



Student visa program: Processing update for education providers

Notification of a deferral (compassionate or compelling circumstances)

As you may be aware, student visa holders whose enrolment is deferred for compelling or compassionate reasons are not subject to visa cancellation for breach of condition 8202 (relating to non-enrolment).

Under Standard 9 of the National Code, education providers may defer the enrolment of a student if it believes there are compassionate or compelling circumstances:

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/Regulatory-Information/Pages/National-Code-2018-Factsheets-.aspx>

Where a provider approves a deferral for compelling or compassionate reasons, and where the course end date will need to change, the provider should enter the deferral through a Student Course Variation (SCV) in PRISMS, which will cancel student's current Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE). The provider will be able to issue a new CoE with the intended course dates following the deferral (a new CoE should be issued immediately so there is no effect on the student visa). The SCV must indicate the reason for deferral was compelling or compassionate circumstances.

For more information on entering the deferral in PRISMS, see the Provider User Guide:

https://prisms.education.gov.au/Information/ShowInformation.aspx?Doc=Provider_User_Guide&key=information-provider-user-guide&Heading=

Reminder about Commonwealth funded students

Student visa applicants who identify themselves as a Commonwealth funded student in the application form are required to provide evidence that their scholarship is full or partially funded by the Australian Government.

Education providers should clearly inform students who have been awarded a scholarship that is funded by the Commonwealth in their scholarship grant letter. This will assist student visa applicants to complete the application form accurately. If the student visa applicant completes this question incorrectly, the application will be invalid and the student will need to re-apply for the visa which will cause delays.

We also encourage providers to state whether a scholarship is Commonwealth or university funded in the comments section of the CoE to assist with visa processing.

Department of Home Affairs

The Department of Home Affairs was established on 20 December 2017.

Education providers should update any references to the Department of Immigration and Border or DIBP to the Department of Home Affairs or HA.

Please also update email addresses for departmental staff to firstname.lastname@homeaffairs.gov.au including student.visa.programme@homeaffairs.gov.au. This mailbox is a dedicated contact point for education providers to seek information about student, graduate or training visas.