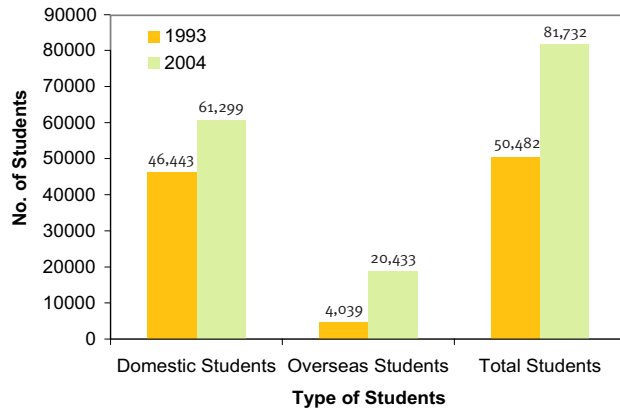


1.3 AN INCREASING STUDENT POPULATION

Domestic and overseas students enrolled at central city campuses



RMIT (above and below) has consolidated its status as a city university through continuous expansions in the city centre.

Universities and other educational institutions contribute to an active, lively urban environment by creating a people climate oriented towards young people. Students make a strong contribution to the city’s vitality and cultural diversity, providing a youthful stimulus and often international perspective. They also tend to engage more overtly with the street scene and other public spaces because they are more available to spend time out of doors, and in so doing make a strong contribution to the local economy.

Melbourne has expanded the number of educational institutions in the city centre over the past decade, in most cases integrating these facilities into the city fabric. The number of students attending academic institutions and/or living in the city centre has expanded by 62 per cent since 1993 - yielding nearly 82,000 students in 2004.

Student housing is mostly located outside the central city, but some student apartments are located in the city centre. Student populations are expected to continue to rise as the number of student places at Melbourne’s universities and institutes increases, and is supported by growth in inner city low-cost housing.

Traditional university towns throughout the UK, Europe and the US have long demonstrated that the presence of major research institutions in the city is a huge advantage in bringing technology, talent and tolerance to the local community. More recently, Richard Florida argues that an increased student population is a vital part of the creative/knowledge city, where high concentrations of creative people results in a high concentration of creative economic outcomes.⁴

⁴Florida (2003) The Rise of the Creative Class: 218

62%
MORE STUDENTS
IN THE CENTRAL CITY
1993-2004

