

Unitec New Zealand Limited

Academic Board Meeting

29 September 2020

Title	Impact of historic enrolment practice on Qualification Completion Rates – Updated
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For:	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;

that this is an update of the memorandum provided at the September meeting.

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)
- This updated report is based on the August 2020 SDR

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. 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 78.6% 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				
QCR	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
School - including Chinese Overseas Students	51.1%	54.2%	64.8%	59.4%	50.3%
School - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	60.7%	64.4%	70.5%	64.2%	68.8%
Under 25 - including Chinese Overseas Students	34.9%	36.8%	51.5%	46.5%	31.1%
Under 25 - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	52.5%	52.7%	63.0%	54.9%	60.6%

International - including Chinese Overseas Students	22.0%	31.2%	49.5%	48.0%	35.1%
International - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	51.8%	58.7%	68.8%	64.3%	78.6%

Programme: Bachelor of Business

BBS - including Chinese Overseas Students	14.5%	20.5%	35.8%	39.3%	20.4%
BBS - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	33.7%	35.2%	52.9%	50.2%	53.2%

From reporting year 2023 there will be no SDUFE 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 Chinese Overseas Students			Chinese Overseas Students only			Overall BBS includes Chinese Overseas Students		
	# 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	60	42.6%	243	3	1.2%	384	63	16.4%
2021	90	39	43.3%	163	2	1.2%	253	41	16.2%
2022	82	28	34.1%	55	1	1.8%	137	29	21.2%
2023	92	14	15.2%	0	0	0%	92	14	15.2%
2024	95	1	1.1%	0	0	0%	95	1	1.1%

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 wholly intended to be Unitec students; as with SDUFE this was a pathway for some students to 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 Architectural 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 Chinese Overseas Students	55.1%	48.0%	47.0%	49.7%	52.2%
School - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	63.2%	60.2%	60.0%	64.3%	67.3%
Under 25 - including Chinese Overseas Students	52.7%	44.9%	44.0%	49.6%	50.4%
Under 25 - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	65.3%	61.2%	60.8%	70.5%	69.3%
International - including Chinese Overseas Students	34.1%	22.4%	23.2%	23.4%	33.3%
International - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	65.2%	59.1%	63.9%	83.3%	78.9%

Programme: Bachelor of Architectural Studies

BAS - including Chinese Overseas Students	51.4%	38.5%	39.1%	48.3%	44.9%
BAS - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	70.8%	63.4%	62.3%	78.0%	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 Chinese Overseas Students			Chinese Overseas Students only			Overall BAS includes Chinese Overseas 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	130	84	64.6%	81	9	11.1%	211	93	44.1%
2021	135	86	63.7%				135	86	63.7%
2022	98	46	46.9%				98	46	46.9%
2023	108	6	5.6%				108	6	5.6%
2024	100	1	1.0%				100	1	1.0%

Impact on institute QCR

The institution QCR reported 2019 is 53.8%. Accounting for the Chinese Overseas students provides a qualification completion rate of 57.1%. With the removal of Chinese Overseas students the QCR for International rises significantly by 22% (from 56.2% to 78.5%), and by 5.6% (from 48.4% to 54.0%) 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 Chinese Overseas Students	55.3%	54.2%	59.0%	55.8%	53.8%
Unitec - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	57.5%	56.4%	60.6%	57.1%	57.1%
Under 25 – including Chinese Overseas Students	51.6%	51.3%	58.2%	54.8%	48.4%
Under 25 - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	55.2%	55.0%	61.2%	57.2%	54.0%
International - including Chinese Overseas Students	48.6%	49.9%	62.2%	63.6%	56.2%

International - excluding Chinese Overseas Students	59.4%	61.3%	73.0%	73.2%	78.5%
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Data sources:

Student EPI Dashboard (TEC August 2020 SDR submission)

PeopleSoft

Reports from International Office

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

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