

## Information for the International student

As part of your decision to study in Australia it is important for you to understand all the information regarding visas, student's responsibilities and rights and where to find this information. On this page the following information is covered:

- Visas options for our students
- Student visas – important details (including addresses for good websites for studying in Australia)
- Your rights as an international student
- Schooling in Australia for dependent children of student visa holders

## Visas options for our students

Students who wish to study for 3 months or less can study on a Working Holiday Visa or a Visitors/Tourist visa. Students who wish to study for full time (minimum 20 hours per week) need to get a student visa. The advantage of a student visa is that students can work up to 20 hours per week.

For students who wish to study with us, there are 3 main visa types:

1. **Working Holiday visa:** Twelve month working holiday visas are available to young people – mainly 18 to 30 years of age – who are citizens of specified countries, including Canada, Republic of Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of The People's Republic of China, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. Students holding this visa can study a maximum of 17 weeks
2. **Tourist visa:** Tourist visas are normally issued for 4 to 6 months and the maximum students can study with this visa is 12 weeks
3. **Student visa:** students must be enrolled for more than 12 weeks and follow certain requirements. Student visa holders may work up to 20 hours per week

## Student visas - important details

For all information regarding visas the best website to visit is: [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au)

A very good website for general information about studying in Australia is:  
[www.studyinaustralia.gov.au](http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au)

### Conditions of a Student Visa

It is important to understand all the conditions of a student visa, some of them are outlined below:

1. **Course enrolment and attendance:** Students must remain enrolled in a full time registered course and must attend at least 80% of the course hours for the duration of their course. Students who lose their visas due to non-compliance with Australian visa regulations will be unable to re-enter the country for at least three years.

2. **Academic results:** Students also must achieve satisfactory academic results throughout their course. This means that they must undertake our weekly and monthly tests and show that their English is improving. Students cannot remain at the same level of skill in English for more than 12 weeks. Education providers, including ABILITY English, must advise the department if students' results are not satisfactory. The definition of 'satisfactory' is determined by the education provider.
3. **Unjustified absence:** ABILITY English, like all education providers, is required to report absences of students on student visas, which are not clearly justified. The school may not take official notice of doctor's certificates, unless the condition is serious and they are presented in advance of any absence. If a student has medical problems they must discuss the problem with DIMA. The school may be asked to provide advice on the student's attendance and academic progress to help DIMA. Where a student is absent without approval or seeks retrospective approval for an absence, we are required to report to government the student's actual attendance. This applies to all absences even where medical certificates are provided.
4. **Health insurance and the student visa:** Students must maintain health insurance while in Australia with Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) which provides medical and hospital insurance. ABILITY English can arrange health cover on their behalfs before they arrive here. We work with the extremely reputable company Worldcare and we issue it in blocks of 3 months. The advantages of Worldcare are:
  - 85 medical outlets that have direct billing
  - Worldcare representatives will process any claims
  - Access to translators with doctor consultanciesFor more information on Worldcare please visit their website:  
<https://www.oshcworldcare.com.au>
5. **Change of address:** The student must notify ABILITY English of any change of home address within 7 days of arriving in Australia. If they change their address during their stay in Australia, students must advise ABILITY English within 7 days.

For more information on student visa conditions follow this link

<http://www.immi.gov.au/students/visa-conditions-students.htm>

The Australian Government wants overseas students in Australia to have a safe, enjoyable and rewarding place to study. Australia's laws promote quality education and consumer protection for overseas students. These laws are known as the ESOS framework and they include the *Education Services for Overseas (ESOS) Act 2000* and the National Code 2007.

## Your rights as an international student

### ESOS framework:

As an overseas student on a student visa, you must study with an education provider and in a course that can be found on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) at <http://cricos.dest.gov.au>. CRICOS registration guarantees that the course and the education provider at which you study meet the high standards necessary for overseas students. Please check carefully that the details of your course – including its location – match the information on CRICOS.

### **Your rights**

The ESOS framework protects your rights, including:

- your right to receive, before enrolling, current and accurate information about the courses, fees, modes of study and other information from your provider and your provider’s agent. If you are under 18, to ensure your safety, you will be granted a visa only if there are arrangements in place for your accommodation, support and welfare.
- your right to sign a written agreement with your provider before or as you pay fees, setting out the services to be provided, fees payable and information about refunds of course money. You should keep a copy of your written agreement.
- your right to get the education you paid for. The ESOS framework includes consumer protection that will allow you to receive a refund or to be placed in another course if your provider is unable to teach your course.

The ESOS framework sets out the standards Australian education providers offering education services to overseas students must obey. These standards cover a range of information you have a right to know and services that must be offered, including:

- orientation and access to support services to help you study and adjust to life in Australia
- who the contact officer or officers is for overseas students
- if you can apply for course credit
- when your enrolment can be deferred, suspended or cancelled
- what your provider’s requirements are for satisfactory progress in the courses you study and what support is available if you are not progressing well
- if attendance will be monitored for your course, and a complaints and appeals process.

One of the standards does not allow another education provider to enrol a student who wants to transfer to another course, but has not completed six months of the final course of study you plan to undertake in Australia. If you want to transfer beforehand you need your provider’s permission. If you are under 18, to ensure your safety, you will be granted a visa only if there are arrangements in place for your accommodation, support and welfare.

### **Your responsibilities (as outlined in the ESOS framework)**

As an overseas student on a student visa, you have responsibilities to:

- satisfy your student visa conditions
- maintain your Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the period of your stay
- meet the terms of the written agreement with your education provider
- inform your provider if you change your address
- maintain satisfactory course progress
- if attendance is recorded for your course, follow your provider’s attendance policy, and if you are under 18, maintain your approved accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements.

Who?	Why?	How?
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Your provider	For policies and procedures that affect you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak with your provider.</li> <li>• Go to your provider's website.</li> </ul>
Department of Education Science and Training (DEST)	For your ESOS rights and responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.aei.dest.gov.au/ESOS">www.aei.dest.gov.au/ESOS</a></li> <li>• ESOS Helpline +61 2 6240 5069</li> <li>• Email <a href="mailto:esosmailbox@dest.gov.au">esosmailbox@dest.gov.au</a></li> </ul>
Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)	For visa matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.immi.gov.au">www.immi.gov.au</a></li> <li>• Phone 131 881 in Australia</li> <li>• Contact the DIAC office in your country.</li> </ul>

For the government pdf of the ESOS framework – click [here](#)

## Schooling in Australia for dependent children of student visa holders

Students who wish to study in Australia on a student visa and wish to bring their children, the children will need to be enrolled in a school. In Australia schooling is compulsory for all children from the ages of 5 to 15. For both primary and secondary education in NSW and Victoria, there are essentially three choices:

- **State public schools** (Dept. of Education and Training) charging the *Temporary Visa Holders Education Fee*;
- **Independent schools** - most have non-Catholic religious affiliations, eg. Anglican, Presbyterian, Jewish, Islamic and French schools. Fees range from moderate to very expensive.
- **Catholic schools** - parish primary schools and "systemic" high schools with moderate fees.

ABILITY English campus	State	Website	Contact
Sydney	NSW	Government schools: <a href="http://www.internationalschool.edu.au">www.internationalschool.edu.au</a> <a href="http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/international">http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/international</a> <a href="http://www.det.nsw.edu.au">www.det.nsw.edu.au</a>	<b>Temporary Visa Holders Unit</b> NSW Department of Education & Training Email: <a href="mailto:tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au">tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au</a> Ph: +612 1300300229 Fax: +61242249074
		Independent schools: <a href="http://www.aisnsw.edu.au">www.aisnsw.edu.au</a>	<b>The Association of Independent Schools</b> Email: <a href="mailto:admin@aisnsw.edu.au">admin@aisnsw.edu.au</a> Tel: 02 9299 2845 Fax: 02 9290 2274
		Catholic schools: <a href="http://www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au/">www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au/</a>	<b>Catholic Education Commission of NSW</b> Tel: 02 9569 6111

			Fax: 02 9550 0052
Melbourne	Victoria	Government school: <a href="http://www.study.vic.gov.au">www.study.vic.gov.au</a>	<b>Victoria Government Schools</b> International Student Program Unit Email: <a href="mailto:international@edumail.vic.gov.au">international@edumail.vic.gov.au</a> Tel: +61 3 9651 3700 (switch)
		Independent schools: <a href="http://www.ais.vic.edu.au">www.ais.vic.edu.au</a>	<b>Association of Independent Schools Victoria</b> Email: <a href="mailto:aisv@ais.vic.edu.au">aisv@ais.vic.edu.au</a> General Enquiries: 03 9825 7200
		Catholic schools: <a href="http://www.cecv.vic.catholic.edu.au">www.cecv.vic.catholic.edu.au</a>	<b>Catholic Education Commission of Victoria</b> Email: <a href="mailto:info@cecv.catholic.edu.au">info@cecv.catholic.edu.au</a> Telephone +61 3 9267 0228 Facsimile +61 3 9415 9325