



Australia welcomes international students

International students are an important and valued part of Australia's world class education system. Those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can find a range of resources and support on the Department of Education [website](#).

Additional information can also be found on the [Study in Australia](#) website, the official Australian Government website for international students.

The Australian Government wants international students to have a rewarding and enjoyable experience when they come to Australia to study. Australia offers high quality education services and protects the rights of international students to ensure you make the most of your time here.

This fact sheet contains important information for student visa holders about living and studying in Australia, including your consumer rights and responsibilities as an international student and key things you should know before and during your study.

As a student on a student visa, you benefit from Australian laws that ensure high standards of education, facilities and support services while you are in Australia. You also have rights to information about your course and the education institution you wish to study with before and during your enrolment. The Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) framework offers you financial protection in case your education institution does not deliver what it has promised you.

You can find out more about the framework on the [Department of Education website](#).

As an international student, you can only study a course with an education institution listed on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). All education institutions registered on CRICOS have met the quality standards set out in Australian law, which ensures you receive the best possible education services.

[CRICOS](#) is a good place to start when you want to find a course or education institution to study with.

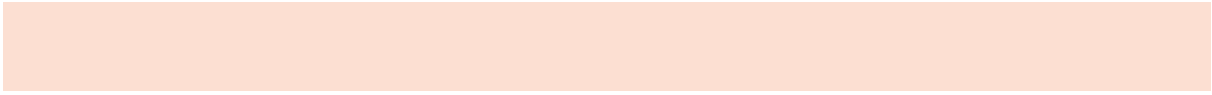
International students have to use an education agent. You can enrol directly with an Australian education institution. Information about what education institutions offer is usually on their websites.

If you want to use an education agent, it's best to pick one used by the education institution you want to study at. You can find a list of education agents on the education institution's website.

The law requires education institutions to only use education agents that act honestly and with integrity. Agents must give you accurate advice about the courses on offer, including entry requirements, and information about living in Australia. You should still be careful and alert when dealing with agents to ensure you enrol in a course that is suitable for you and will help you achieve your learning goals.

In Australia, education agents cannot give you information on visa and immigration matters – only migration agents can do this. You can find out more about using migration agents at the [Department of Home Affairs website](#).

If you think your education agent might be behaving dishonestly or unethically, you should stop using them immediately and contact your education institution directly.



If you change your mind and do not want to start the course, you may be entitled to a refund.

If you have a written agreement with the education institution, the amount of your refund will depend on the written agreement, which should tell you what will or will not be repaid to you.

If you do not have a written agreement, you have the right to receive some of your fees back. Under Australian law, the education institution is allowed to keep either 5 per cent of the fees you paid or \$500, whichever is the lowest amount, and must refund you the rest of the tuition fees you paid them.

Under Australian law your education institution must offer you support services to help you adjust to study and life in Australia, achieve your learning goals and maintain satisfactory progress in your learning. This support is available because we recognise that Australia may be a new environment for students, with different laws, culture and customs. Your education institution must give you free information and advice on:

- support and welfare services available at the education institution;
- legal services;
- emergency and health services;
- facilities and resources;
- complaints and appeals processes;
- any student visa condition that relates to the course you are studying; and
- services international students can access for information on their employment rights and conditions, and how to resolve workplace issues, such as through the Fair Work Ombudsman.

Many education institutions also offer career advice services. You should ask them whether they can help advise you on working and careers.

If you are under 18 years of age, you will only be granted a visa if there are adequate arrangements in place for your accommodation, support and general welfare. This is for your personal safety and applies for the length of your student visa or until you turn 18.

If you are under the age of 18, your visa application must demonstrate that you will be accompanied by a parent, legal custodian or an eligible relative. If you will not be living with one of these people, your education institution can agree to be responsible for approving your accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements while you are in Australia on a student visa.

If your education institution has approved your living and general welfare arrangements, but you wish to change them, you must have the approval of your education institution before you do so. This is because your education institution must advise the Department of Home Affairs as soon as possible about changes to living and welfare arrangements for students under 18.

If you don't have your education institution's approval, this may be reported to the Department of Home Affairs. If this happens, you will be in breach of student visa condition 8532 and your visa may

you a refund of your unspent prepaid tuition fees. If your education institution is unable to meet these obligations for some reason, the TPS will assist you in finding an alternative course or getting a refund if a suitable alternative is not found.

Visit the TPS website

