

6 Students



Student statistics*

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Total students	12,156	13,754	14,572	15,813	16,934
Equivalent full-time student load	8,816	9,529.59	10,034.17	10,873.77	11,513.66

Enrolments by state

NSW	4,813	5,576	6,054	6,272	6,598
Victoria	4,033	4,380	4,545	5,152	5,508
Queensland	2,714	3,079	3,050	2,716	2,839
ACT	596	719	680	699	741
Virtual (off campus)	N/A	N/A	243	974	1,248

Enrolments by faculty

Arts and Sciences	3,798	4,479	4,295	4,409	4,716
Education	4,931	5,400	5,620	5,789	6,051
Health Sciences	2,361	2,847	3,276	4,002	5,365
Combined	702	1,028	1,026	1,275	454

Enrolments by course level

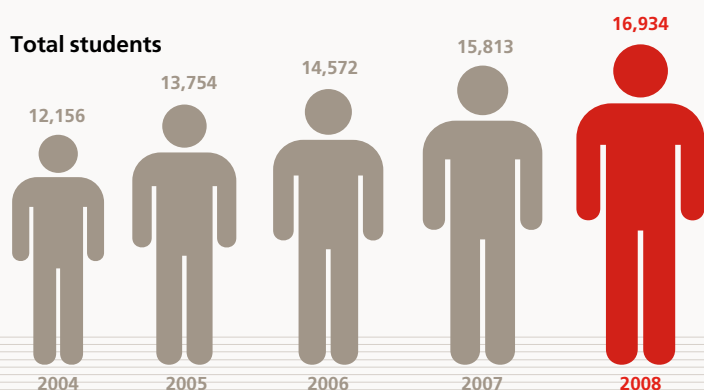
Higher degree research	364	370	355	338	348
Higher degree coursework	1,438	1,750	1,874	1,925	2,041
Other postgraduate	1,220	1,545	1,817	1,909	1,906
Bachelor	8,352	9,116	9,594	10,317	10,980
Other undergraduate	224	234	239	287	825
Non award	558	739	693	1,037	834

Students on campus

Female	8,486	9,608	10,300	11,231	12,248
Indigenous	282	278	310	349	359
Postgraduate	3,022	3,665	4,046	4,172	4,295
Full time	7,214	7,907	8,247	8,794	9,393
International	1,173	2,003	2,293	2,922	3,433

*Statistics as at 19 December 2008

Total students



The University's AFL team at the Australian Universities Games

Student achievements

Student achievements in 2008 include:

- Alison Stary, a Bachelor of Education student from the Ballarat Campus, was chosen to represent Australian Universities in Korea at the Asia-Pacific Model UN Conference
- Christine King, a PhD student in the School of Social Work at the Canberra Campus, was chosen to attend the Indigenous Issues group at the federal government's *Australia 2020* Summit in April
- four ACU National students – Coral Bentley, Carmen Marton, Bethany Walsh and Krystal Weir – represented Australia at the Olympic Games in Beijing
- Strathfield student Vanessa Forcella was selected as one of six Australian students to go to Rome with Cardinal Pell to collect from Pope Benedict XVI the Sedes Sapientiae icon for world students, commissioned by Pope John Paul II in 2000
- Vanessa was also chosen, together with Andrew Profilio, to attend the National Leadership Forum on faith and values, held at Parliament House in September

- ACU National's Student Award for Outstanding Community Engagement 2008 was won by Maria Boulatsakos, a Bachelor of Exercise Science student at the Strathfield Campus, for many involvements including entertaining children in hospital, taking part in an Edmund Rice holiday camp for disadvantaged Indigenous children and co-ordinating the Make Poverty History campaign on her campus.
- Spencer Jarrett from Strathfield presented a paper at the Anti Smoking for Youth Conference in Singapore
- Ballarat student Rebecca Huf was awarded one of the two Roy Aitken Memorial Prizes for students in Victoria who have gained reports of clinical excellence in their rural clinical placement while undertaking their Graduate Diploma in Nursing.

Scholarships won by ACU National students

In addition to the University's own scholarship awards (see page 22 for new scholarships established in 2008), ACU National students held (as at second semester 2008) 279 Commonwealth Education Costs Scholarships, 118 Commonwealth Accommodation Scholarships, one Indigenous Access Scholarship and five Institution Equity Scholarships.

Student experience

The extra-curricular life of students includes:

- student representative committees, clubs, choirs, dramatic and musical groups
- ACU National Games, which comprise a large number of sporting competitions with teams from each of the six campuses
- ACU Alive, a national showcase of students' musical and theatrical talents
- The Big Event, a national conference to workshop ways to make a difference in local, national and international communities
- strong opportunities for work experience and community service.

Intervarsity activities

As well as having a vigorous extra-curricular life on campus and with other ACU National campuses, the University encourages participation in wider activities with other Australian universities.

This year, the University entered a team of 96 students, from all six campuses, in the Australian University Games, which attracted more than 7,000 students. They entered the sections for Australian Rules Football, Touch Football, Netball, Lawn Bowls, Taekwondo, Athletics and Swimming and were pleased to win three first places, one second and six thirds.

Similarly, the choirs of some campuses took part in the 2008 Australian Intervarsity Choral Festival.

Student headcount by age

	2006	2007	2008
19 and below	3,026	3,423	4,011
20 to 24	5,332	5,687	5,913
25 to 29	1,950	2,198	2,341
30 to 39	2,093	2,203	2,288
40 to 49	1,465	1,509	1,507
50 to 59	585	660	733
60 and above	121	133	141
Grand total	14,572	15,813	16,934

Statistics as at 19 December 2008



Students in the community

The University's emphasis on community engagement meant that most students took part in such activities during 2008.

Some courses have a compulsory requirement for community involvement. These include a practice requirement in all undergraduate education courses, completion of a unit of volunteer experience in the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Visual Arts and Design, a professional experience unit in the Bachelor of Business and community placements in social work courses.

There are, in addition, numerous voluntary community opportunities for students, which included in 2008:

- education courses at the Brisbane Campus, which offered students opportunities to help with a literacy project for Sudanese refugee children and to teach in Korea during the holidays
- a second-year nursing elective working in Broken Hill with Indigenous health workers
- nursing study tours to Vanuatu, China and the Philippines
- a first-year education (Brisbane Campus) program for students to help with bush regeneration
- volunteer tutoring for homework clubs
- training soccer teams of young people who are homeless for the Homeless World Cup.

World Youth Day

This year, the University was also greatly involved with World Youth Day (WYD), with students providing financial sponsorship of pilgrims from East Timor and Papua New Guinea, volunteering to welcome, accommodate and guide visitors and to assist with young people with disabilities, as well as hosting a number of associated events, from interfaith forums and discussion groups to art shows and musical and dramatic youth festivals.

The influence of WYD on those who attended was researched during the year in the project Pilgrims' Progress 2008, by Professor Webber and Dr Father Michael Mason CSSR of the University's Quality of Life and Social Justice Flagship, with Dr Andrew Singleton of Monash University, with large-scale surveys and interviews involving up to 112,000 young people, both before and after the event.

Student support

ACU National campuses provide:

- first-year experience coordinators
- programs to improve study skills
- chaplaincy
- mission engagement
- qualified counsellors
- careers advice
- equity and disability support
- pre-enrolment courses to prepare students for tertiary study
- special support units available to Indigenous students.

Innovations in online services

ACU National established a careers service for students on each campus in 2008, and is now moving towards an online employment service.

The counselling service has developed creative, interactive online blackboard resources to help students in their academic and personal lives as well as with their future careers.

The Live Smart resources comprise three sections.

- Self Smart covers self-talk, health and happiness building.
- Talk Smart nurtures skills in listening, assertiveness, negotiation and emotional control.
- Plan Smart includes problem-solving skills such as decision making and budgeting, as well as careers advice on resumes, interviews, job searching and workplace culture.

Students Services now offers an online system 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for booking appointments with staff members. This online booking service gives students direct access to Student Services staff schedules and allows them to book their own appointments to suit their own schedules. This system protects student confidentiality better than a public sign-up sheet, and makes access more available to those studying in online units.

Student Connect continues as a useful web-based self-service facility for enrolments, fees and results.

Online learning

ACU National has been delivering courses online since 2000, the majority being postgraduate courses. Other courses generally have a web-enhanced presence on the Learning Management System (LMS) to supplement campus teaching.

Training for online teaching is available via workshops conducted by the University's Institute for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning (IATL).

There are 38 online courses available at Masters' or Doctorate level, as well as Graduate Certificates in all the major disciplines offered at the University.

Equity and diversity

Equity and diversity programs at ACU National include those for students with disabilities, the Clemente Australia program and specific provisions for Indigenous education.

Students with disabilities

There were 579 students registered with the Equity and Disability Unit's disability service, 31 per cent of whom were at the Melbourne Campus, with 23 per cent at Strathfield, 18 per cent at Brisbane, 13 per cent at Canberra, 11 per cent at North Sydney and 4 per cent at Ballarat. Of these, 218 registered for the first time in 2008.



left to right:
The Brisbane Campus choir

World Youth Day with which
the University was greatly
involved

Lizzie Robinson, Brisbane
graduate in Liberal Studies
through the Clemente
Australia program

The Equity and Disability Unit coordinates a wide range of services for students with disabilities.

A highlight in 2008 has been a major project, together with the library, to develop an in-house system to provide materials in alternative formats to students with print disabilities. Using sophisticated software bought by the library, books and other print resources are produced in the format needed, and uploaded to a student's own password-protected web page. In its first year of operation the service was provided to 25 students who reported enthusiastically on the difference it made to their studies.

Clemente Australia program

The Clemente Australia program aims to break the cycle of poverty, inequity and social injustice among disadvantaged people in Australia by offering them university-level education. The project is a partnership between ACU National, Mission Australia and the St Vincent de Paul Society. The 2008 graduations included students who had completed a Certificate of Liberal Studies through the Clemente Australia program.

Education for Indigenous students

ACU National was one of 10 universities Australia-wide that received five stars for Indigenous Participation in the 2008 report for the 2009 *Good Universities Guide*. Generous provision continues to be made for Indigenous people entering the University, as well as ongoing support for continuing Indigenous students.

There were 359 Indigenous students enrolled in 2008, a 3 per cent increase from the previous year, and 59 Indigenous students graduated during the year.

Awards and honours for Indigenous students

- There are a number of scholarships specifically for Indigenous students at ACU National, including:
 - the Nano Nagle Scholarship, which in 2008 went to Masters in Business Administration student Phillip Attell
 - the Gill Family Foundation Nursing Scholarship, awarded to Melbourne campus Bachelor of Midwifery student Bianca Lopez
 - the St Vincent's and Mercy Private Nursing Scholarship, awarded to a Bachelor of Nursing Student in Melbourne, which was won by Kylea Sinnett
 - the Wexford Bursary, open to postgraduate Indigenous ACU National students, which was awarded to Stephanie Jacobs of the Brisbane Campus.
- Auntie Delsie Lillyst won the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council's prestigious 2008 Indigenous Elder Award for lifelong contribution to Indigenous people in higher education in Australia. A Gunditjmarra woman from south-west Victoria, she works as an Indigenous Education Officer with the Catholic Education Office in Melbourne and is also a part-time student in the Bachelor of Education at our Melbourne campus.
- Auntie Joan Hendriks of the Ngugi people won the ACU National Indigenous Research Scholarship to further her research into the possibilities of dialogue on creation spirituality in the Indigenous and Christian traditions.

- Christian Thompson, one of our Indigenous research students, won a scholarship to study at Das Arts Academy in the Netherlands.
- Robyn Gaulton and Rosemary Barclay, Indigenous Education graduates from our Brisbane campus, won prestigious Queensland Government Pearl Duncan Teaching Scholarships (worth \$20,000 each).
- Indigenous students formed part of the ACU National student body attending World Youth Day and Indigenous staff and Indigenous elders associated with the University formed part of the guard of honour for the Pope on his arrival.
- An ACU National Indigenous student, Matthew Ross, was selected to captain the Australian University students Rugby League Team.

Community involvement in our Indigenous programs

An Indigenous Health Symposium was held during the year for health educators and workers, together with nursing and social work students at the Brisbane Campus. The focus of the symposium was "What universities can do to support better health outcomes for Indigenous Australians".

Guest Speaker Dr Stefan Girola presented his PhD research on Early Church Relations with Indigenous People.

Indigenous poet Lisa Belleair was the University's writer-in-residence during Indigenous Week in October. Aboriginal poets Ken Canning and Yvette Holt were guest speakers at a tribute to her.

Graduate outcomes for ACU National Indigenous students

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Full-time employment	80%	71%	82%	69%	88%
Further full-time study	20%	7%	18%	23%	12%
Seeking full-time employment	–	21%	–	8%	–