

CRICOS?

What is CRICOS?

The Australian Government provides consumer protection for overseas students and regulates providers of education services in Australia through the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) regulatory framework and the Student Visa Programme.

*The Department of Education and Training is responsible for the **Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)**. Only education institutions registered under the ESOS Act and listed on CRICOS can enrol overseas students to study in Australia on a student visa.¹*

The majority of non-government schools are individually registered on the CRICOS and so are individually responsible for meeting all compliance requirements and costs. State / territory departments of education, on the other hand, hold a single CRICOS provider registration for any number of government schools within a jurisdiction.

ABOUT CRICOS REGISTRATION

There is a two-step process for schools to become registered on the CRICOS. First, they must apply for approval to the designated state authority (DSA). If satisfied that the school will comply with Commonwealth legislative requirements under the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) framework, as well as any jurisdictional requirements, the DSA will recommend approval to the Australian Government Department of Education and Training for inclusion on the CRICOS. If accepted, the school's

registration details will be placed on the CRICOS website: <http://cricos.education.gov.au/>, and the school will be given access to the Provider Registration and International Student Management System ([PRISMS](#)). Whilst registered, a school's legal entity and CRICOS code must appear on any materials used to engage with a student or prospective student up until the point of enrolment.

PRISMS is used to create a confirmation of enrolment (CoE) for an accepted overseas student enrolment. A student needs a current CoE for a registered course offered by a CRICOS registered provider to be able to apply for, or continue to hold, a student visa. Registered providers must keep student and education agent details updated in PRISMS.

Students wishing to study in Australia for a course (longer than three months) must apply online for a [student visa \(subclass 500\)](#). The student's visa is usually granted for the length of their enrolled course(s) in an education sector, up to a maximum of five years. Under some circumstances, an enabling course such as ELICOS² can be "packaged" with the student's "primary" course for visa grant purposes. However, students need to apply for a new visa if wishing to study a higher-level course in another sector. Students must maintain visa length Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) insurance whilst in Australia.

After accepting an overseas student's enrolment, CRICOS registered providers take on a range of responsibilities and obligations mandated in the [National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018](#), including

¹ Provider Registration
<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/regulatory-information/pages/regulatoryinformation.aspx>
(Accessed 03/09/18)

² An English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) is also known as a High School Preparation (HSP) course in the school sector.

monitoring student course progress and attendance to comply with visa conditions.

COSTS

Registration fees and charges for non-government schools include:

- an Entry to Market Charge (EMC) to become CRICOS registered for the first time, or if registration has lapsed
- an Annual Registration Charge (ARC) to the Commonwealth to maintain registration³
- an initial registration charge to the Queensland DSA, and a fee for making amendments to registration details⁴
- an annual levy payable to the [Tuition Protection Service](#) (TPS), based on fixed amounts set by legislative instrument, the number of overseas student enrolments each calendar year and a set of annually reviewed “risk” factors.

Government schools and other public providers are exempt from the EMC and some components of the TPS levy.

Other costs include the investment needed to develop, operate and maintain an international education program. For example, as part of the registration process, schools need to demonstrate they have staff and resources sufficient for the maximum number of students they are registered to enrol. This includes for administration, compliance and student support.

³ See <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/regulatory-information/provider-registration/fees-and-charges/pages/default.aspx> (Accessed 04/09/18)

⁴ See under Queensland fee schedule <https://www.qld.gov.au/education/international/pages/cricos> (Accessed 04/09/18)

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IN AUSTRALIA AND IN QUEENSLAND

On 23/08/18 there were 1,420 CRICOS registered institutions in Australia⁵.

State/Territory	Total	Total
New South Wales	426	30%
Victoria	378	27%
Queensland	328	23%
Western Australia	120	8%
South Australia	96	7%
Tasmania	32	2%
Australian Capital Territory	27	2%
Northern Territory	13	1%

Around a third of the 23% of CRICOS registered providers that are in Queensland are non-government schools.

Total No. CRICOS Registered Providers QLD	Private	Independent Schools	Catholic Schools
328	275	85	21
Total%	84%	26%	6%
		32%	

In June 2018, there were 565,975 overseas students in Australia, around 3% of whom were enrolled in the school sector.⁶

According to 2018 State Census data, the independent school sector in Queensland catered for 1,777 full-time equivalent (FTE) overseas student enrolments, an increase of 108 students from 1,669 overseas student

⁵ [Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students \(CRICOS\)](#) (Accessed 24/08/18)

⁶ <https://internationaleducation.gov.au/research/International-Student-Data/Documents/MONTHLY%20SUMMARIES/2018/June%202018%20MonthlyInfographic.pdf> (Accessed 03/09/18)

enrolments in 2017. This was a 6.5% increase, approximately half the rate of increase in enrolments that occurred from 2016 to 2017 (13.2%) and from 2015 to 2016 (13.5%).⁷

Sources for overseas student data include:

- PRISMS, which provides detailed overseas student enrolment and commencement data for industry - some is publicly available, and some of which can only be accessed by subscription to the Austrade [Market Information Package](#) (MIP)
- Department of Home Affairs [Study in Australia \(student visa\) statistics](#)
- [Other sources of international education data listed on the DET website](#)
- [ISQ Sector Statistics](#) – Data Snapshots for Overseas Students.

ISQ SUPPORT FOR CRICOS REGISTERED SCHOOLS

The ISQ Project Manager (International Education) provides day-to-day support and advice on any matters related to CRICOS registration, compliance with state and commonwealth legislative requirements, student welfare and support, marketing and recruitment, as well as other matters related to industry and international engagement. Contact details are provided below.

Compliance and other resources for CRICOS registered schools are available to ISQ member schools in the member hub at <https://www.isq.qld.edu.au/members/international-education>. These include handbook templates for School CRICOS Policies and Procedures and for Education Agents. An International Student Handbook template is currently being developed.

Professional learning opportunities are offered at an orientation day for staff new to international

education programs at the start of each year, and an international education networking day for non-government schools each term. Details can be found in [ISQ Professional Learning and Events](#) by searching for “international education”.

Member schools can subscribe to international education email updates which provide information on opportunities, events and media coverage of international education news, issues and trends by contacting the Project Manager (International Education).

ISSUES, ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

ISQ actively represents and advocates on behalf of the sector in international education forums and events in Queensland and nationally.

ISQ represents sector interests as an ISCA representative for the

- Education Visa Consultative Committee (Department of Home Affairs)
- International Education Data Working Group (Australian Government DET)
- Under 18s Welfare Working Group (Australian Government DET)
- International Education Stakeholders Group (Australian Government DET),

advocating for non-government schools on issues such as

- options for overseas students to study VET in CRICOS registered schools
- reduction in regulatory red tape, fees and charges
- review of the two-year limit on primary school visas.

At state level, ISQ meets regularly with other international education peak bodies and Study Queensland as part of Queensland’s International

⁷[ISQ 2018 State Census Snapshot: Overseas Student Enrolments, 2013-2018 Update](#) (Accessed 28/08/18)

Education Strategy Partnership Plan and collaborates with other sectors to organise annual cross sector workshops for school advisers of Year 12 international students and locally based education agents.

Current international education issues and concerns include:

- impact of slowing of growth of student enrolments from China and overall proportion of Chinese students to students from other source countries
- education agent management
- increase of courses for under 18s in other sectors
- unethical recruitment of under 18s into other sectors from school sector.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND FUNDING SUPPORT

International education is Australia's third largest export industry, contributing \$30.3 to the economy in 2017.⁸

The Australian and Queensland Governments have International Education Strategies to drive growth in international student enrolments and enhance student experiences.⁹

School sector projects supported by Australian International Education: Enabling Growth and Innovation (EGI) funding include the 2018 International School Student Survey and a project about to start soon: *Filling the Data Gap: International Engagement in the School Sector*. This is a national project to capture international engagement data in the Australian secondary school sector.¹⁰

⁸ [DET Research Snapshot June 2018](#) (Accessed 04/09/18)

⁹ [National Strategy and Council for International Education](#) and, in Queensland, the [International Education and Training Strategy to Advance Queensland 2016–2026](#) (Accessed 04/09/18)

The Queensland Government provides funding for CRICOS registered providers in Queensland on a competitive basis under biannual rounds of the [International Education and Training \(IET\) Partnership Fund](#).

In 2016-17, ISQ successfully secured Study Queensland funding for translation of international school profiles to assist schools extend their reach internationally.¹¹ Consortia of schools have also been successful in obtaining funding for a range of projects.

CRICOS registered schools with an income of less than \$50 million for a year may be eligible for the Australian Government [Export Market Development Grant](#) (EMDG) administered by Austrade.

BEYOND CRICOS

ISQ provides advice on request to schools on enrolling students with visas for census purposes. Tips and information on are available in a [Fact Sheet - enrolling students on visas](#) in the ISQ member hub.

Schools wishing to enrol students from other countries for short periods of time, for example, as part of a sister school relationship, holiday program or study tour, should be aware that visitor visas allow studies for up three calendar months. Students holding visitor visas are not eligible for government funding and are not included in census collections.

Schools wishing to enrol secondary exchange students as part of a registered secondary exchange program should be aware that these students cannot be charged tuition fees. Please see [Student exchange: long-term programs](#) for information about registered secondary exchange programs. As of 1 July 2018, Registered Secondary Exchange Organisations (SEOs) must comply with the [Education \(Overseas Students\)](#)

¹⁰ [Australian International Education: Enabling Growth and Innovation Program](#) (Accessed 04/09/18)

¹¹ <https://www.isq.qld.edu.au/about-independent-schools/international-students> (Accessed 04/09/18)

[Act 2018](#) (Qld), and the [Queensland Guidelines for the operation of international secondary student exchange programs, which were released on 5 September, 2018](#).

ISQ supports internationalisation of schooling and global citizenship education in schools by providing updates through an email group and resources in [Connect & Learn](#). ISQ has also developed a Student Global Engagement survey to assist schools establish benchmark data to understand student attitudes, beliefs and experiences that underpin development of a range of the general capabilities articulated in the Australian Curriculum.

QUICK LINKS

CRICOS & ESOS

- [ESOS legislative framework](#) (Cwlth)
- [National Code 2018 implementation](#) (Cwlth)
- [Registration on CRICOS](#) (Cwlth)
- [Fees and charges](#)
- [Offering courses to overseas students](#) (Qld)
- [Education \(Overseas Students\) Act 2018](#) (Qld)
- [Queensland's Education \(Overseas Students\) Regulation 2018](#) (Qld)

Student visas (Department of Home Affairs)

- [Studying in Australia](#)
- [School sector students](#)
- [Education providers](#)

Other – Other regulatory

- [PRISMS](#)
- [TPS](#)
- [OSHC](#)
- [Overseas Students Ombudsman](#)
- [Queensland Guidelines for the operation of international secondary student exchange programs](#)

Other – industry

- [Austrade](#)
- [International Education and Training Queensland](#) (now known as Study Queensland)
- [International Education Association of Australia \(IEAA\)](#)

MORE INFORMATION OR ADVICE

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