

2021 KEY FINDINGS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXPERIENCE SURVEY

A study of current higher education international students enrolled at Australian higher education institutions, focusing on aspects of the student experience that are measurable and linked with learning and development outcomes, as well as life in Australia

125 participating higher education institutions, including 42 universities



60,998 valid online survey responses (student level)

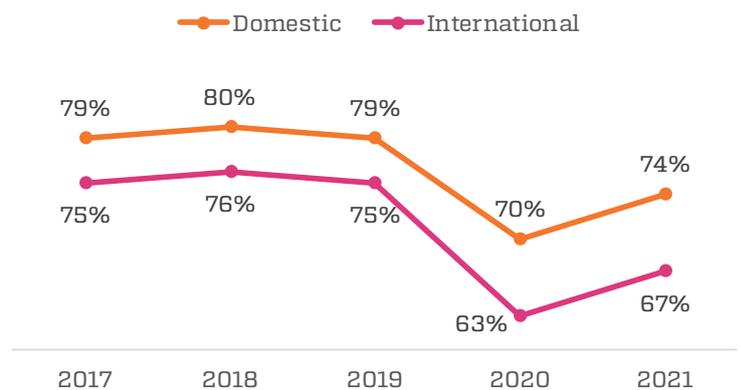
36.0% overall response rate achieved

UNDERGRADUATE RESULTS

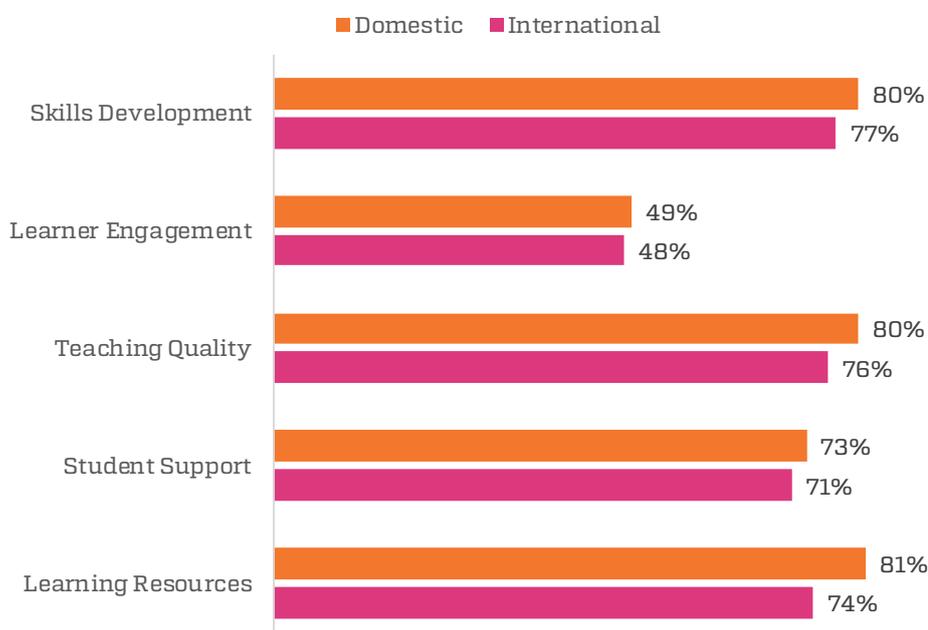
The international student experience

Positive ratings of the Quality of entire educational experience declined substantially for both domestic and international students in 2020, and while both have seen the same partial recovery of ratings in 2021, the gap between domestic and international student ratings is now wider than prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quality of entire educational experience (2017 - 2021)



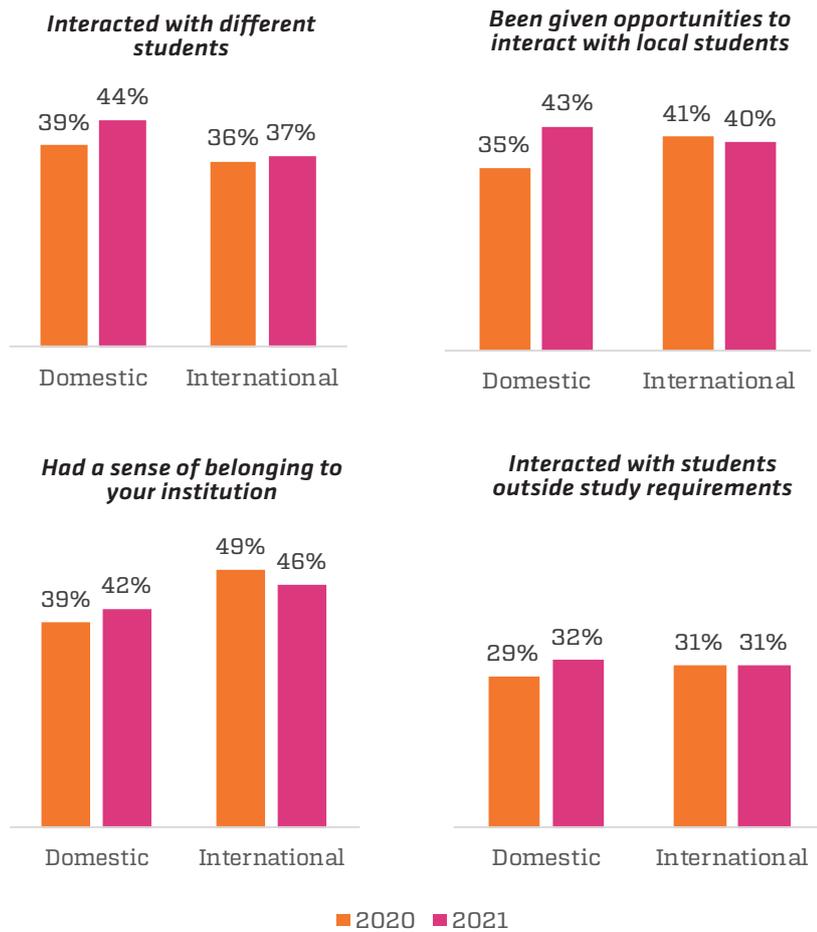
Undergraduate student education experience by citizenship status, 2021 (% positive rating)



International students have typically rated aspects of their educational experience lower than domestic students in the past and this continued in 2021. The largest gap in ratings between domestic and international students was in the area of Learning Resources, which has widened substantially since 2019. Learner Engagement was rated lowest by both cohorts. It did increase for domestic students in 2021 but continued to decline for international students.

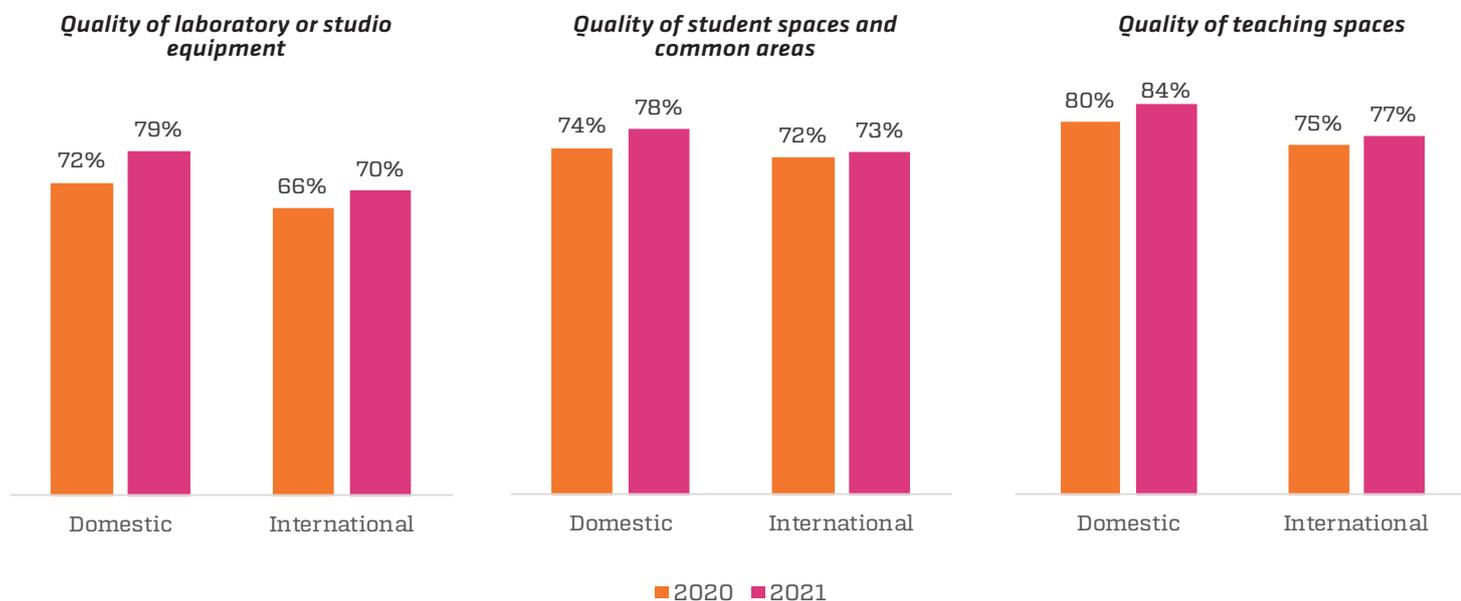
Learner Engagement

Positive ratings of Learner Engagement increased by 5 percentage points (pp) for domestic students in 2021 but declined by a further 1 pp for international students. There are a number of aspects of Learner Engagement that improved for domestic students in 2021 but declined or remained unchanged for international students, including having the opportunity to interact with local students and their sense of belonging to the institution. Other aspects such as 'Interacted with students who are very different from you' only increased by 1pp for international students but increased 4pp for domestic students. These differences are likely due to the large number of international students offshore in 2021.



Learning Resources

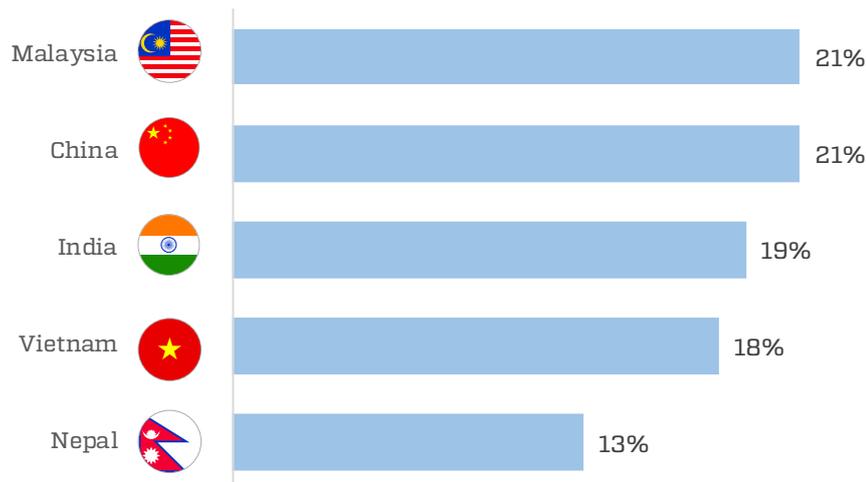
International students' rating of Learning Resources increased in 2021 but not to the extent that it did for domestic students. At the item level, the greatest shifts in ratings between the two cohorts were for resources that would typically be accessed in person. It is likely that students rated the various resources based on accessibility as opposed to the quality and given that a large number of international students were offshore in 2021, it could be expected that ratings would not have improved at the same rate as domestic students.



* Please note these are only selected items - please refer to Appendix 6 in the 2021 SES National Report for full details

Considered leaving

International undergraduate students who considered an early departure from their institution, by source country, 2021 (% positive rating)



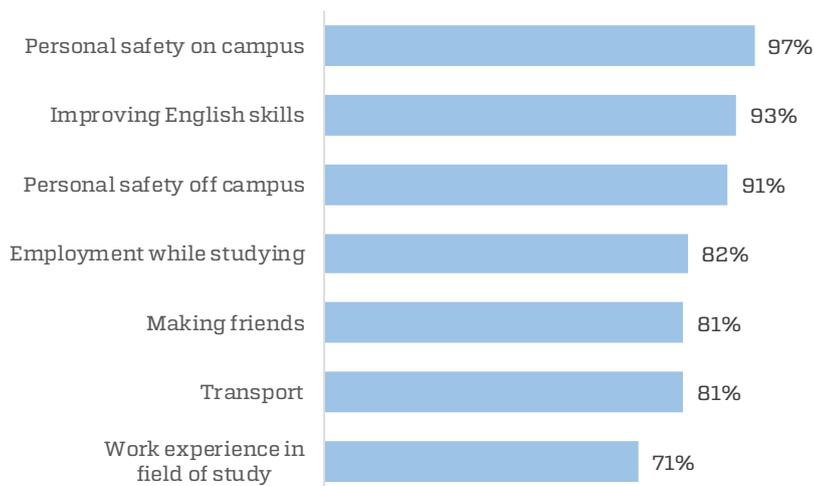
Overall, 19 per cent of international undergraduate students indicated that they had considered leaving their institution in 2021. This rate is comparable with the previous two years.

Of the top five source countries, there was a sizable gap in the proportion of Malaysian and Chinese students who had considered early departure from their institution compared to Nepalese students.

The international student living experience

International students continued to rate their living experience in Australia high in 2021. Aspects rated positively by more than 90 per cent of international students included 'Personal safety on campus', 'Improving English skills' and 'Personal safety off campus'.

International undergraduate student living experience, 2021 (% positive rating)



International undergraduate student ratings (% positive)

93%

Overall living experience, 2021



93%

Accommodation experience, 2021



Factors in deciding where to study

Top reasons for choosing to study in Australia, 2021

Personal safety and security
96%



Reputation of Australia's education system
93%



Cost of living
92%



Chance to experience a new culture / lifestyle
90%



Top reasons for choosing to study at current institution, 2021

Reputation of the qualification
96%



Institution offered the course I wanted to study
96%



Reputation of the education provider
95%



Employment opportunities after completing course
94%

