



Provider Update: Student Visa Program

Contents

- [Update to COVID-19 Student visa fee waiver](#)
- [Visa requirements](#)
 - [Confirmation of Enrolments \(CoEs\)](#)
 - [Overseas Student Health Cover](#)
 - [Third party requests](#)
 - [Financial capacity](#)
 - [Genuine Temporary Entrant criteria](#)
- [Home Affairs data](#)

Update to COVID-19 Student visa fee waiver

[Form 1545 COVID-19 Impacted Student](#) was designed to support those students who had their ability to complete their current course disrupted by COVID-19 impacts and need to apply for a new Student visa to extend their stay in Australia to complete that current course of study. This includes those who have deferred their current course of study, have been required to reduce to a part time study load or are unable to complete their work-based training/placements.

In endorsing the form, Education Providers must be satisfied that they were unable to offer the course in the original time frame as intended either due to an inability to deliver the course or parts of the course. It is not intended to cover scenarios where the student has voluntarily chosen to reduce to part time study, withdrew from studying or fails courses.

It is important the COVID-19 impact is described in question 8 on [Form 1545](#). Details on the impact must be provided. Examples of responses for question 8 are below:

Scenario	Example of text for question 8
Student deferred their study as they were unable to enter Australia due to travel restrictions	Deferral due to travel restrictions
Student deferred their study as the Education Provider unable to deliver the course due to COVID-19	Deferral due to Education Provider inability to deliver course
Student was forced to reduce to a part-time study load	Forced reduction to part-time study
Student was unable to complete their work-based training and/or placements.	Unable to complete practical component of course

Students can also supply further evidence of their COVID-19 related impacts along with the form. Visa Decision Makers may also use PRISMS to verify information on the form. Course amendments should be recorded on PRISMS as required.

Failure to provide the required information to support the request for visa fee waiver consideration will result in the application being invalid. This is not a refusal of the application and the student can submit another application.

Dependants, where included in the application with the primary applicant, are eligible for a nil-VAC.

You can provide an electronic signature for the form.



The Student visa fee waiver is a temporary measure and will continue for as long as necessary. Students do not need to apply for a new Student visa if their visa does not expire in the immediate future. Students are encouraged to submit a new student visa application at least six weeks prior to visa expiry.

The Department's [website](#) has been updated to include this information.

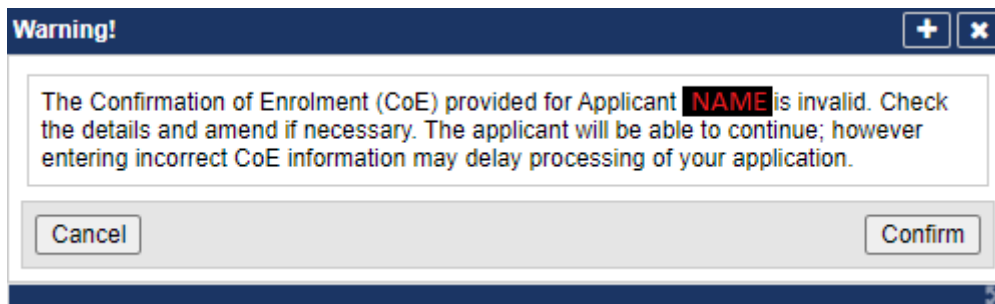
Visa requirements

Confirmation of Enrolments (CoEs)

CoEs should accurately reflect the course start and end dates (including any periods of online study offshore).

The most important factor is that the CoE end date is reflective of the actual course date so student visas are granted in line with the course end date.

Students are able to lodge student visa applications with a CoE start date up to six months in the past. A soft warning may appear in ImmiAccount, but the applicant can ignore and continue with their application. The message that pops up in the student visa application form tells client the CoE is invalid:



Student visa applicants who are awaiting a decision on their application should attach new CoEs to their [ImmiAccount](#).

Student visa holders do not need to send new CoEs to the Department through other communication channels.

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

The Department requires student visa applicants to hold adequate health insurance at the time of their visa grant and maintain this during their stay in Australia.

The OSHC start date must be in advance of the course start date. The Department accepts up to one week before.

At a minimum, OSHC should be provided until the CoE end date. For additional time, post CoE end date, OSHC should be provided in accordance with the information on the Department's [website](#).

Any changes to health insurance arrangements post student visa grant and prior to arrival in Australia are a matter for the visa holder (or education provider) and health insurance provider.

More information on OSHC is available on the Department of Health's [website](#).

Third party requests

Access to a range of services to support student visa assessment have been disrupted due to COVID-19 impacts. This includes overseas panel doctors who undertake medical checks and English language testing facilities. While these services are unavailable, many applicants will be unable to meet visa requirements however, students will be given additional time to complete checks and provide requested information. The Department will contact the applicant if further information is required before making a decision on the visa application.

Financial capacity

Financial capacity requirements have not changed. Information on financial capacity requirements is available on the Department's [website](#).

Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) criteria

GTE assessments are being undertaken as usual. The GTE requirement is applied to all students. The factors considered by departmental officers when assessing the GTE are set out in Ministerial Direction 69. You can find a copy of the direction on the Department's [website](#).

Home Affairs data

Statistical information on international students is publically available via the Department's [website](#). These reports provide regular data on the Student visa and Temporary Graduate visa programs.

The biannual release of the Student visa and Temporary Graduate visa program publication is scheduled for release via the Department's website on 4 September 2020. This report has been provided to assist education providers, representative bodies and policymakers in the delivery of Australia's international education program.