

STUDENT VISA SUBCLASS 500

# LATAM Student Visa Report

*Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Colombia, and Rest of LATAM, by sector.*

FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26 (to 31 March 2026)

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Source  
Department of Home Affairs BP0015  
locked at 31 March 2026

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# The LATAM pipeline has bifurcated

The Australian student visa pipeline from Latin America has split into two distinct trajectories. Brazil and Colombia, the two largest LATAM source countries, recovered strongly through to FY 2022-23 but have since pulled back materially as grant rates have fallen. Chile, Argentina, and the smaller markets that make up the rest of LATAM have held grant rates noticeably higher across the period.

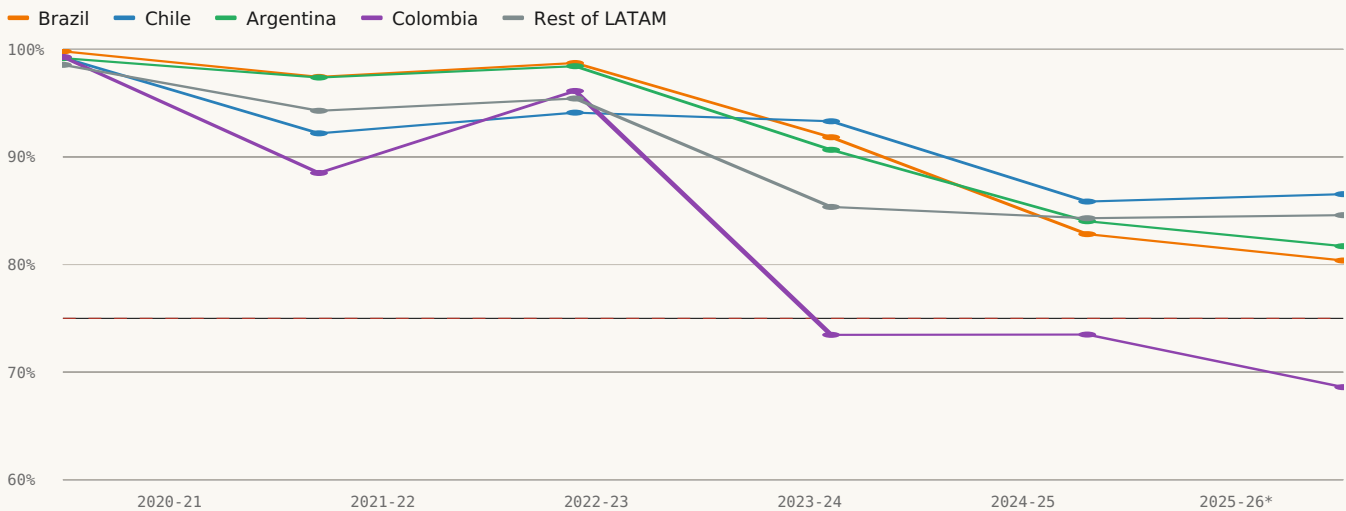
The pressure is concentrated in two sectors: VET and (to a lesser extent) ELICOS. Higher Education, Postgraduate Research, Schools, and Non-Award are decided at rates of 90 to 100% across every LATAM country group and every year shown. The story of the LATAM grant rate decline is, in effect, the story of VET and ELICOS decisions from Brazil and Colombia.

## Headline findings

- **Colombia VET** has fallen from 99.9% to 57.1% in five years. The largest single movement in this dataset.
- **Brazil VET** has fallen from 99.9% to 72.1%, on volumes that doubled and then doubled again. The volume and grant rate curves are now moving in opposite directions.
- **Chile and Argentina VET** grant rates have held at around 80%, well above Brazil and Colombia.
- **ELICOS shows a different shape**: a boom-and-bust volume story. Colombia ELICOS peaked at 28,248 in FY 2022-23 and is now at 2,360 YTD. Brazil peaked at 13,537 and is now at 4,148.
- **Argentina ELICOS** is the late entrant to refusals, dropping from 92%+ through FY 2023-24 to 79.4% in FY 2025-26 YTD.

## Overall grant rate trajectory, FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26 YTD

Subclass 500 overall grant rate by financial year and country group

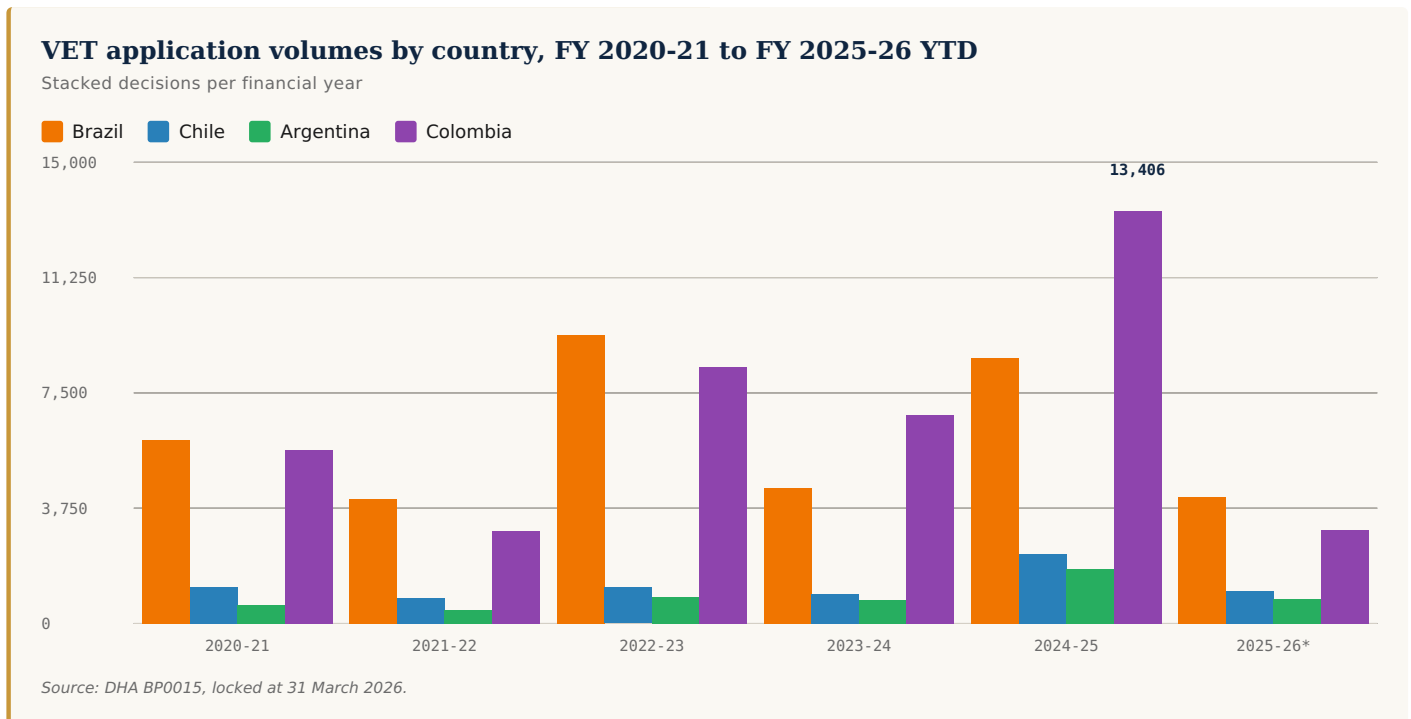
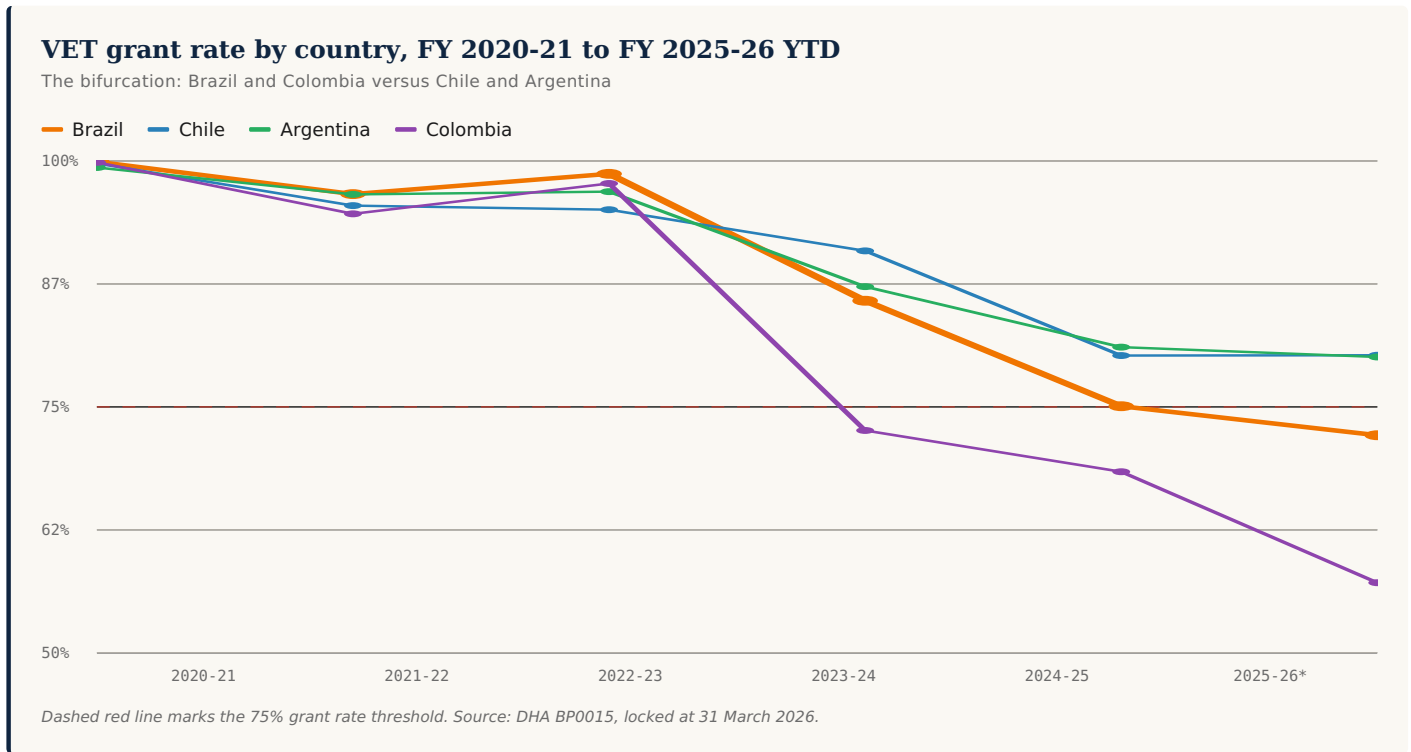


Dashed red line marks the 75% grant rate threshold. Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

# VET: where the pressure sits

VET is the largest LATAM channel by volume in every year of this dataset. It is also where the grant rate decline is overwhelmingly concentrated. In FY 2024-25, the four largest LATAM source countries together produced 26,083 VET decisions, more than any other sector combined.

The country pattern inside VET is the most distinctive finding in this report. Chile and Argentina have held VET grant rates at around 80% across the last two financial years. Brazil sits eight to ten points below them. Colombia is in a category of its own at 57.1% YTD.

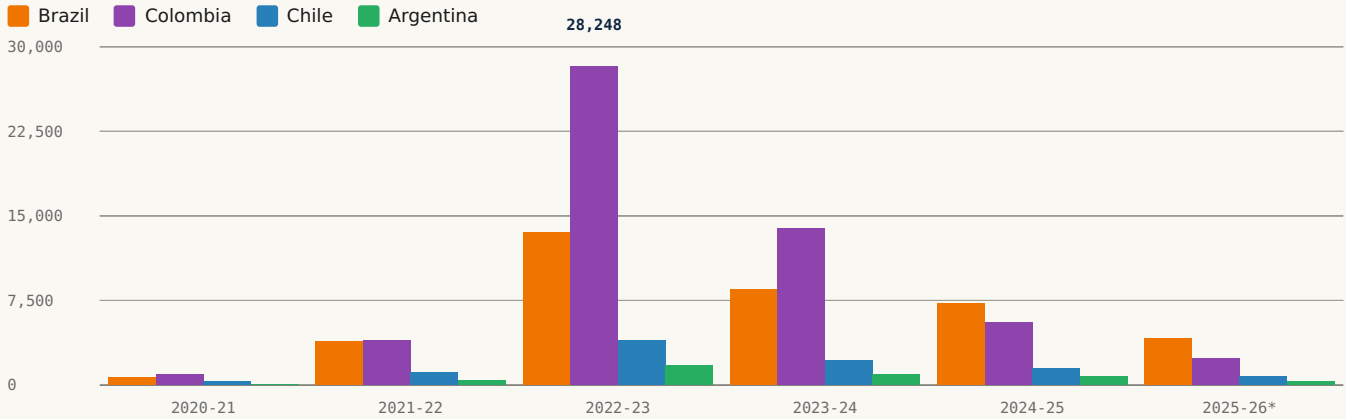


# ELICOS: the boom and the bust

VET is where the grant rate problem lives. ELICOS is where the volume story lives. Between FY 2020-21 and FY 2022-23, Colombian ELICOS applications grew from 930 to 28,248. Brazilian ELICOS went from 693 to 13,537 over the same window. That is not a market expanding. That is a market driven by aggressive recruitment into short-course English programmes that functioned as visa entry points.

## ELICOS application volumes: the boom and the bust

Subclass 500 ELICOS applications decided per financial year

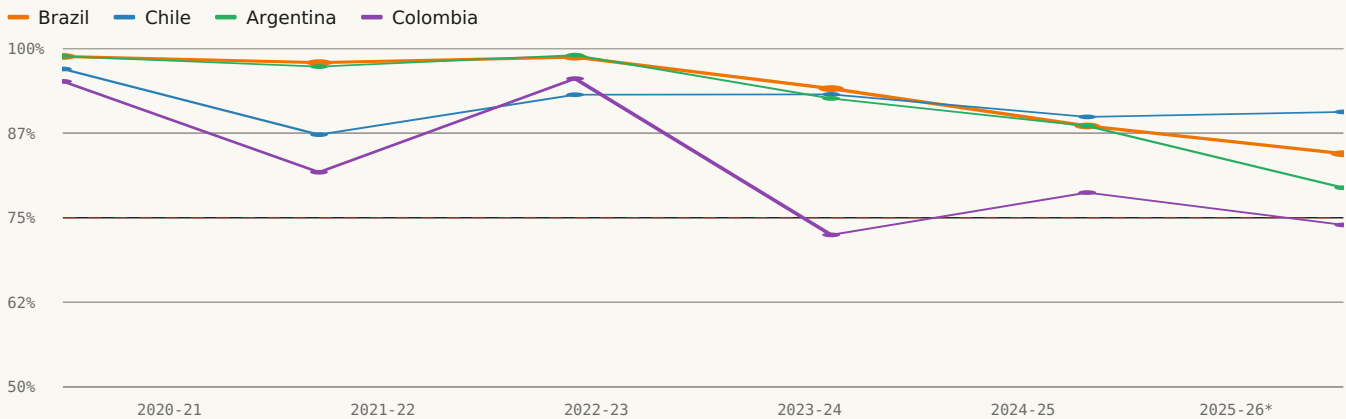


Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

The bust is now well underway. Colombia ELICOS volumes are down 92% from peak. Brazil ELICOS is down 69%. The grant rate trajectory across this cycle is more nuanced than VET. Three observations stand out.

## ELICOS grant rate: a different shape from VET

Subclass 500 ELICOS grant rate by financial year of decision



Dashed red line marks the 75% grant rate threshold. Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

### Three things the ELICOS data shows

**Argentina is the late entrant to refusals.** Held above 92% through FY 2023-24, then dropped to 79.4% in FY 2025-26 YTD. The steepest single-year fall of any LATAM country in this dataset.

**Chile is the only ELICOS market improving.** Dipped to 87.3% in FY 2021-22, climbed back to 90.6% in FY 2025-26 YTD. The only country with a recovering trend.

**Colombia ELICOS is volatile, not just declining.** Moved 95% to 82% to 96% to 73% to 79% to 74% across six years. The volatility itself is the signal.

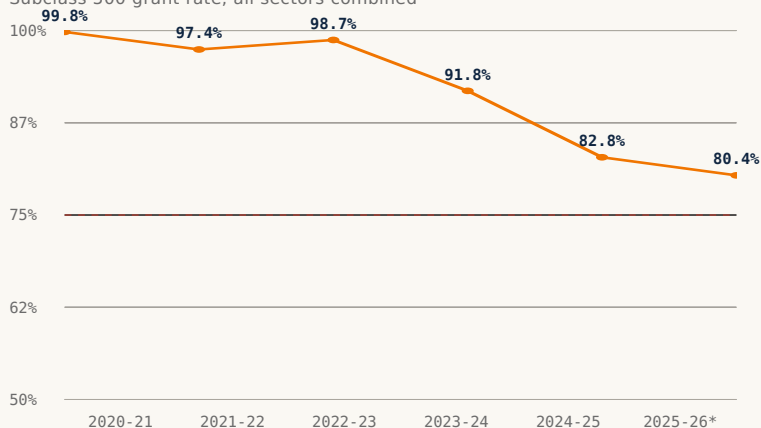
# Brazil

The supposed clean LATAM market is no longer clean. Brazil VET has fallen from 99.9% to 72.1% in five years on growing volumes. The country aggregate masks the channel concentration.

FY 2025-26 YTD <b>9,528</b> applications decided	FY 2025-26 YTD <b>80.4%</b> overall grant rate	FY 2024-25 <b>17,839</b> applications decided	FY 2024-25 <b>82.8%</b> overall grant rate
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## Brazil overall grant rate, FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26 YTD

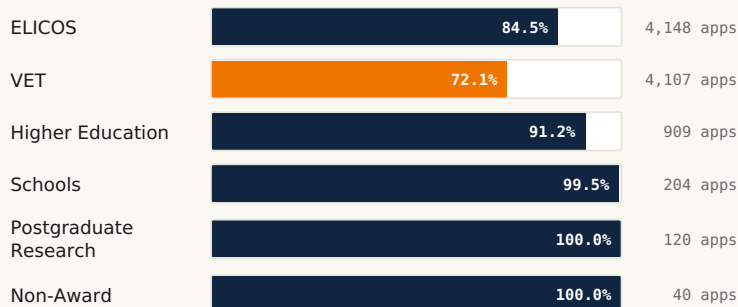
Subclass 500 grant rate, all sectors combined



\*FY 2025-26 is to 31 March 2026 (9 months). Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

## Brazil grant rate by sector, FY 2025-26 YTD

Where the pressure sits inside the country aggregate



Orange bars indicate grant rate below 75%. Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

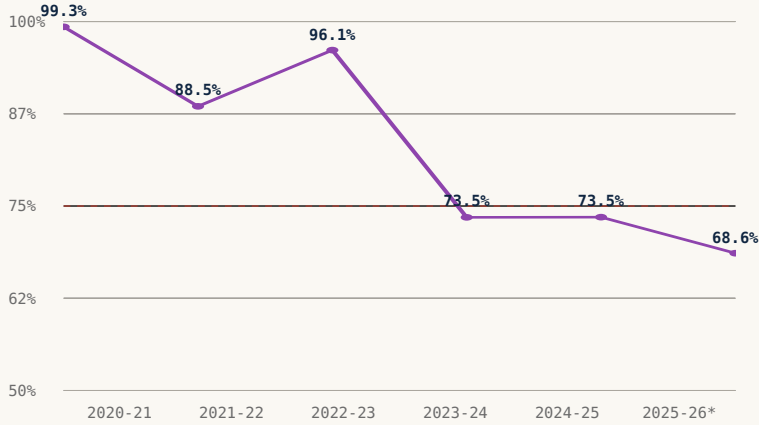
# Colombia

The most distinctive trajectory in LATAM. Engineered volume growth followed by sharp grant rate decline. VET at 57.1% YTD is the lowest of any LATAM market by a wide margin.

FY 2025-26 YTD <b>6,316</b> applications decided	FY 2025-26 YTD <b>68.6%</b> overall grant rate	FY 2024-25 <b>20,966</b> applications decided	FY 2024-25 <b>73.5%</b> overall grant rate
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## Colombia overall grant rate, FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26 YTD

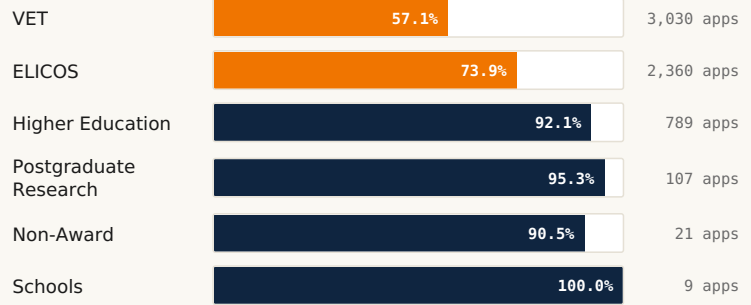
Subclass 500 grant rate, all sectors combined



\*FY 2025-26 is to 31 March 2026 (9 months). Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

## Colombia grant rate by sector, FY 2025-26 YTD

Where the pressure sits inside the country aggregate



Orange bars indicate grant rate below 75%. Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

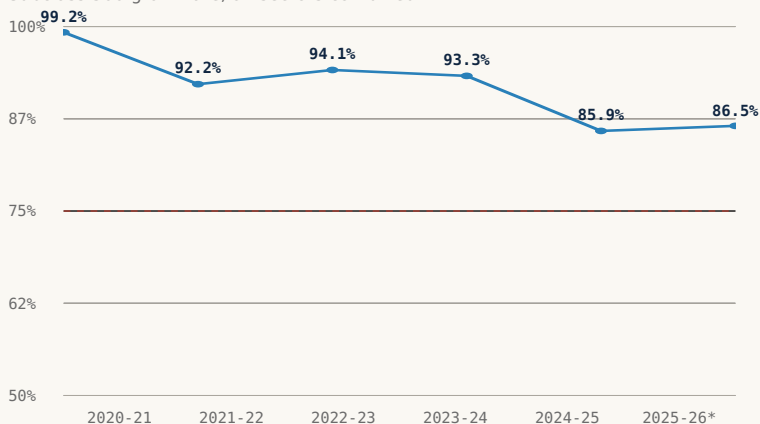
# Chile

A stable mid-sized market with no boom and no bust. Grant rates have softened modestly but remain materially above Brazil and Colombia. The most consistent LATAM source country.

<p>FY 2025-26 YTD</p> <p><b>2,184</b></p> <p>applications decided</p>	<p>FY 2025-26 YTD</p> <p><b>86.5%</b></p> <p>overall grant rate</p>	<p>FY 2024-25</p> <p><b>4,312</b></p> <p>applications decided</p>	<p>FY 2024-25</p> <p><b>85.9%</b></p> <p>overall grant rate</p>
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## Chile overall grant rate, FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26 YTD

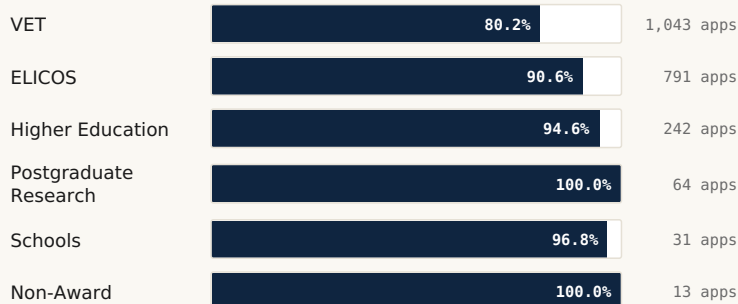
Subclass 500 grant rate, all sectors combined



\*FY 2025-26 is to 31 March 2026 (9 months). Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

## Chile grant rate by sector, FY 2025-26 YTD

Where the pressure sits inside the country aggregate



Orange bars indicate grant rate below 75%. Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

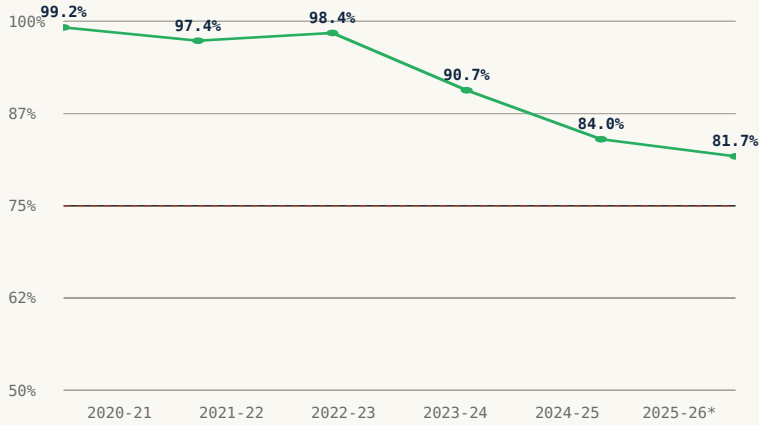
# Argentina

A late entrant to refusals. The 2025-26 ELICOS drop to 79.4% is the steepest single-year fall in this dataset. A market in transition, not yet in crisis.

FY 2025-26 YTD <b>1,268</b> applications decided	FY 2025-26 YTD <b>81.7%</b> overall grant rate	FY 2024-25 <b>2,704</b> applications decided	FY 2024-25 <b>84.0%</b> overall grant rate
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## Argentina overall grant rate, FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26 YTD

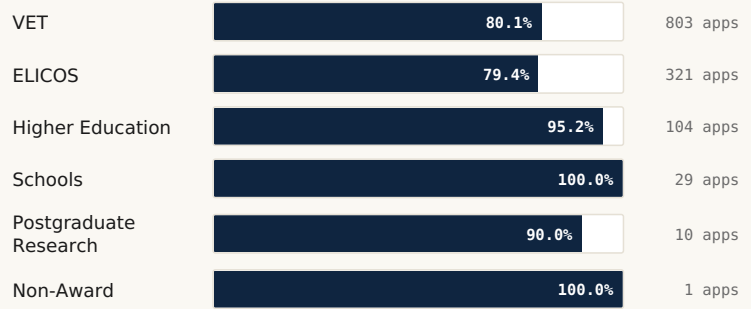
Subclass 500 grant rate, all sectors combined



\*FY 2025-26 is to 31 March 2026 (9 months). Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

## Argentina grant rate by sector, FY 2025-26 YTD

Where the pressure sits inside the country aggregate



Orange bars indicate grant rate below 75%. Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

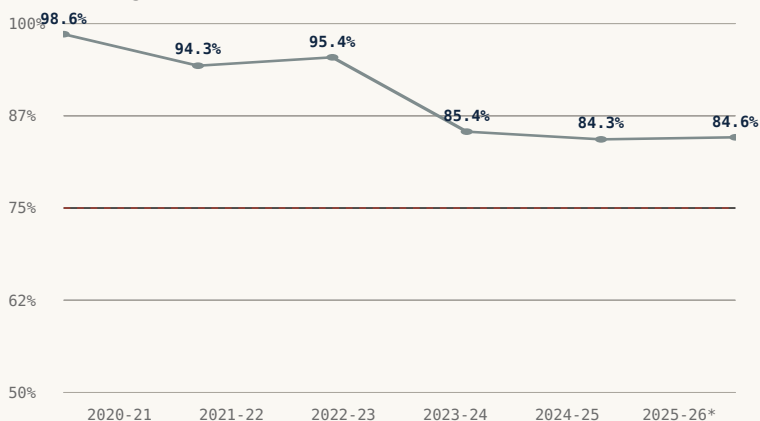
# Rest of LATAM

Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela and 11 other countries. The aggregated profile is closer to Chile and Argentina than to Brazil and Colombia. Mexico is the cleanest large market in the group at 94.8%.

<p>FY 2025-26 YTD</p> <p><b>4,230</b></p> <p>applications decided</p>	<p>FY 2025-26 YTD</p> <p><b>84.6%</b></p> <p>overall grant rate</p>	<p>FY 2024-25</p> <p><b>7,441</b></p> <p>applications decided</p>	<p>FY 2024-25</p> <p><b>84.3%</b></p> <p>overall grant rate</p>
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## Rest of LATAM overall grant rate, FY 2020-21 to FY 2025-26 YTD

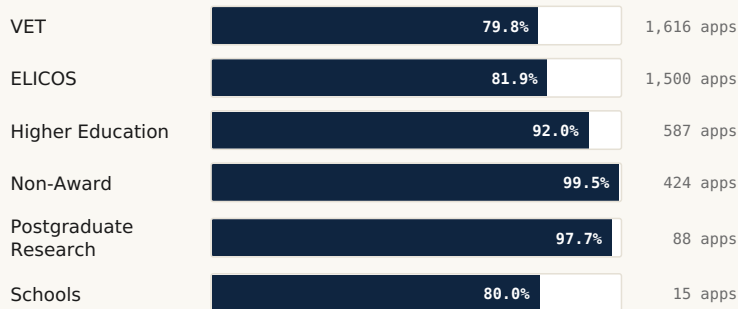
Subclass 500 grant rate, all sectors combined



\*FY 2025-26 is to 31 March 2026 (9 months). Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.

## Rest of LATAM grant rate by sector, FY 2025-26 YTD

Where the pressure sits inside the country aggregate



Orange bars indicate grant rate below 75%. Source: DHA BP0015, locked at 31 March 2026.



## Argentina

Sector	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
<b>APPLICATIONS DECIDED</b>						
Higher Education	141	128	140	74	152	104
Postgraduate Research	17	33	39	12	27	10
VET	603	441	865	775	1,765	803
Schools	1	5	36	27	24	29
ELICOS	88	414	1,772	923	726	321
Non-Award	2	8	18	9	10	1
<b>GRANT RATE</b>						
Higher Education	98.6%	100.0%	99.3%	95.9%	90.1%	95.2%
Postgraduate Research	100.0%	97.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	90.0%
VET	99.3%	96.6%	96.9%	87.2%	81.1%	80.1%
Schools	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
ELICOS	98.9%	97.3%	99.0%	92.6%	88.6%	79.4%
Non-Award	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

## Colombia

Sector	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
<b>APPLICATIONS DECIDED</b>						
Higher Education	781	839	1,133	761	1,826	789
Postgraduate Research	45	66	113	68	105	107
VET	5,656	3,014	8,336	6,782	13,406	3,030
Schools	2	1	12	9	5	9
ELICOS	930	3,957	28,248	13,898	5,587	2,360
Non-Award	14	7	37	42	37	21
<b>GRANT RATE</b>						
Higher Education	100.0%	97.9%	98.1%	95.8%	93.0%	92.1%
Postgraduate Research	100.0%	98.5%	100.0%	98.5%	94.3%	95.3%
VET	99.9%	94.6%	97.7%	72.6%	68.4%	57.1%
Schools	100.0%	0.0%	75.0%	66.7%	100.0%	100.0%
ELICOS	95.2%	81.7%	95.6%	72.5%	78.7%	73.9%
Non-Award	100.0%	85.7%	100.0%	100.0%	97.3%	90.5%

## Rest of LATAM

Sector	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26*
<b>APPLICATIONS DECIDED</b>						
Higher Education	379	617	810	572	795	587
Postgraduate Research	82	92	126	89	92	88
VET	952	814	1,938	2,114	3,291	1,616
Schools	3	1	29	27	23	15
ELICOS	171	451	4,453	4,214	2,532	1,500
Non-Award	8	213	471	555	708	424
<b>GRANT RATE</b>						
Higher Education	99.5%	96.4%	97.7%	94.6%	95.1%	92.0%
Postgraduate Research	100.0%	95.7%	100.0%	100.0%	98.9%	97.7%
VET	99.5%	95.0%	96.9%	89.8%	81.0%	79.8%
Schools	100.0%	100.0%	93.1%	96.3%	91.3%	80.0%
ELICOS	90.6%	87.1%	93.9%	79.6%	80.3%	81.9%
Non-Award	100.0%	100.0%	99.4%	99.8%	100.0%	99.5%

# How to read this report

## Source

Department of Home Affairs BP0015 Student Visa Grant Rates report, locked at 31 March 2026. All decisions counted by date of decision, not date of lodgement. FY 2025-26 figures cover the first nine months of the financial year (July 2025 to March 2026 inclusive).

## Definitions

- **Applications:** visa applications decided in the period. Equal to grants plus refusals.
- **Grant rate:** grants divided by total decided applications, expressed as a percentage.
- **Sectors:** follow the DHA classification: Higher Education, Postgraduate Research, VET, Schools, ELICOS, Non-Award. Foreign Affairs / Defence is excluded as it shows negligible volumes across this cohort.

## LATAM country grouping

19 Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking countries in Latin America are included in scope. Brazil, Chile, Argentina, and Colombia are reported separately throughout. The remaining 15 are aggregated as **Rest of LATAM:** Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Bolivia, Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Dominican Republic, and Cuba.

## Charting conventions

Line charts use a y-axis range of 50% to 100% to show grant rate variation clearly. A dashed red line at 75% marks the threshold below which grant rates indicate material assessment pressure. In sector breakdown bars, values below 75% are highlighted in orange.

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