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## Student visa activity

- In line with the Government's commitment to clearing visa backlogs, as at 22 December 2022, the Department has now reduced on-hand temporary and migration visa applications to pre-COVID-19 levels.
  - Onhand applications are now almost 40 per cent lower than the nearly 1 million onhand in June 2022.
- The Department has now finalised over 370,000 student visas (from 1 June to 22 December 2022) including students both on and offshore.
- The Department has granted a record 187,385 *offshore* student visas between 1 June 2022 and 22 December.
  - Of those cases remaining onhand on 9 December, over 68 per cent have been onhand for less than a month.
- As at 16 December 2022, there were:
  - Over 452,200 student visa holders in Australia; and
  - Over 156,600 student visa holders offshore who can travel to Australia.

## Lodge now for Semester One – 2023

Students intending to commence studies in Semester One 2023 should submit complete applications **at least six weeks ahead of course commencement**, and only book flights after a visa has been granted.

Fast processing times and high grant rates are dependent on the quality of the visa application that the Department receives. Providers are encouraged to direct students to the Department's "**Check twice, submit once**" page that provides tips for applicants on how to receive faster visa processing.

Important advice:

- Use the '**My Health Declaration**' capability which allows people to complete their health examinations upfront before lodging a visa application.
  - We strongly encourage use of this service where medicals are required as this will expedite processing.

- Follow the guidelines for the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement. GTE statements are to be of no more than **300 words** (the system has a 2000 character limit) and supported by evidence (attached).
- Provide **all required information** and documents as indicated by ImmiAccount. Incomplete applications may be refused.
- Allow plenty of time to collect necessary documents and organise translations. Translated documents should have the details and qualifications of the translator.
- Submit a current Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE):
  - Applicants in Australia can apply for a Student visa with a Letter of Offer, but should upload a current CoE as soon as possible. A visa decision can be made at any time.
- Keep up to date with the application process:
  - Regularly check ImmiAccount and for emails from the Department and respond to requests for further information promptly.
  - Update contact details in ImmiAccount if they change.
  - Access their own visa application in ImmiAccount to follow its progress, or ask their agents to 'share' their application.
- **Double check** the application is complete, correct and truthful before submitting.

Measures implemented to reduce visa backlogs have reduced processing times. [The Global Visa Processing Times](#) are published on the Home Affairs website and is updated as new data is available.

## Residential address required at time of application

The Department continues to receive student visa applications where the applicant has provided incomplete details or only a town name as their residential address. In particular we note some issues in Africa at present. The *Migration Regulations 1994* specify at [regulation 2.07\(4\)](#) that a “residential address” must be provided. This is a specific location where an applicant usually resides (e.g. not a PO box). An application will be invalid if a residential address is not provided when the application is lodged, in a format that is appropriate to the country in which the person is residing.

If an appropriate residential address is not provided on lodgement of the application, the Department is not required to seek further details of an applicant’s address before invalidating an application, thus requiring the applicant to make a new application resulting in an overall delay for their visa.

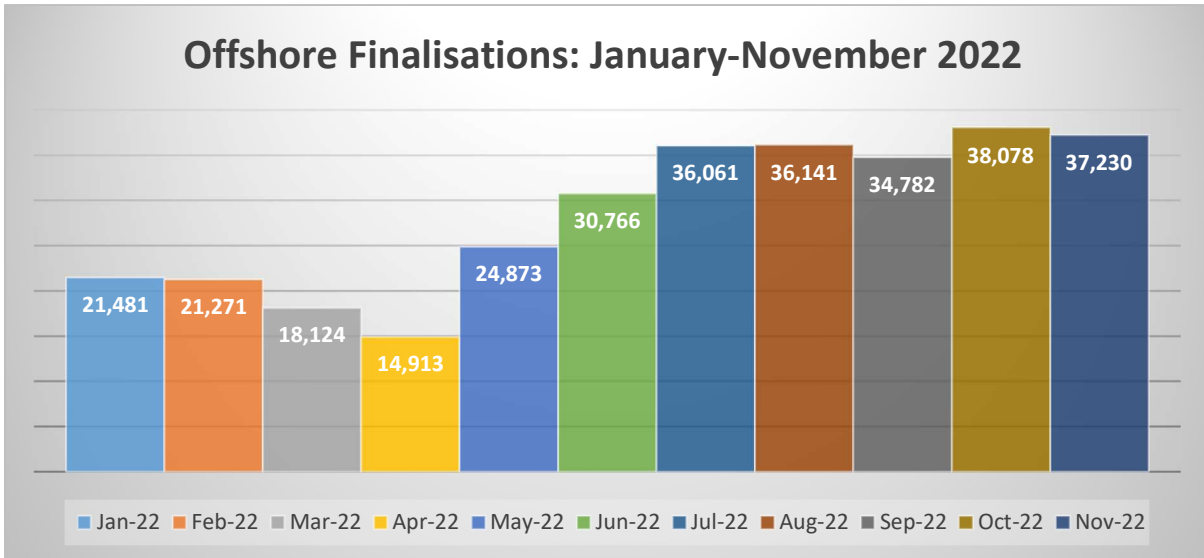
## Student visa finalisations

The Department is finalising more student visa applications than are being lodged, and are processing applications faster. Offshore student visa finalisations and grants are both at record levels.

The Department finalised over 204,000 offshore student visa applications in 1 July-16 December 2022. In comparison, the Department finalised 115,072 offshore student applications in 1 July-16 December 2019 (pre-COVID), representing a 78 per cent increase on 2019-20 finalisations as we managed increases in lodgements from offshore and also worked through the backlog of visas onhand after the COVID-19 impacts on the caseload.

The top five nationalities for offshore student visa grants this program year to date are China, India, Colombia, Nepal and the Philippines.

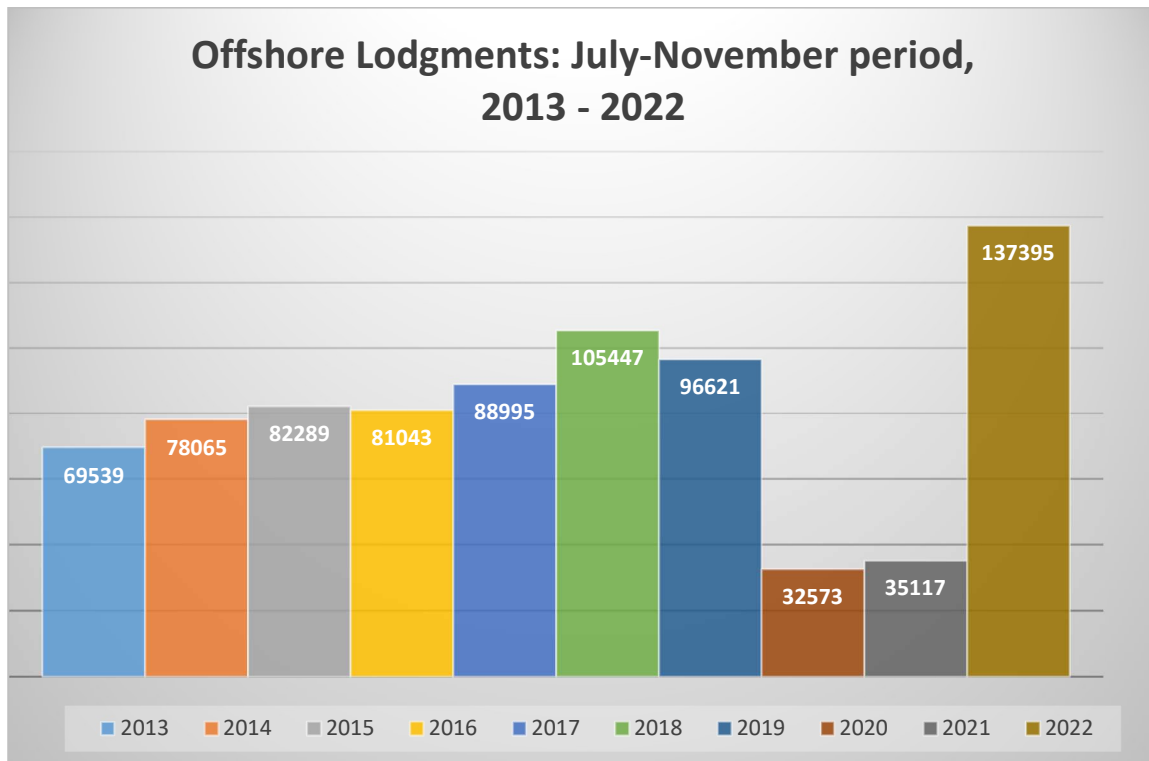
## Offshore Finalisations: January-November 2022



## Offshore Student visa lodgements

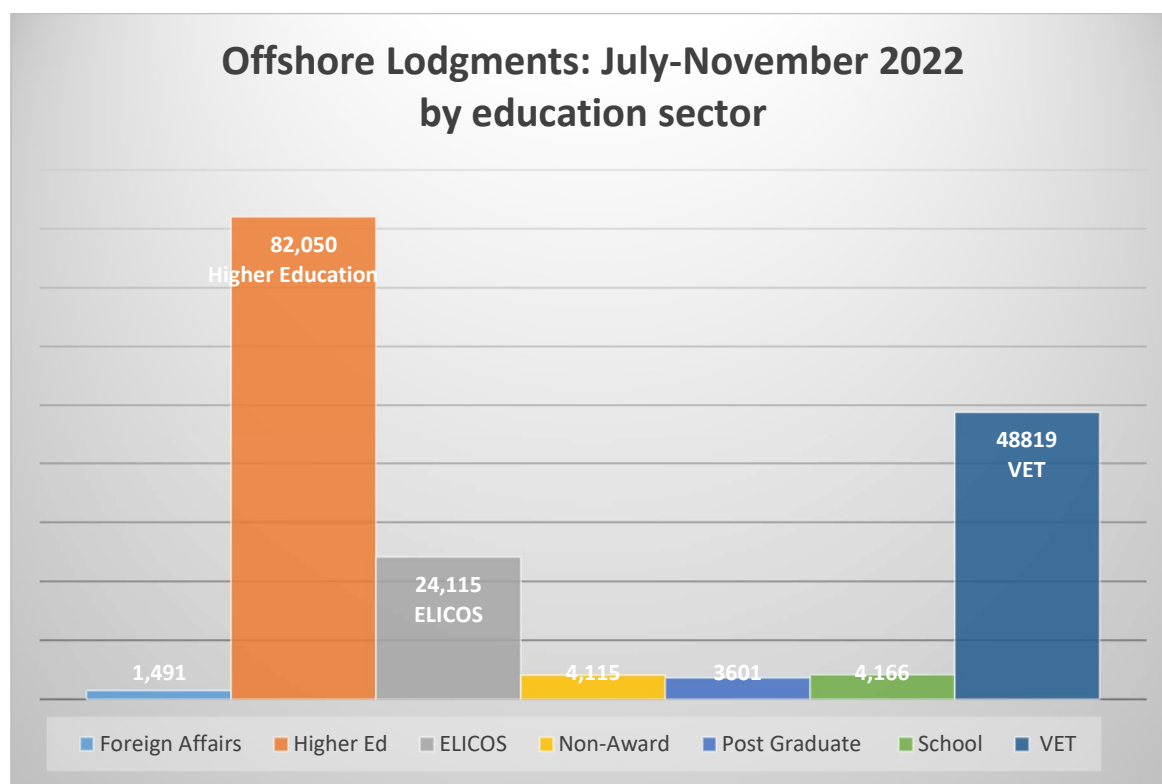
In July–November 2022 the Department saw a record number of offshore applications received compared to any of these previous months in the history of the student visa program.

## Offshore Lodgments: July-November period, 2013 - 2022



# Global Student visa lodgements by education sector

For the months of July-November 2022, the Department received significant lodgements in the Higher Education, VET and ELICOS sectors.



## Relevant links

- “Check twice, submit once – get it right the first time for a faster visa process”:  
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/check-twice-submit-once>
- Information on the My Health Declarations:  
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/health/when-to-have-health-examinations>
- Global visa processing times:  
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-processing-times/global-visa-processing-times>
- Ministerial Direction Number 69 – Assessing the Genuine Temporary Entrant Criterion for Student Visa and Student Guardian Applications:  
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/Visa-subsite/files/direction-no-69.pdf>
- Evidence Level Framework Methodology:  
<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/what-we-do/education-program/what-we-do/evidence-levels>
- *Migration Regulations 1994* – Regulation 2.07(4):  
[http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol\\_reg/mr1994227/s2.07.html](http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/cth/consol_reg/mr1994227/s2.07.html)