

Secondary courses for international students

Students on international visa are only allowed to study with a CRICOS registered provider. If doing a secondary course to their main course they still must study with a CRICOS registered provider and be issued with a CoE for the entire course/ qualification they are studying, regardless if they are only doing a couple of units from a course. Once they completed the course/units the CoE is marked as completed in PRISMS.

VET COURSES REFER: <https://www.asqa.gov.au/faqs>

An overseas student is defined in [Section 5 of the ESOS Act](#) as a person (whether inside or outside Australia) who holds a student visa (as defined in regulation 1.03 of the Migration Regulations 1994), excluding:

- a Subclass 576 (Foreign Affairs and Defence Sector) visa, or
- a person who satisfies the secondary criteria, but not the primary criteria, under the Migration Regulations 1994 for the grant of the visa, or
- a secondary exchange student within the meaning of the Migration Regulations 1994, or
- an overseas student who has been approved under a scholarship scheme, or an exchange scheme, sponsored by the Commonwealth to undertake a course of study or training in Australia.

As specified in [Section 8 of the ESOS Act](#), a provider must be registered on CRICOS to provide a course at a location or do so in accordance with an arrangement they have with another registered provider.

As such, an overseas student in Australia on a student visa is permitted to undertake additional study (that is, a course of education or training) at the same time as the principal course for which they hold a student visa. However, any course undertaken by a student visa holder must be registered on CRICOS. A Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) is also required for any additional study in a course undertaken by an overseas student whilst in Australia on a student visa.

CRICOS providers are responsible for all aspects of compliance with the requirements under the ESOS Framework and its associated legislation. For example, as a CRICOS provider, you must have a written agreement with each student, and you must complete the visa-related reporting requirements relating to the student's enrolment for each course. Failure to comply with the requirements in one course could lead to a student's visa being cancelled and the student defaulting in both courses.

A student on a student visa who is seeking to undertake additional study should be aware of the requirements of their student visa and the need to:

- remain enrolled in a registered course
- achieve satisfactory course attendance, and
- progress in their principal course of study.