

Student Equity Data Guide

Higher Education Institutions in Australia

How many higher education institutions are there in Australia?

Australia is home to a total of 44 higher education institutions, which are divided into 39 Table A institutions, 4 Table B institutions, and 1 Table C institution. The *Higher Education Support Act 2003* (HESA)¹ provides a list of higher education institutions and their classifications. This classification reflects differing levels of eligibility for funding and support from Commonwealth programs among these institutional types. For instance, only Table A institutions are eligible for Indigenous, Regional and Low SES Attainment Fund (IRLSAF) grants, while HECS-HELP is available for all award courses at Table A institutions but only for 'national priority areas' courses at Table B and Table C institutions². There are also 155 non-university higher education institutes (NUHEPs)³.

This guide focuses on Table A, B, and C higher education institutions, most of which are universities. Therefore, we will use 'university' within this guide for brevity.

This guide is part of the **Student Equity Data Guide Series** produced by the **Australian Centre for Student Equity and Success (ACSES)**. This series aims to describe key data areas for student equity in higher education.

Student Equity Data Guides are available on the [ACSES website - aces.edu.au/data](https://aces.edu.au/data).

Please contact aces@curtin.edu.au with any feedback or queries.

How many students are enrolled at university in Australia?

In 2024, 746,369 domestic undergraduate students attended university in Australia, marking a 0.8% increase from 2023 (enrolment of 739,903)⁴. Approximately 98% of these students were enrolled at Table A universities and 2% at Table B universities. No domestic undergraduates were enrolled at the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (Table A) or at Carnegie Mellon University Australia (Table C). In 2024, about 53% of all domestic undergraduate students studied on campus, 19% studied externally, and the remaining 28% studied via a mixed mode.

What are the institutional groupings in Australia?

In Australia, institutional groupings are collaborations among Table A universities that share similar backgrounds, missions, and interests. These groupings promote common goals, resource sharing, and collaborative research and educational initiatives. The five institutional groupings are: Group of Eight (Go8), Australian Technology Network (ATN), Innovative Research Universities (IRU), and Regional Universities Network (RUN). Institutions not part of any grouping may be referred to as 'non-aligned'.

1 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/C2004A01234/latest/downloads>

2 https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/rp/rp2021/GovernmentFundingHigherEducation

3 https://polis.cass.anu.edu.au/files/docs/2025/6/Mapping_Australian_higher_education_2023_005.pdf

4 <https://www.education.gov.au/higher-education-statistics/resources/perturbed-student-enrolments-pivot-table-2024>

'Home' Grouping	New South Wales	Victoria	Queensland	Western Australia	South Australia	Tasmania	Northern Territory	Australian Capital Territory	Multi-state
Group of Eight (n=8)	The University of Sydney, University of New South Wales	The University of Melbourne, Monash University	The University of Queensland	The University of Western Australia	The University of Adelaide^	-	-	The Australian National University	-
Australian Technology Network (n=6)	University of Technology Sydney, The University of Newcastle	RMIT University, Deakin University		Curtin University	University of South Australia^	-	-	-	-
Innovative Research Universities (n=7)	Western Sydney University	La Trobe University	Griffith University, James Cook University	Murdoch University	Flinders University	-	-	University of Canberra	-
Regional Universities Network (n=7)	University of New England, Southern Cross University, Charles Sturt University	Federation University	University of the Sunshine Coast, CQ University, University of Southern Queensland	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-aligned (n=11)	Macquarie University, University of Wollongong	Swinburne University of Technology, Victoria University	Queensland University of Technology	Edith Cowan University, The University of Notre Dame	-	University of Tasmania	Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education	-	Australian Catholic University
Total Table A (n=39)	10	8	7	5	3	1	2	2	1
Table B Providers	Avondale University College	University of Divinity	Bond University	-	Torrens University Australia	-	-	-	-
Table C Providers	-	-	-	-	Carnegie Mellon University Australia*	-	-	-	

This table shows all Table A, B, and C higher education institutions in Australia, along with their 'home' state or territory (columns) and their institutional grouping (rows). In Departmental reporting, as of 2024, all institutions are assigned to one 'home' state or territory based on the location of their main campus, even if they have campuses located in other states or territories. The exception to this is the Australian Catholic University which is considered 'multi-state' due to its main campuses being in several states and territories.

*Carnegie Mellon University Australia is no longer enrolling new students as of 2024.

^Merging to become Adelaide University, operational from January 2026.