



Factsheet – Transnational Education (TNE) Programs and Ministerial Direction No. 111

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring the quality, integrity and sustainability of Australia’s international education sector. Arrangements to improve the integrity and sustainability of the sector are set out in the *Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024* (ESOS Bill).

The ESOS Bill did not pass Parliament in time for arrangements to be implemented by 1 January 2025, and the proposed amendments are therefore not in operation.

However, the Government remains committed to managing the sector at sustainable levels. The introduction of [Ministerial Direction No. 111](#) on 19 December 2024 is consistent with the Government’s intent and prioritises student visa applications in a fair and efficient way.

In 2024, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations informed VET providers of their 2025 indicative new overseas student commencement (NOSC) allocations. These allocations guide the prioritisation process for offshore student visa processing under Ministerial Direction No. 111.

More information about Ministerial Direction No. 111 can be found on the Department of Home Affairs website.

Ministerial Direction No. 111 affords the highest priority (Priority 1) processing on a continuous basis to visa applications from students enrolled in eligible VET TNE programs. The Government supports VET providers that take Australian education and qualifications to the world. High quality VET TNE builds important linkages and institutional partnerships and contributes to Australia’s research goals and efforts to support foreign policy priorities. It also complements Australia’s onshore education offerings.

Eligible VET TNE programs under Ministerial Direction No. 111

Visa applications from students enrolled in an eligible VET TNE program will receive continuous high priority (Priority 1) processing under Ministerial Direction No. 111. An eligible VET TNE program is one which meets the following criteria:

1. The overseas study forms part of the delivery of Nationally Recognised Training (NRT) – vocational education and training leading to an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification, regulated and registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), and
2. No more than 60 per cent of the course leading to the AQF qualification is to be completed in Australia (with limited scope for public providers’ transnational programs to exceed this threshold with approval by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations on a case-by-case basis), and
3. The program was in place and the course was being delivered prior to 1 July 2024, and
4. The offshore study component is delivered through face-to-face learning, not online delivery.

If an arrangement only provides for credit recognition of an overseas qualification, or the program does not qualify as a VET course under the AQF, this falls outside the scope of an eligible VET TNE program, as described above.

For providers delivering VET qualifications offshore that articulate to a higher education qualification onshore, the criteria applying for students enrolled in higher education TNE programs will apply.

Providers must ensure the VET TNE program is listed as an approved course of study as part of their CRICOS registration and ensure they have notified ASQA of the offshore delivery arrangements. ASQA must be informed of such arrangements through registration or a material change notification.

Visa applications from students enrolled in eligible VET TNE programs will always be given Priority 1 processing status by Department of Home Affairs decision makers, regardless of whether a VET provider has reached or exceeded its Prioritisation Threshold and moved to Priority 2 (standard) processing status.

For higher education and VET providers, the Prioritisation Threshold refers to 80 per cent of an individual provider’s 2025 indicative NOSC allocation. Indicative 2025 NOSC allocations are published on the department’s website and continue to be available in PRISMS. Information about criteria for eligible higher education sector TNE programs is available at www.education.gov.au.

Eligible TNE program data are currently manually collected from providers and uploaded into PRISMS. Data was collected from providers in November and December 2024 and will continue to be updated periodically throughout 2025.

VET providers can request further information, instructions or provide eligible VET TNE student information directly to the department by emailing strategicframework@dewr.gov.au.