

9 STUDENTS IN BACHELORS AND POSTGRADUATE PROVIDER-BASED QUALIFICATIONS

AN OVERVIEW

The number of students in bachelors-level and higher study increased slightly overall in 2008. Domestic enrolments increased for bachelors degrees, honours degrees, postgraduate certificates and diplomas and at doctoral level, while there were fewer domestic enrolments at masters level and in graduate certificates and diplomas. In 2008, there were fewer enrolments by international students overall.

The downward movement in international enrolments was due to a significant decrease at bachelors level, which was mainly due to cohort effects – smaller intakes in multi-year qualifications in the last few years are still having an effect on overall numbers. While international enrolments decreased overall in 2008, there were strong increases in international enrolments at doctorate and masters level and in graduate certificates and diplomas. The large percentage increase from 2007 to 2008 in doctoral degrees was driven by the change to funding international doctorate students on the same basis as domestic students – thus reducing the fees these students pay. The underlying trend in international enrolments appears to be moving in an upward direction, with international first-year enrolments increasing in 2007 and 2008.

All provider types had increases in the number of domestic enrolments apart from wānanga. While the number of enrolments at wānanga declined at postgraduate level, bachelors-level study at wānanga increased. The largest overall percentage increase in enrolments at this level of study in 2008, as in 2007, was in private training establishments.

Domestic enrolments in bachelors-level and higher qualifications by students identifying with the European, Asian and Pasifika ethnic groups were higher in 2008. Māori enrolments at these levels declined slightly. Most enrolments were by European students, followed by Asian students.

Across all age groups, domestic enrolments declined, except for students aged 18 to 24 years.

First-year retention rates at bachelors or higher study were generally higher in 2008 compared with five years earlier. The five-year retention rates were highest for students identifying with the European and Asian ethnic groups.

More domestic students completed a bachelors or higher qualification in 2008 than in 2007. The qualification completion rates were slightly higher than reported last year at bachelors and masters level with a stronger increase for postgraduate certificates and diplomas. At doctorate level, the completion rate remained stable from 2007 to 2008.



2009 YEAR

Tertiary education enrolments by domestic students at bachelors and postgraduate level are likely to rise in number in 2009, while for international students it is mainly postgraduate enrolments that are expected to increase. The rise in the number of domestic enrolments at these levels will be due to increased participation by people aged 18 to 24 years, while for international students, the global economic climate, the value of the New Zealand dollar and the policy introduced in 2006 to fund international doctoral students on the same basis as domestic enrolments are likely to be the major influences on their enrolment patterns.

The New Zealand recession is also likely to increase the demand for domestic tertiary education enrolments, although this may be tempered by caps on the number of enrolments that institutions are able to accept. Indications are that many universities and institutes of technology and polytechnics are at the upper limits of their student enrolment caps, which should translate into higher student numbers in 2009.

Bachelors-level and higher qualifications are largely theoretically based qualifications that make up four levels of the New Zealand Register of Quality Assured Qualifications. Level 7 is made up of bachelors degrees, graduate certificates and diplomas, and certificates of proficiency. Level 8 qualifications comprise postgraduate certificates and diplomas, and bachelors degrees with honours. Level 9 qualifications are masters degrees. Level 10 qualifications are doctoral degrees, including doctor of philosophy, professional doctorates and higher doctorates.

ENROLMENTS IN BACHELORS AND HIGHER QUALIFICATIONS

From 2007 to 2008, the number of students (domestic and international) enrolled in bachelors and higher study increased slightly overall. This was due to an increase in female enrolments.

The participation rate of domestic students at these levels of study declined slightly from 2003 to 2006, but since then has remained relatively steady.

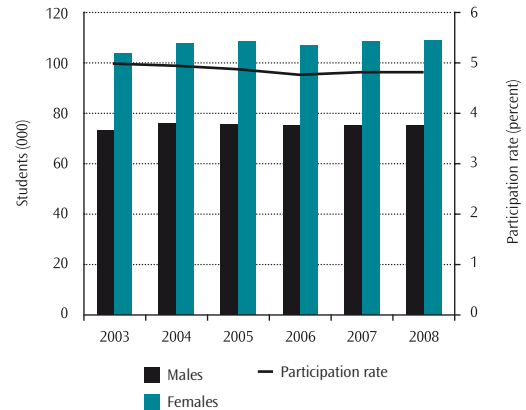
Students enrolled in bachelors and higher study in 2008:

Total	184,000	(up 0.3% on 2007)
Females	109,000	(up 0.5% on 2007)
Males	75,200	(no change on 2007)

Expressed as equivalent full-time student units, enrolments at bachelors level and higher totalled 139,000 in 2008, up 0.3 percent on 2007.

Note: The participation rate is the percentage of New Zealanders aged 15 years and over enrolled at this level.

Figure 9.1: Participation in bachelors and higher study by gender



STUDY AT BACHELORS LEVEL AND HIGHER

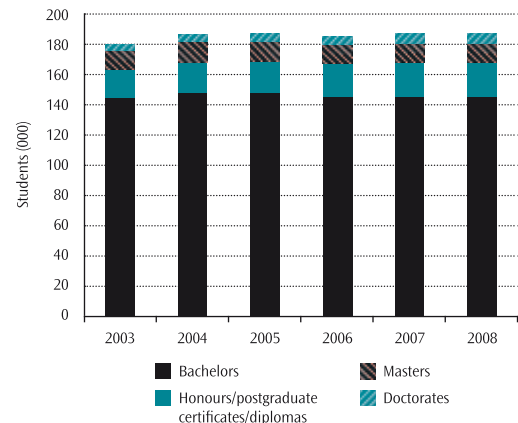
Enrolments in bachelors degrees increased slightly overall in 2008 due to an increase in domestic enrolments and a fall in international enrolments. The rise in domestic bachelors enrolments was due to the 'birth blip' continuing to move from school into tertiary education. Domestic enrolments increased in 2008 for honours degrees, postgraduate certificates and diplomas, and doctorate degrees, while they fell at masters level and in graduate certificates and diplomas. While international enrolments decreased at bachelors level in 2008, they increased at all postgraduate levels and in graduate certificates and diplomas.

Enrolments in bachelors and higher study in 2008:

	Students	% change from 2007	Equivalent full-time student units	% change from 2007
Total	184,000	+0.3%	139,000	+0.3%
Bachelors*	145,000	-0.3%	110,000	-0.4%
Honours*	22,900	+1.2%	14,200	+1.9%
Masters	12,500	+0.6%	7,480	+1.1%
Doctorates	6,720	+8.9%	6,410	+9.4%

* The bachelors category includes graduate certificates/diplomas, and honours includes postgraduate certificates/diplomas.

Figure 9.2: Students in bachelors and higher study



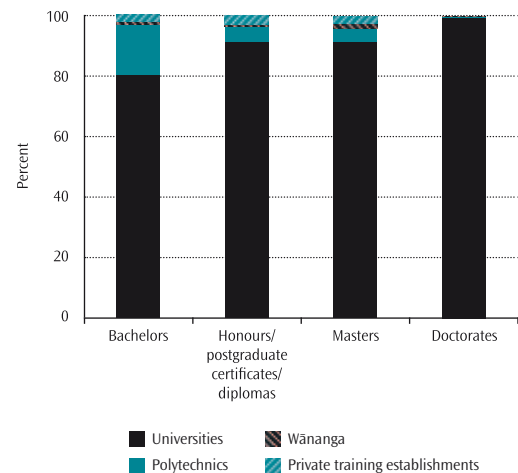
TYPE OF PROVIDER

The universities continued to dominate the provision of bachelors and higher study in 2008. Eighty-four percent of domestic students who were studying at these levels in 2008 were studying at a university. Enrolments in private training establishments showed a strong increase from 2007 to 2008. Wānanga showed a slight decline overall, while the number of wānanga students in bachelors-level study rose by 1.7 percent.

Domestic students enrolled in bachelors and higher study in 2008:

Total	161,000	(up 1.0% on 2007)
Tertiary education institutions	158,000	(up 1.0% on 2007)
Private training establishments	3,670	(up 8.5% on 2007)
Universities	135,000	(up 1.0% on 2007)
Polytechnics	22,400	(up 0.1% on 2007)
Wānanga	1,720	(down 0.6% on 2007)

Figure 9.3: Distribution of domestic bachelors and higher students in 2008 by sub-sector



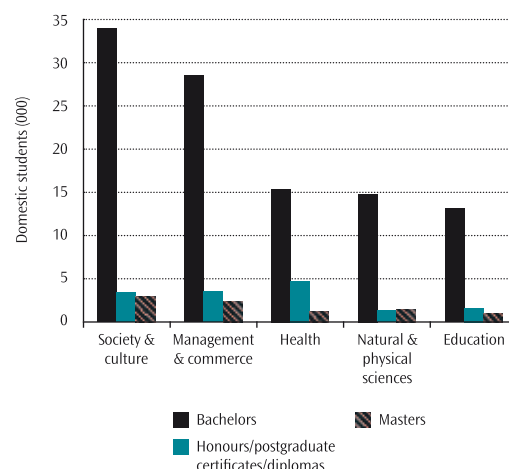
FIELD OF STUDY

Figure 9.4: Top five fields of study in 2008 for domestic students in bachelors and higher study

The most common broad fields of study for domestic students enrolled in bachelors-level and higher study in 2008 continued to be society and culture, and management and commerce. Other broad fields of study that drew large numbers of enrolments were health, science and education. Together the above five fields constituted 80 percent of all domestic enrolments at these qualification levels.

Domestic students enrolled in bachelors and higher study in 2008:

Society & culture	39,900	(down 1.0% on 2007)
Management & commerce	34,700	(up 1.9% on 2007)
Health	21,500	(up 1.0% on 2007)
Natural & physical sciences	17,700	(up 1.5% on 2007)
Education	15,300	(down 3.1% on 2007)



ETHNIC GROUP

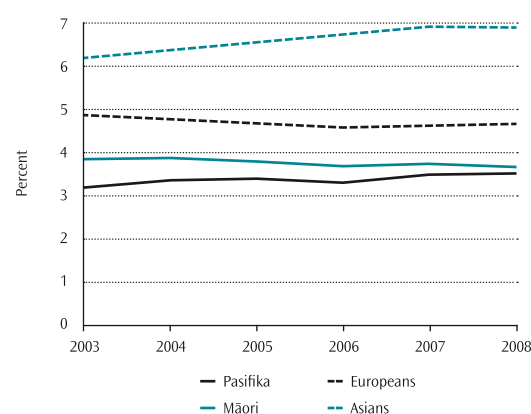
Figure 9.5: Participation rates of domestic students in bachelors and higher study by ethnic group

Europeans made up nearly 70 percent of all domestic students enrolled in bachelors and higher study in 2008 and the participation rate for European students was about one percentage point higher than that for Māori and Pasifika students. Enrolments by students identifying with the Asian ethnic group increased more strongly than for the other ethnic groups from 2007 to 2008. At 6.9 percent, the Asian ethnic group has the highest participation rate in study of bachelors-level and higher qualifications.

Domestic students enrolled in bachelors and higher study in 2008:

Europeans	112,000	(up 1.2% on 2007)
Asians	28,200	(up 5.7% on 2007)
Māori	17,300	(down 0.6% on 2007)
Pasifika	8,810	(up 3.8% on 2007)

Note: The participation rates are age standardised.



AGE AND GENDER

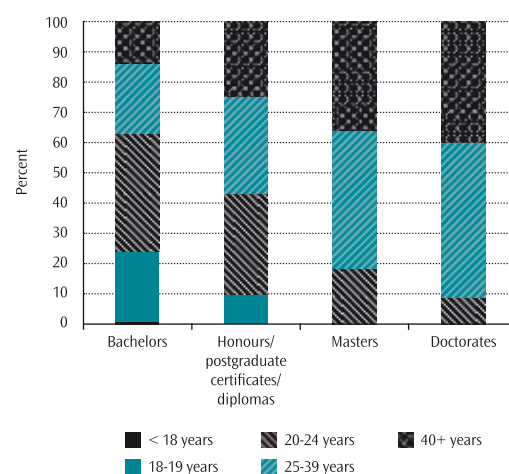
Figure 9.6: Distribution of domestic students in 2008 in bachelors and higher study by age group

The number of enrolments in bachelors-level and higher study by younger people – those aged 18 to 24 years – increased from 2007 to 2008, while for the other age groups, the number of enrolments fell.

Female students made up 61 percent of domestic students enrolled in bachelors and higher study. The number of domestic enrolments by female students increased by 1.2 percent from 2007 to 2008, while for males the increase was 0.9 percent.

Domestic students enrolled in bachelors and higher study in 2008:

Under 18 years	1,130	(down 6.1% on 2007)
18-19 years	31,600	(up 4.8% on 2007)
20-24 years	57,800	(up 2.9% on 2007)
25-39 years	42,600	(down 1.8% on 2007)
40 years and over	28,200	(down 2.0% on 2007)



FIRST-YEAR RETENTION¹

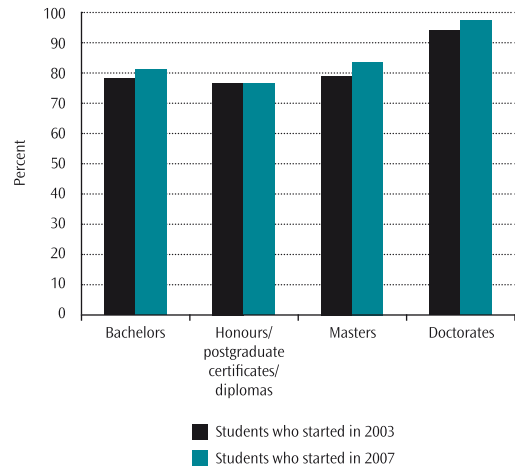
Figure 9.7: First-year retention rates for students in bachelors and higher study

First-year retention rates increased in 2008 for honours degrees and postgraduate certificates and diplomas, masters degrees and doctorates. The retention rate at bachelors-level study remained the same in 2008 at 81 percent.

Domestic students who started study in 2007 and either completed or continued studying in 2008:

Bachelors	81%	(same as the 2006 starters)
Honours*	77%	(71% for the 2006 starters)
Masters	84%	(81% for the 2006 starters)
Doctorates	97%	(96% for the 2006 starters)

* This category includes honours degrees and postgraduate certificates and diplomas.



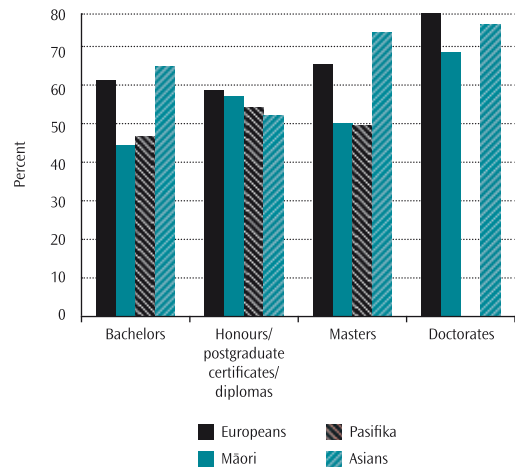
FIVE-YEAR RETENTION

Figure 9.8: Five-year retention rates for students who started bachelors and higher study in 2003 by ethnic group

The five-year retention rate remained stable overall at 61 percent in 2008. Domestic students identifying with the European and Asian ethnic groups had the highest five-year retention rates.

Domestic students who started bachelors and higher study in 2003 and either completed a qualification or continued studying in 2008:

Total	61%	(62% for the 2002 starters)
Asians	64%	(69% for the 2002 starters)
Europeans	63%	(64% for the 2002 starters)
Pasifika	53%	(48% for the 2002 starters)
Māori	48%	(50% for the 2002 starters)



FIVE-YEAR COMPLETION AND RETENTION

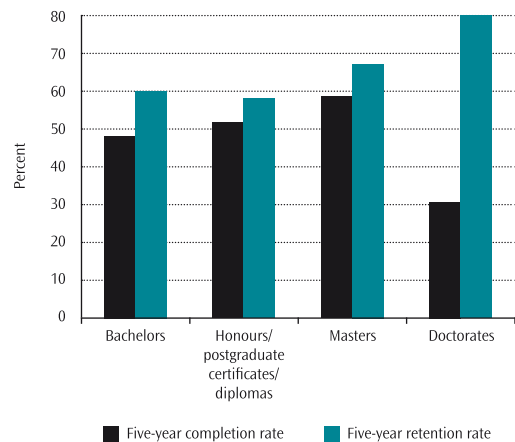
Figure 9.9: Five-year completion and retention rates for students who started bachelors and higher study in 2003

The five-year completion rate measures the proportion of students who complete a qualification within five years of starting it. From 2007 to 2008, the five-year completion rates improved at all levels of study except doctorates where there was no change. Doctoral students were the least likely to complete a qualification within five years which reflects the length of time that it takes to complete this qualification.

Percentage of domestic students who started study in 2004 and completed a qualification by 2008:

Bachelors	50%	(48% for the 2003 starters)
Honours*	64%	(52% for the 2003 starters)
Masters	60%	(59% for the 2003 starters)
Doctorates	31%	(31% for the 2003 starters)

* This category includes honours degrees and postgraduate certificates and diplomas.



1. The statistics on retention, progression and completion cover domestic provider-based students only.

COMPLETION OF QUALIFICATIONS

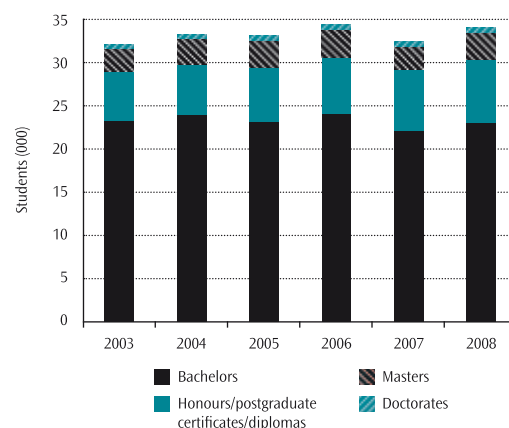
Figure 9.10: Students completing a bachelors or higher qualification

While the number of students completing a bachelors or higher qualification went down slightly in 2007, the number completing a qualification was higher again in 2008.

Domestic students completing a bachelors or higher qualification in 2008:

Total	33,600	(up 5.6% on 2007)
Bachelors	23,000	(up 3.8% on 2007)
Honours*	7,340	(up 3.7% on 2007)
Masters	3,080	(up 19% on 2007)
Doctorates	654	(up 14% on 2007)

* This category includes honours degrees and postgraduate certificates and diplomas.



COURSE PASS RATES

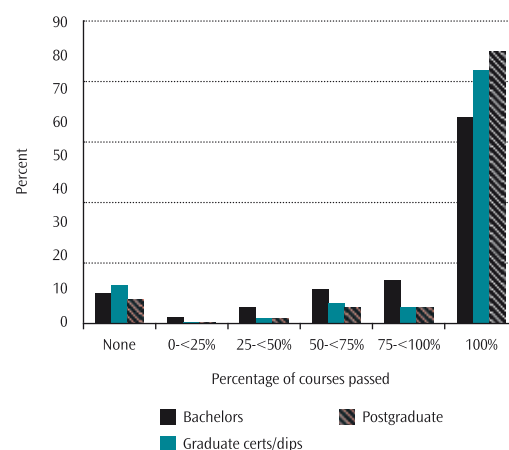
Figure 9.11: Percentages of students who passed one or more courses of study started in 2008

More students passed all their courses at bachelors level and higher than at lower qualification levels. Of all course enrolments by domestic students, 82 percent were passed at bachelors level* in 2008 and 91 percent at postgraduate level. Course pass rates have not changed much in recent years. Course pass rates were higher for domestic European students than for the other ethnic groups.

Percentage of bachelors courses passed by domestic students in 2008:

Total	82%	(82% for the 2006 starters)
Europeans	85%	(85% for the 2006 starters)
Māori	72%	(71% for the 2006 starters)
Pasifika	65%	(64% for the 2006 starters)
Asians	81%	(81% for the 2006 starters)

* In this highlight bachelors-level study is reported separately from graduate certificates and diplomas.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Figure 9.12: Distribution of domestic and international bachelors and higher students

The number and proportion of international students enrolled at bachelors and higher qualification levels continued to decrease in 2008. International students comprised 12 percent of all enrolments at this level in 2008.

Study by international students at postgraduate level has increased in recent years. Enrolments at masters and doctoral level increased significantly. However, the majority of international students studying at bachelors level or higher were enrolled in bachelors-level study.

International students enrolled in bachelors and higher study in 2008:

Total	22,900	(down 4.9% on 2007)
Bachelors	17,000	(down 10% on 2007)
Honours/postgraduate certificates/diplomas	2,170	(up 0.8% on 2007)
Masters	1,990	(up 13% on 2007)
Doctorates	1,960	(up 29% on 2007)

Expressed as equivalent full-time student units, enrolments in bachelors and higher qualifications totalled 17,200 in 2008, down by 8.6 percent on 2007.

