

5. 2005 Admissions

In response to Commonwealth Government changes to Higher Education, the University implemented changes in admissions policies and re-enrolment practices to manage its student load profile. Due to penalties for over-enrolment and in order to manage the University's Commonwealth Grant Scheme (CGS) funding clusters covered in its Funding Agreement, re-enrolling students were required to re-enrol earlier than in previous years and strict penalties were imposed when students did not enrol by the due date. A Load Management Team was also established to monitor re-enrolment and to manage the VTAC selection rounds.

The University implemented a revised access and equity scheme, "Access Melbourne", and an extensive scholarship scheme in 2005. Faculties were each given an Access Melbourne target to be distributed across courses with a total University target of 1,000 students. Around 3,300 students applied for Commonwealth Support (CS) Places including students from under-represented schools, rural areas and non-English speaking backgrounds. To date approximately 1,020 students have enrolled and most Faculties have met or are close to their targets.

In previous years high achieving students have been offered scholarships and have enrolled as fee-paying students. From 2005 new students have been enrolled as CS places and re-enrolling students were invited to transfer to CS places, and about 175 re-enrolling students have taken up this option.

A range of other policies have been implemented to promote greater flexibility in the admission of students. These include the setting of a single guaranteed entry standard for each course, and allowing students to enrol as CS and fee-paying in combined degrees and to transfer from fee paying to CS places. To date approximately 120 students have enrolled in dual fee-paying places in combined degrees (including 31 who transferred from fee-paying places) and 60 have transferred to CS places under the guaranteed transfer policy.

Commonwealth Supported Places

While demand for University of Melbourne courses continues to be strong, there was a slight decrease of 3% in CSP year 12 first preferences. Monash saw a negligible increase and RMIT a 5% increase in first preferences. The slight decrease in demand may be due to clustering of courses where students only applied for one course in a cluster rather than all courses. The number of offers made to CS students was slightly higher than in 2004. Demand for places in courses in Shepparton in Education and Nursing has declined and some places in Nursing were transferred to Parkville courses. The Dip.Ed. program did not proceed at Shepparton

The attached table shows student load outcomes as at 28 February 2005. The undergraduate student excess may be attributed to a number of factors including higher retention due to the earlier re-enrolment period and penalties for late enrolment, and increase in CSP summer enrolments from 167 EFTSL in 2004 to 219 EFTSL in 2005; and the transfer of 175 fee-paying scholarship recipients and other domestic fee-paying students who were eligible under the guaranteed transfer scheme. Some "authorised" student load is still included at this stage of the enrolment process because of Commonwealth Government procedural changes.

Commencing undergraduate numbers are slightly higher than at this time in 2004 (5,432 EFTSL compared with 5,285 EFTSL), including some "authorised" load. One Faculty (Education) is under its Funded Load target and is likely to have difficulty in achieving target given its under-enrolment in the PG OTHD and HD coursework levels. The Acting Academic Registrar continues to work closely with the Faculty of Education on this.

Research higher degree load is on target at the moment. However, from this time in 2004 to 31 March, there was a drop of 10 EFTSL and a further decrease of 22 EFTSL by 31 August.

A table showing Performance Against Target is provided in **Appendix C.1**

Student Load by DEST Funding Clusters is provided in **Appendix C.2**

Fee Based Enrolments

As part of the annual budget process fee revenue targets have been set for the University and its Faculties each year since 1998. Ambitious targets have again been set for 2005 and a number of strategies have been implemented to achieve these targets based on a mix of increased student numbers and the pricing of courses.

The recent higher education reforms included changes to allow the limit that undergraduate fee paying students may represent of total Australian student enrolments in a course, except for initial medical degrees, to raise from 25% to 35%. The percentage of fee-paying students allowed in medical degrees is 10% of commencing students. To date 14 students (the University's quota in 2005 is 16 places) have enrolled as fee paying students in the undergraduate medical degree. Further students are expected to enrol at mid-year as part of the MBBS Later Year Program.

Other initiatives introduced in 2005 have included publication of a guaranteed entry score and the introduction fees at the subject level rather than setting a course fee. Students are able to calculate indicative course fees using information provided on the web.

Enrolment outcomes to date show that total fee paying load is about 480 EFTSL higher than at this time in 2004. Around 220 EFTSL of the growth results from changes to recording of data in Merlin such that postgraduate load for the JD in Law and for the MBS is now included as part of the 'summer school' rather than in semester 2. International load is some 430 EFTSL higher than at this time in 2004 (including an increase of 120 EFTSL in commencing load), and 1530 EFTSL short of the Council target. It is anticipated that mid-year enrolments will reduce the shortfall by 750 EFTSL. There has been growth in research higher degree load of about 20 EFTSL.

Domestic fee-paying undergraduate numbers have been adjusted for the transfer of national scholars and other domestic fee-paying students to CS places. Figures indicate that there has been growth in demand for undergraduate fee-paying courses, including dual fee-paying combined degrees. On a year-to-date basis, the number of domestic undergraduate fee paying students is estimated to have increased by around 100 EFTSL, i.e. from or around 260 to 360 EFTSL.

The University of Melbourne
 Student Load Performance against Targets
 Commonwealth Grant Scheme Student Load

	Student Load (EFTSL)			Variance Actual - Target
	Outcome @31.03.04	2005 Teaching Load Targets	Actual to Date @28.02.05	
Undergraduate	17497	17541	18350	809
Postgraduate Coursework	1341	1310	1183	-127
Sub-Total	18838	18851	19533	682
Higher Degree Research	2646	2660	2661	1
Total	21484	21511	22194	683

Fee-Based Student Load

	Student Load (EFTSL)					Variance 28 Feb 2005 - 1 March 2004
	Outcome @31.03.04	Outcome @31.08.04	2005 Council Targets	Actual to Date @28.02.05	Actual @01.03.04	
International UG	5777	6110	6233	5965	5692	272
International PG			2915	1645	1491	154
Total International	7335	8021	9148	7610	7183	427
International (Excluding VCA & MBS)	7180	7788	8874	7465	7027	437
Domestic PG	2222	2635	2819	2444	2207	237
Domestic UG	1486	1505	1613	1303	1486	-182
Total Domestic Fee Paying	3708	4140	4432	3747	3692	55
Domestic (Excluding VCA & MBS)	3451	3678	3947	3501	3434	67
Total all Fees Types	11043	12161	13580	11357	10876	482

DEST Funding Clusters - Actual 2004, Agreed and Projected 2005 and Current Actual 2005 (EFTSL) - CSP

DEST Funding Clusters	2004 Actual			Agreed Profile 2005 *			Teaching Load 2005 **			2005 Current Actual			Actual - Teaching Load			Actual - DEST Tgt
	UG	PG	Total	UG	PG	Total	UG	PG	Total	UG	PG	Total	UG	PG	Total	
Cluster 1 Law	772	2	774	805		805	805		805	827	0	827	22	0	22	22
Cluster 2 Acc,Adm,Eco.,Com	1975	36	2011	2038	35	2073	2038	35	2073	2313	33	2346	275	-3	273	273
Cluster 3 Humanities	1417	27	1444	1562	42	1604	1445	42	1487	1389	25	1415	-56	-17	-72	-189
Cluster 4 Maths, Stats	713	11	723	683	12	695	718	12	730	751	15	766	33	3	36	71
Cluster 5 Beh Sc, Soc Stud	2140	122	2262	1982	134	2116	2025	134	2159	2011	118	2129	-14	-16	-30	13
Cluster 6 Comp.,Bit Env.,Hlth	1733	36	1769	1745	39	1784	1749	39	1788	1736	27	1763	-13	-12	-25	-21
Cluster 7 For. Langs., VPA	2062	70	2132	2002	70	2072	2053	70	2123	2210	44	2254	157	-26	131	257
Cluster 8 Eng., Sci., Surv.	3871	5	3876	3847	5	3852	3908	5	3913	4192	14	4206	284	9	293	394
Cluster 9 Dent., Med., V Sc	977	4	981	950	3	953	963	3	966	1008	0	1008	45	-3	42	55
Cluster 10 Agric, Path	737	2	738	725		725	725		725	747	0	748	22	0	23	58
Education	1052	999	2051	1023	970	1993	1030	970	2000	1082	911	1993	52	-59	-7	0
Nursing	65		65	83		83	83		83	89		89	6		6	16
Total	17513	1313	18827	17445	1310	18755	17542	1310	18852	18355	1187	19542	910	-123	787	947

* Agreed Profile (from Funding Agreement 18,595 EFTSL) plus DEST approved transitional over-enrolment of 160 EFTSL in:

Foreign Languages - Cluster 7	75
Science - Cluster 8	40
Agriculture - Cluster 10	35
Nursing	10
Total	160

** Teaching Load 2005 includes DEST approved transitional over-enrolment and additional load to manage Cluster Profile (total over-enrolment 257 EFTSL).