

## Unitec New Zealand Limited

### Academic Board Meeting

2 September 2020

<b>Title</b>	Impact of historic enrolment practice on Qualification Completion Rates
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<b>For:</b>	Information

### Recommendation

That Academic Board note:

the impact of historic enrolment practices on Qualification Completion Rates in the School of Applied Business, School of Architecture and the overall institution.

that these practices may have also impacted First Year Retention rates and that this is still to be investigated.

### Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to outline the impact and background of an historic enrolment practice on our current Qualification Completion Rates.

### Key Points

- For many years Unitec has collaborated with international partner organisations to support the delivery of their programmes using Unitec staff and learning resources.
- Access to Moodle, where Unitec learning resources were located, was only available to currently enrolled students
- Unitec enrolled offshore students in the BBS (from 2007 to 2018) and BAS (from 2010-2015) programmes to give them access to Moodle; the students were not intended to ever complete any part of a Unitec programme.
- This practice has significantly negatively impacted on Unitec's Qualification Completion rates (particularly International and Under 25 but overall as well)

### Information/Background

The *Qualification Completion Rate (QCR)* is one of four main educational performance indicators used by the Tertiary Education Commission to measure the performance of tertiary organisations.

QCR measures the proportion of students in a cohort who go on to complete a qualification at the same level as the cohort. [\(See TEC EPI definitions and methodologies for full details\)](#)

Unitec has a long history of working with offshore partner organisations to support the delivery of the partner organisation's programmes through the provision of learning and teaching resources, including staff. Historically, for two of these programmes, the practice was to enrol students from the partner organisation into Unitec courses to allow them access to resources located in Moodle. At the time, the only method of accessing Moodle was to be an enrolled student. This is no longer the case.

The two programmes are:

- The Bachelor of Business (BBS) in the School of Applied Business
- The Bachelor of Architectural Studies (BAS) in the School of Architecture

### Bachelor of Business

In the 2007-2018 period Unitec enrolled a number of Shandong University of Finance and Economics (SDUFE) students into Unitec courses to allow them access to Moodle. These SDUFE students were enrolled part time into the Bachelor of Business, though they were not taught as Bachelor of Business students and were never intended to complete Unitec courses or the qualification. The impact of this enrolment practice is detailed below. With the cohort timeframe for a Bachelor's degree being six years, the impact of this decision will be seen in the QCR statistics until 2022.

The School of Applied Business' reported 2019 QCR is 50.3%. Accounting for the SDUFE students provides a qualification completion rate of 68.8%. Similarly, with the removal of SDUFE students the QCR for International rises to 80.2% and to 60.6% for the Under 25 group. These "revised" QCRs represent a truer reflection of qualification completion within the School, as well as for the Bachelor of Business, which would have a QCR of 53.2% rather than the official 20.4%.

#### School and Priority Groups

School of Applied Business	Reporting Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
QCR					
School - including Shandong	51.1%	54.2%	64.8%	59.4%	50.3%
School - excluding Shandong	60.7%	64.4%	70.4%	64.2%	68.8%
Under 25 - including Shandong	34.9%	36.8%	51.4%	46.5%	31.1%
Under 25 - excluding Shandong	52.5%	52.7%	63.0%	54.9%	60.6%
International - including Shandong	22.0%	31.2%	49.6%	48.0%	35.1%
International - excluding Shandong	55.3%	64%	71.2%	64.7%	80.2%

#### Programme: Bachelor of Business

BBS - including Shandong	14.5%	20.5%	35.8%	39.3%	20.4%
BBS - excluding Shandong	33.7%	35.2%	52.9%	50.2%	53.2%

From reporting year 2023 there will be no Shandong students in the starting cohort, thus no impact on QCR from that point onwards. Below table shows the trend of QCR for BBS for reporting year from 2019 – 2024 based on the reported completion students.

BBS	BBS without Shandong			SHANDONG only			Overall BBS includes Shandong		
Reporting Year	# starting cohort	# completed qualification on time	QCR without Shandong	# starting cohort	# completed qualification on time	QCR just for Shandong	#starting cohort	#completed qualification on time	Total QCR
2019	158	84	53.2%	473	45	9.5%	631	129	20.4%
2020	141	57	40.4%	243	3	1.2%	384	60	15.6%
2021	90	31	34.4%	163	2	1.2%	253	33	13.0%
2022	83	21	25.3%	54	0	0%	137	21	15.3%
2023	92	10	10.9%	0	0	0%	92	10	10.9%
2024	95	0	0.0%	0	0	0%	95	0	0.0%

### Bachelor of Architectural Studies

Within the BAS, international students from a number of partner Chinese universities (Shandong, Shenyang, and Nanchang Universities) were enrolled into courses to track their progress and allow them access to Unitec online learning management systems. This occurred over a number of years up to and including the 2010-2015 period. The impact of this practice will be seen in the data up to and including 2020. These students were not intended to be Unitec students and were never intended to complete Unitec courses or programmes, though a small number did progress into Unitec programmes. Rather Unitec staff and resources were utilised in the teaching of the partner University programmes.

The impact of this practice on our QCR rates (particularly international and Under 25 students) has been significant.

The School of Architecture's reported 2019 QCR is 52.2%. accounting for the overseas partner universities provides a qualification completion rate of 67.3%. Similarly, with the removal of Chinese university students the QCR for International rises to 78.9% and to 69.3% for the Under 25 group. These "revised" QCRs represent a truer reflection of qualification completion within the School, as well as for the Bachelor of Architecture Studies, which would have a QCR of 71.0% rather than the official 44.9%.

### School and priority groups

School of Architecture	Reporting Year				
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
QCR					
School - including Shandong	55.1%	48.0%	47.0%	49.7%	52.2%
School - excluding Shandong	55.1%	48.0%	47.0%	49.7%	67.3%
Under 25 - including Shandong	52.7%	44.9%	44.0%	49.6%	50.4%
Under 25 - excluding Shandong	52.7%	44.9%	44.0%	49.6%	69.3%
International - including Shandong	34.1%	22.4%	23.2%	23.4%	33.3%
International - excluding Shandong	34.1%	22.4%	23.2%	23.4%	78.9%

Programme: Bachelor of Architectural Studies

BAS - including Shandong	51.4%	38.5%	39.1%	48.3%	44.9%
BAS - excluding Shandong	51.4%	38.5%	39.1%	48.3%	71.0%

The table below indicates that QCR for the BAS programme will not be impacted from reporting year 2021 onwards as there will be no Shandong and Shenyang students in the starting cohort.

BAS	BAS without Shandong and Shenyang			SHANDONG & Shenyang only			Overall BAS includes Shandong and Shenyang students		
Reportin g Year	# starting cohort	# completed qualification on time	QCR without Shandon g	# starti ng coho rt	# completed qualification on time	QCR just for Shandon g	#startin g cohort	#completed qualification on time	Total QCR
2019	169	120	71.0%	103	2	1.9%	272	122	44.9%
2020	211	92	43.6%	81			211	92	43.6%
2021	135	79	58.5%				135	79	58.5%
2022	98	43	43.9%				98	43	43.9%
2023	108	6	5.6%				108	6	5.6%
2024	100	0	0.0%				100	0	0.0%

### Impact on institute QCR

The institution QCR reported 2019 is 53.7%. Accounting for the SDUFE students provides a qualification completion rate of 57.2%. With the removal of SDUFE students the QCR for International rises significantly by 22% (from 56.3% to 78.5%), and by 5.7% (from 48.4% to 54.1%) for the Under 25 group. These “revised” QCRs represent a truer reflection of qualification completion for the institute.

Unitec	Reporting Year				
QCR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Unitec - including Shandong	55.3%	54.2%	58.4%	55.0%	53.7%
Unitec - excluding Shandong	57.3%	56.1%	59.5%	55.8%	57.2%
Under 25 - including Shandong	51.6%	51.3%	58.0%	54.5%	48.4%
Under 25 - excluding Shandong	54.9%	54.3%	59.9%	56.1%	54.1%
International - including Shandong	48.5%	49.9%	62.1%	63.5%	56.3%
International - excluding Shandong	58.5%	59.1%	68.8%	69.6%	78.5%

Data sources:

Student EPI Dashboard (TEC April 2020 SDR submission)

PeopleSoft

Reports from International Office

2019 End of Year School Evaluative Commentaries for School of Architecture and School of Applied Business

### Contributors

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