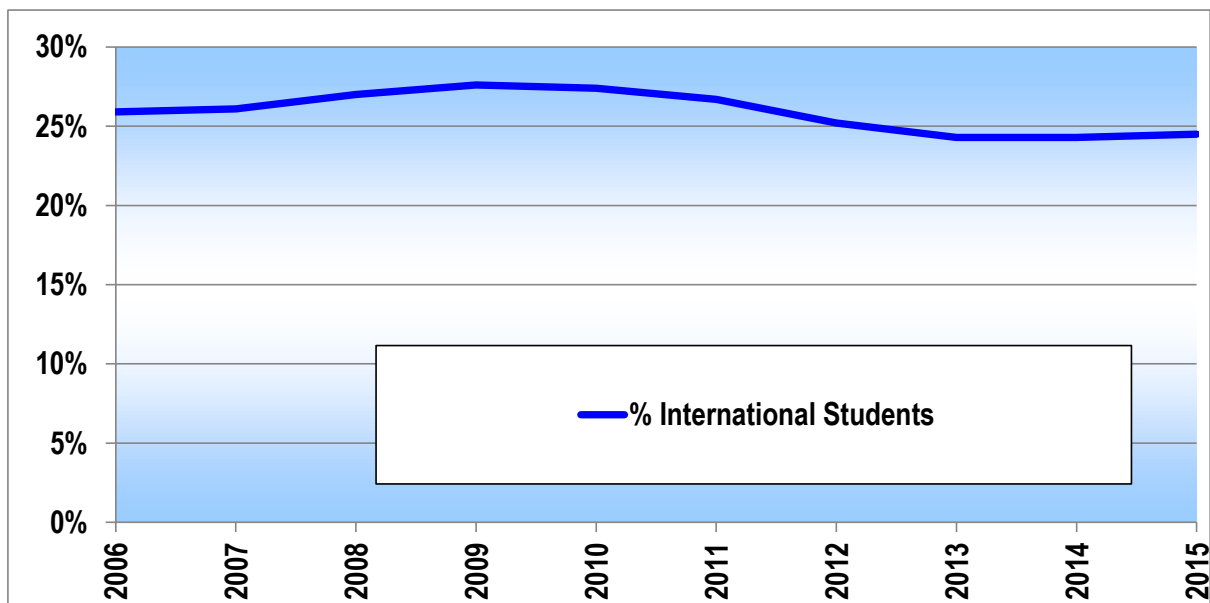
The Australian government in 2016 released data on international student numbers in Australian higher education providers in 2015. This analysis edits that data to include only the 41 Australian universities, including University of Divinity, Bond University, The University of Notre Dame Australia and Torrens University Australia Limited.

### Onshore and Offshore

In the 41 Australian universities, there were 321,109 international students, onshore and offshore, in 2015. These 321,109 international students made up 24.5% of the 1,309,927 students in Australian universities in 2015. Across the 41 universities, the proportion ranged from 2.1% to 47.5%, with the median figure 22.3%.

For ten years, 25% of students in Australian universities have been international students.

**Chart 1**  
**Proportions of International Students in Australian Universities: Onshore and Offshore**

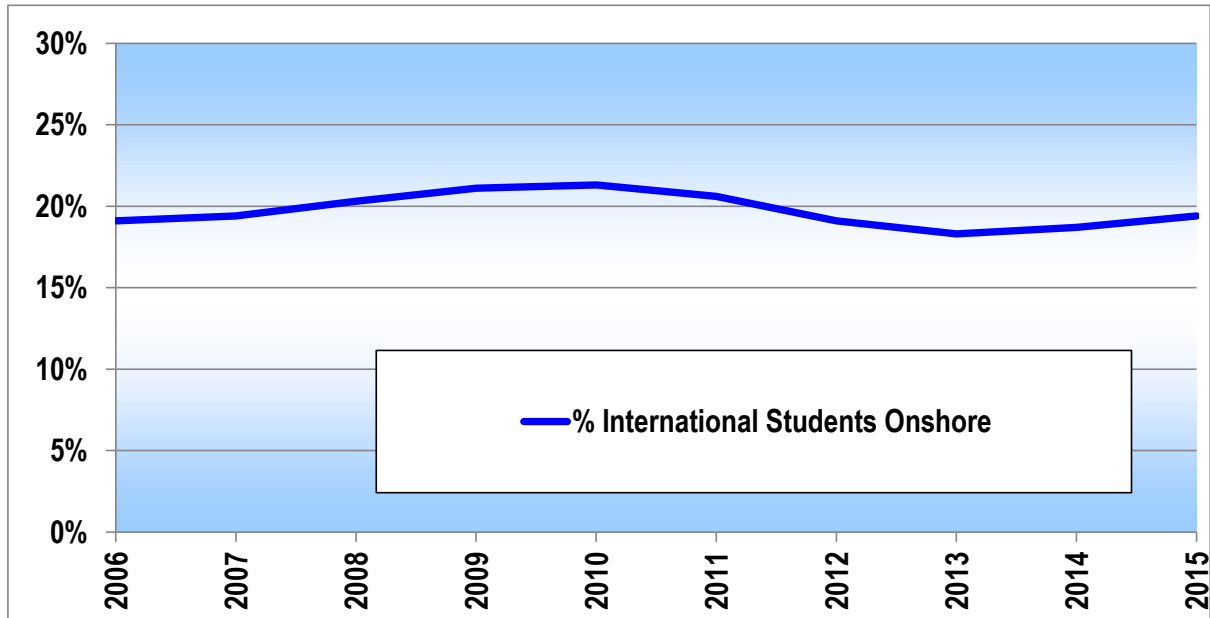


### Onshore

In the 41 Australian universities, there were 237,674 international students, onshore in Australia, in 2015. These 237,674 international students made up 19.4% of the 1,226,492 students onshore in Australia in Australian universities in 2015. Across the 41 universities, the proportion onshore ranged from 2.1% to 42.4%, with the median figure 18.4%.

For ten years, 20% of students onshore in Australia in Australian universities have been international students.

**Chart 2**  
**Proportions of International Students in Australian Universities: Onshore**



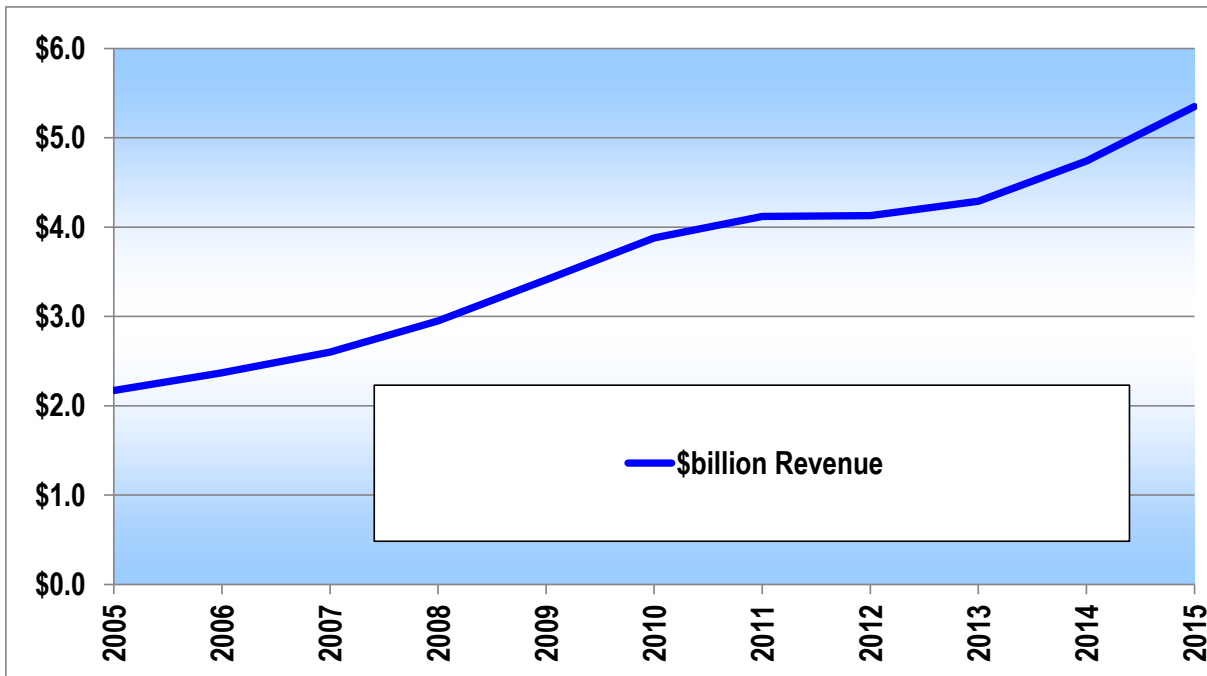
# International Students in Australian Universities 2015

## Finance 2015

The Australian Department of Education and Training in November 2016 released data from the 2015 financial statements for higher education institutions, covering 38 Australian universities, with The University of Notre Dame Australia included, but University of Divinity, Bond University and Torrens University Australia Limited excluded.

The 38 universities in 2015 earned \$5.35 billion from international student fees. From 2005 to 2015, revenue from international student fees grew from \$2.17 billion in 2005 to \$5.35 billion in 2015.

**Chart 3**  
**Revenue from International Students \$ billions**

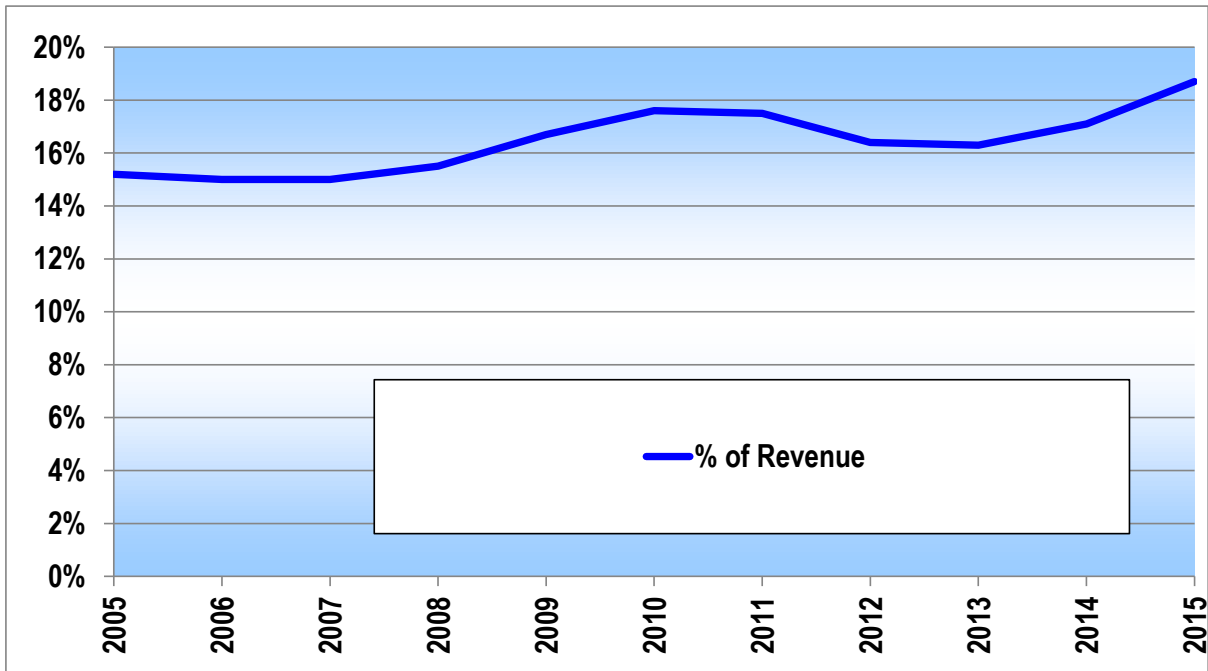


In 2015, the range among the 38 universities was from \$3.11 million to \$526.90 million. The median across the 38 universities in 2015 was \$86.98 million.

### Proportion of Revenue from International Students

In the 38 universities, revenue from international student fees in 2015 made up 18.7% of all revenue. From 2005 to 2015, the proportion of revenue from international student fees grew from 15.2% in 2005 to 18.7% in 2015.

**Chart 4**  
**Proportion of Revenue from International Students**



The range among the 38 universities in 2015 was from 1.8% to 29.6%. The median across the 38 universities in 2015 was 17.3%.

# International Students in Australian Universities 2015

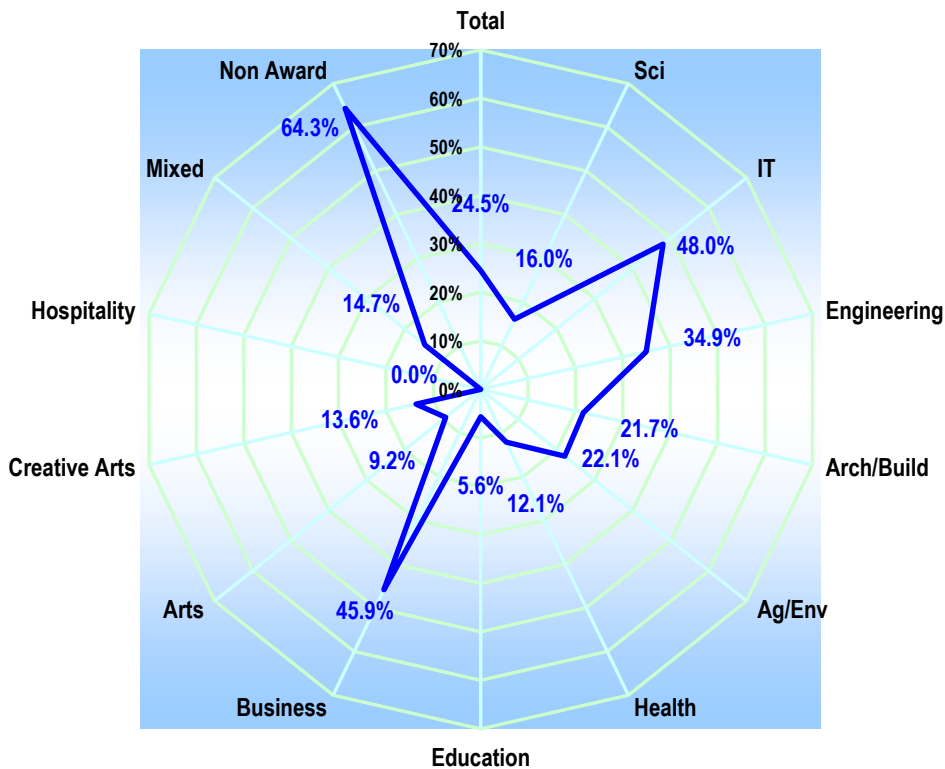
## International Students: Fields and Levels of Study 2015

The data for 2015 released in 2016 enabled analysis of fields of education and levels of education of international students in the 41 Australian universities, including University of Divinity, Bond University, The University of Notre Dame Australia and Torrens University Australia Limited. The data by field and level of education included all students, onshore and offshore.

### Fields of Education

In total, 24.5% of students in all fields of education in 2015 were international. 45.9% of students in Business in 2015 were international, 48.0% of students in IT in 2015 were international.

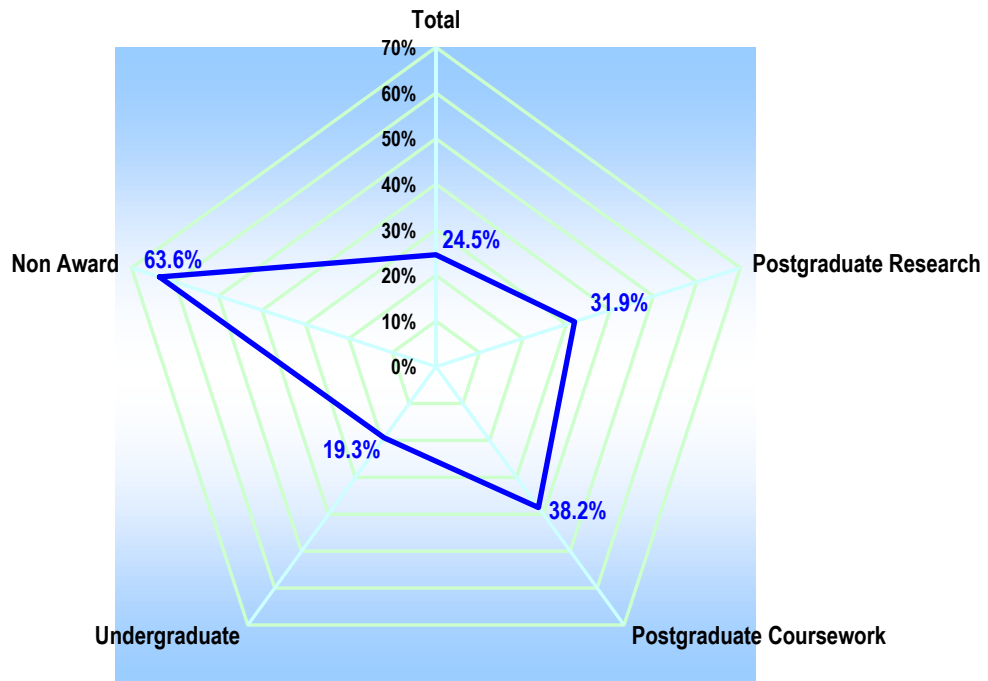
**Chart 5**  
**Fields of Education: Proportion of International Students**



## Levels of Education

In total, 24.5% of students at all levels of education in 2015 were international. 31.9% of postgraduate research students in 2015 were international, 38.2% of postgraduate coursework students in 2015 were international and 19.3% of undergraduate students in 2015 were international.

**Chart 6**  
**Levels of Education: Proportion of International Students**





# International Students in Australian Universities 2015

## International Students: Progress

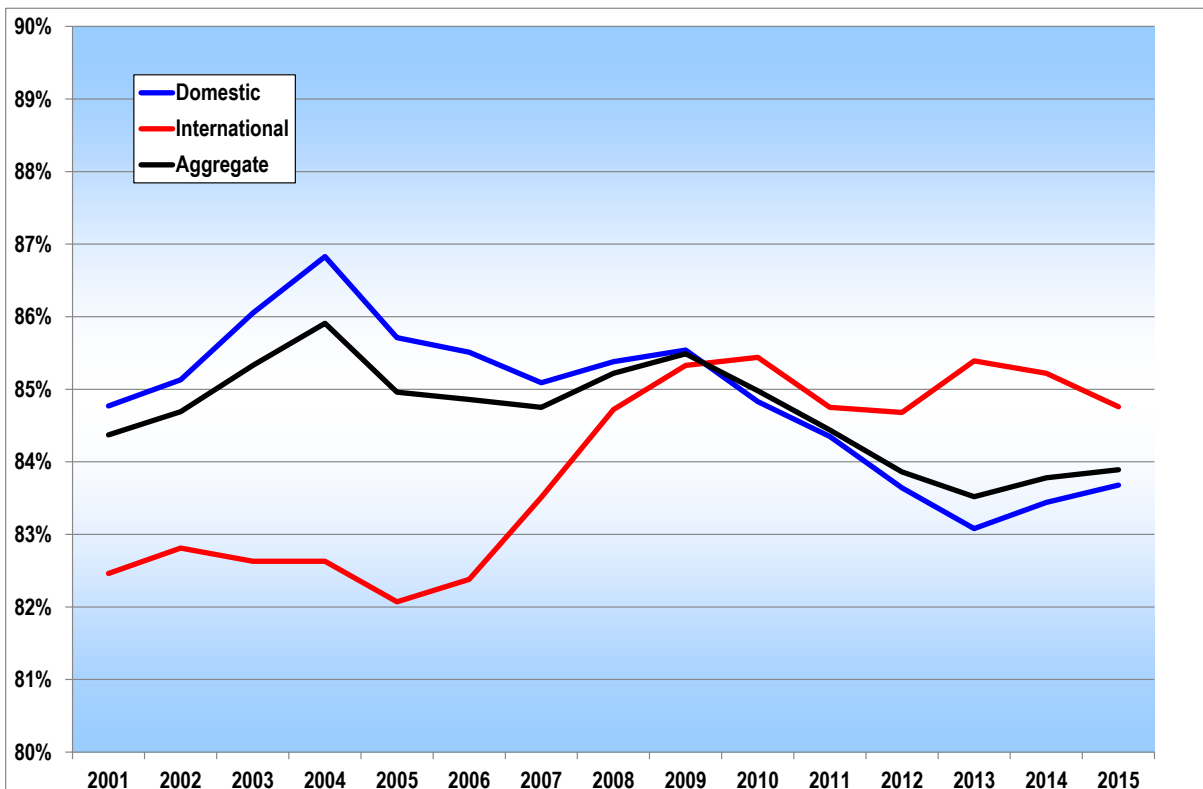
The Australian government publishes annually data on progress rates for commencing bachelor degree students for the 41 universities, including University of Divinity, Bond University, The University of Notre Dame Australia and Torrens University Australia Limited.

### Student Progress Rates

The standard for measuring academic performance in Australia is the student progress rate: how much of what I attempted did I pass?

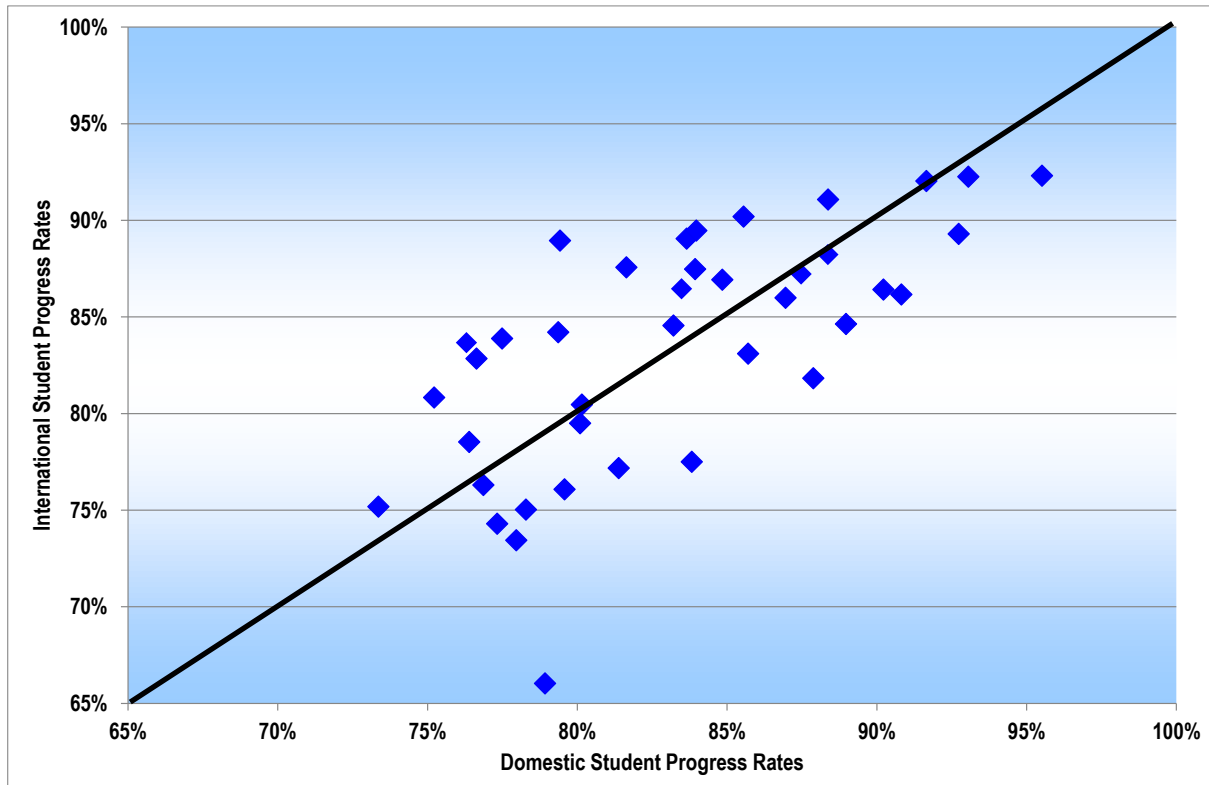
Commencing international bachelor students passed 84.76% of what they attempted in 2015, and did better than commencing domestic bachelor students, who passed 83.68%. In 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 there was no difference (less than one percentage point) between the progress rates for commencing international bachelor students and commencing domestic bachelor students. But in 2012, the international cohort did better, by a percentage point, and in 2013, 2014 and 2015 international students have continued to do better, as in Chart 7 **Student Progress Rates: Time Series**.

Chart 7  
Student Progress Rates: Time Series



In 17 universities in 2015, commencing international undergraduates did better than domestic students. In 15 universities in 2015, domestic students did better. In 9 universities in 2015, there was no difference (less than one percentage point).

**Chart 8**  
**Student Progress Rates 2015**



We should interpret these results as showing that increasing numbers of Australian universities are setting entry standards, including English language entry standards, for international undergraduates that lead to successful outcomes, are preparing international students better in English language proficiency, are monitoring academic performance and are providing English language and study skills support.