

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0426_12

Senator Mason asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 67.

Question

Data Available On For Postgraduate Students

Senator MASON: All right. Can I also ask, Ms Paul, what data is available on completion rates for postgraduate students and also trends over time, if that is all right.

Ms Paul: Sure.

Senator MASON: And also student-staff ratios, and you will understand why I am asking this.

Ms Paul: Yes.

Senator MASON: Quality issues are clearly a big thing facing the university sector at the moment.

Ms Paul: Yes.

Senator MASON: What is the latest data available on student-staff ratios for undergraduates at Australian universities, both overall and at each institution? Now, it is a difficult question because you have to break it down by what faculty and then by department, I suppose.

Ms Paul: Yes.

Senator MASON: But that would probably take you forever.

Ms Paul: That might. We will do our best.

Answer

The Department collects data on a range of characteristics of students enrolled in higher education in Australia, including award course completion numbers. This information is publicly available

at:<http://www.deewr.gov.au/HigherEducation/Publications/HEStatistics/Publications/Pages/Home.aspx>

The Department has conducted a cohort analysis of completion rates for domestic postgraduate students by tracking all domestic Table A postgraduate students (full-time and part-time) from commencement in 2001 to completion (by 2009) for students who commenced in 2001 and in subsequent years to provide an overview of the outcomes at the end of 2009. The completion rates for domestic postgraduate students and the trend over time is at Attachment A, Table 1.

The latest data available on student-staff ratios is 2009. The Department collects data on student-staff ratios for all students at Australian Universities. The information on staff is not disaggregated by those who teach undergraduate and those who teach postgraduate or other courses. The overall student-staff ratio and that for each institution are at Attachment A, Table 2.

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Attachment A

Table 1 Cohort Analysis for Domestic Students - tracking students from commencement to completion (based on Student ID) (calculated to 2009)

		<u>Doctorate by Research</u>					
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Number of Students		5,707	6,159	6,484	6,560	6,300	6,389
Completed by 2009	%	51.2	56.2	52.3	46.2	33.8	18.5
Still Enrolled in 2009	%	6.1	11.2	16	24.3	42.4	62.8
Re-enrolled, but dropped out before 2009	%	22.7	26.1	23.7	20.3	17.1	12.6
Never came back after first year	%	20	6.5	8	9.2	6.7	6.2
Total	%	100	100	100	100	100	100
		<u>Masters by Research</u>					
Number of Students		2,827	2,762	2,610	2,631	2,316	2,306
Completed by 2009	%	48.7	52.4	49.7	45.2	38.3	25.5
Still Enrolled in 2009	%	3.7	6	9.1	14.9	26.8	42.6
Re-enrolled, but dropped out before 2009	%	28.4	31.4	29.5	24.8	23.8	19.7
Never came back after first year	%	19.2	10.2	11.8	15.2	11.1	12.1
Total	%	100	100	100	100	100	100
		<u>Doctorate by Coursework</u>					
Number of Students		204	249	303	301	265	233
Completed by 2009	%	40.2	49	46.9	49.2	45.7	28.8
Still Enrolled in 2009	%	7.4	8.8	7.3	17.6	20.8	45.9
Re-enrolled, but dropped out before 2009	%	27.5	25.7	25.4	23.9	21.1	15.0
Never came back after first year	%	25	16.5	20.5	9.3	12.5	10.3
Total	%	100	100	100	100	100	100
		<u>Masters by Coursework</u>					
Number of Students		23,304	28,320	30,810	29,480	27,918	28,252
Completed by 2009	%	60.5	64	62.8	65.2	64.1	59.7
Still Enrolled in 2009	%	0.7	1.1	1.6	3.3	6.2	11.9
Re-enrolled, but dropped out before 2009	%	12.5	16.3	14	12.5	13.1	11.5
Never came back after first year	%	26.3	18.6	21.7	19	16.7	16.9
Total	%	100	100	100	100	100	100
		<u>Postgraduate Coursework, excl. Doctorate and Masters</u>					
Number of Students		32,940	36,008	36,203	34,347	34,029	35,715
Completed by 2009	%	61	66.2	64.4	66.7	66.3	66.1
Still Enrolled in 2009	%	0.4	0.7	1	1.4	2.6	4.6
Re-enrolled, but dropped out before 2009	%	9.4	12.5	11.1	9.2	9.9	8.8
Never came back after first year	%	29.2	20.5	23.6	22.6	21.2	20.5
Total	%	100	100	100	100	100	100
		<u>Total</u>					
Number of Students		64,982	73,498	76,410	73,319	70,828	72,895
Completed by 2009	%	59.4	64	62.1	63.4	61.6	58.1
Still Enrolled in 2009	%	1.2	2	2.8	4.8	8.4	13.9
Re-enrolled, but dropped out before 2009	%	12.6	15.9	14	12.2	12.3	10.6
Never came back after first year	%	26.9	18.2	21.1	19.7	17.7	17.5
Total	%	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Selected Higher Education Student Statistics, DEEWR

NOTES

- (1) For each cohort, postgraduate students were tracked from commencement to completion (using student ID at that institution) to provide an overview of the outcomes at the end of 2009. For example, postgraduate students who commenced in 2001 were tracked to see how many of these students had completed their studies by 2009, how many were still studying in 2009 and how many of them were not studying in 2009 and had not completed the studies which they had enrolled in and had left the institution.
- (2) Postgraduate coursework includes Postgraduate Qualifying or Preliminary (for Master's, Doctorate or Higher Doctorate), Graduate Diploma/ Postgraduate Diploma in new areas or extended existing areas.
- (3) It is not possible to track postgraduate students who moved to another institution without the CHESSN.
- (4) Data includes Domestic commencing postgraduate students in Table A universities only.

Table 2: Student/ Staff Ratios, 2009

State and Institution		Student Staff Ratio
		2009
TOTAL		20.05
New South Wales	Charles Sturt University	24.36
	Macquarie University	27.14
	Southern Cross University	22.87
	The University of New England	21.82
	The University of New South Wales	16.01
	The University of Newcastle	21.02
	The University of Sydney	17.52
	University of Technology, Sydney	21.86
	University of Western Sydney	27.95
University of Wollongong	18.57	
Victoria	Deakin University	23.36
	La Trobe University	20.84
	Melbourne College of Divinity	8.51
	Monash University	17.2
	RMIT University	16.65
	Swinburne University of Technology	19.37
	The University of Melbourne	17.65
	University of Ballarat	28.81
Victoria University	22.71	
Queensland	Bond University	16.89
	Central Queensland University	44.57
	Griffith University	21.58
	James Cook University	21.52
	Queensland University of Technology	22.25
	The University of Queensland	17.88
	University of Southern Queensland	23.89
University of the Sunshine Coast	22.02	
Western Australia	Curtin University of Technology	20.22
	Edith Cowan University	24.87
	Murdoch University	19.51
	The University of Notre Dame Australia	20.63
	The University of Western Australia	17.77
South Australia	The Flinders University of South Australia	17.55
	The University of Adelaide	17.93
	University of South Australia	20.07
Tasmania	University of Tasmania	15.9
Northern Territory	Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	n/a
	Charles Darwin University	20.61
Australian Capital Territory	The Australian National University	17.38
	University of Canberra	22.96
Multi-State	Australian Catholic University	19.41
TOTAL		20.05

Source: Selected Higher Education Student and Staff Statistics, 2009

NOTES

(a) Student figures include only onshore student load (excluding work experience)

(b) Total FTE Staff includes FTE of staff in an Academic Organisational Unit with a teaching or teaching & research function.