

GLOBAL ELT OVERVIEW

THE UK IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

In 2023, the sector once again hit the 1 million students mark, with 1.1 million students of English welcomed by ELT providers in eight major destinations (Australia, Canada, Ireland, Malta, New Zealand, South Africa, the UK, and the USA).

Cumulatively, these students generated 8.5 million student weeks. The sector experienced 34% growth between 2022 and 2023, achieving a recovery of 84% in student weeks and 78% in student numbers.

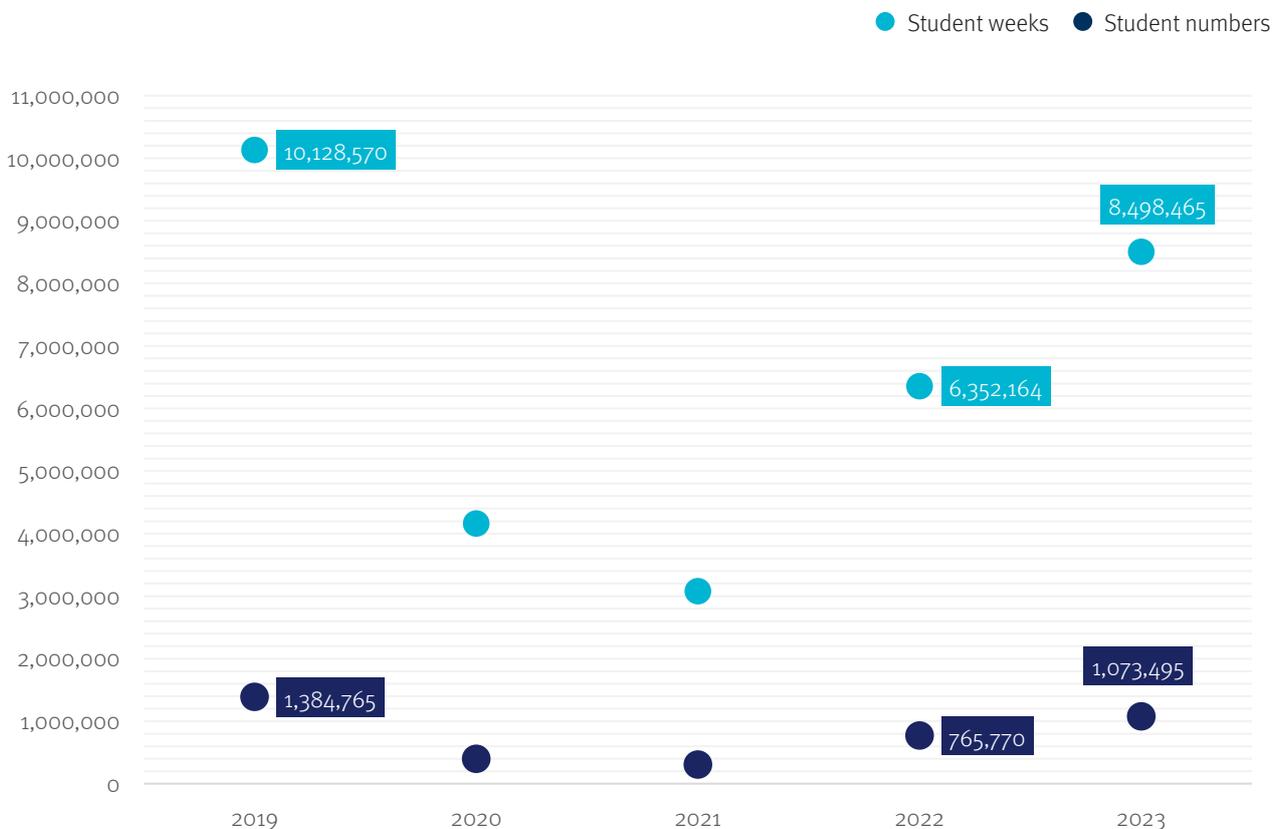
Following up on the previous year, Australia maintained its position as the top study destination in terms of student weeks. Moreover, Australia surpassed its pre-pandemic

volume, with 14% more student weeks spent in the country in 2023 than in 2019.

While in 2022, UK ranked second in terms of student weeks, it was outperformed by the US in 2023, which achieved a cumulative total of more than 1.5 million student weeks. However, the UK welcomed the largest number of English language students, hosting 37% of the student population. At the same time, 17% of total global student weeks were spent in the UK.

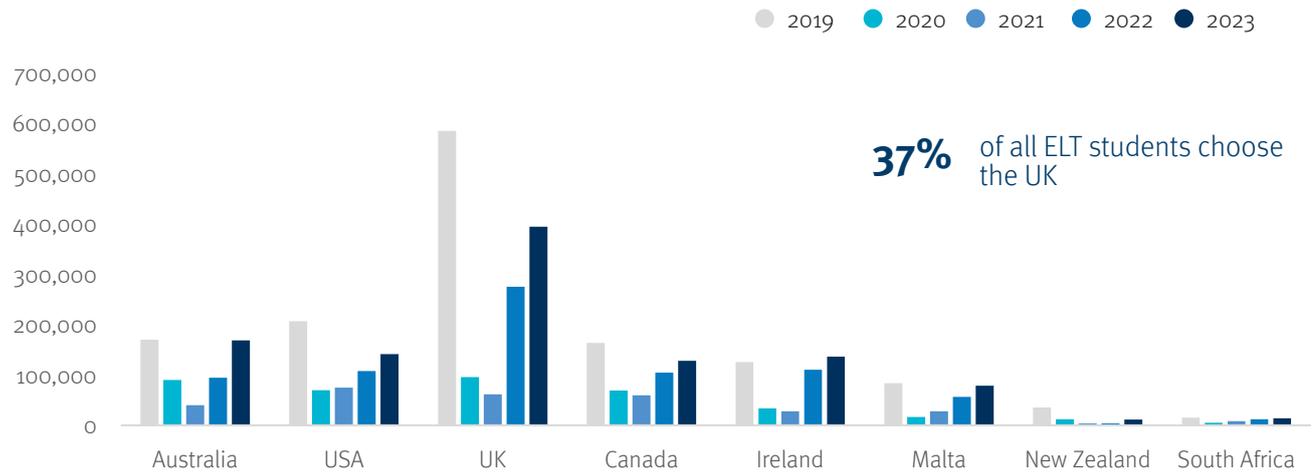
The highest recovery levels were observed in Ireland, which reached 117% recovery, thanks to its affordability and favourable visa policies for international students.

Total number of students and student weeks spent in major English language destinations



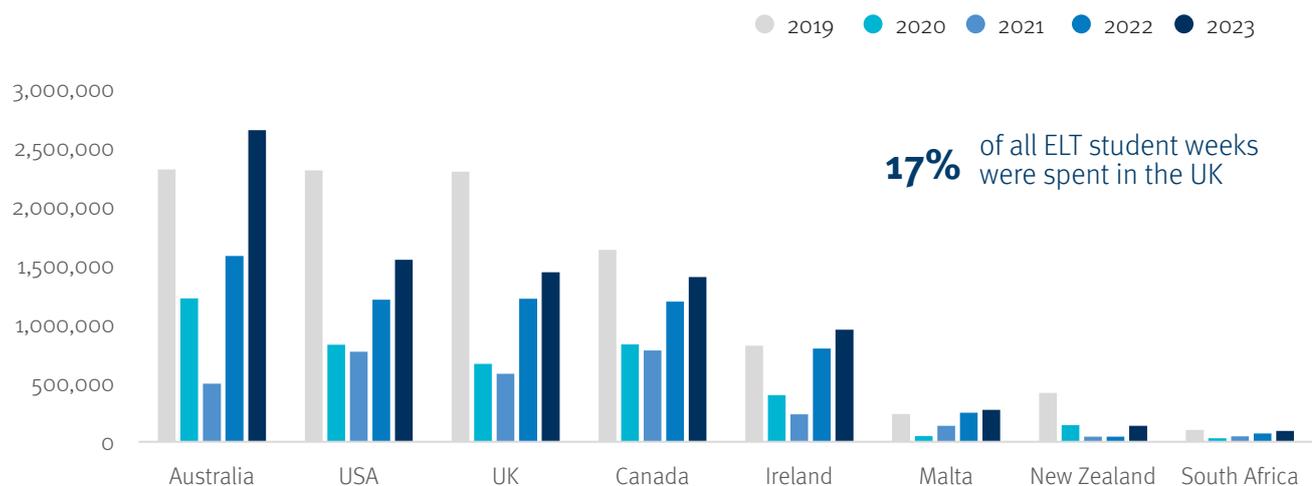
Source: BONARD, 2023; English Australia, 2023; English New Zealand, 2023; English South Africa, 2023; English UK, 2023; English USA, 2023; Institute of International Education, 2023; Languages Canada, 2023; Marketing English in Ireland, 2023; NSO Malta, 2023; SEVIS, 2023

English language students by destination



Source: BONARD, 2024; Figures represent extrapolations based on multiple sources, cover all centres in the destinations and represent the best possible calculation, rather than a headcount. Moreover, it should be noted that as of 2022, the statistics on New Zealand include continuing students as well as group students, who were not previously included. Therefore, direct comparisons with previous years might not be possible. Similarly, due to changes in the methodology used, the 2022 data for the USA are not directly comparable with previous years.

Student weeks by destination



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