

BRIT Procedure

International Students Refund

Purpose

To outline the procedure to be applied when applications are received for refund of course fees by inbound International Students.

Scope

Applies to all enrolled inbound International Students who are seeking a course fee refund.

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Actions

1. Records Maintenance

International Student Application for Refund Form will be placed on the student file in the International Office.

Title	Location	Responsible Person	Minimum Retention Period
International Student Application for Refund Form	Student file International Office	Manager International	Temporary – destroy 7 years following date of decision

2. Terms and Conditions

- 2.1 Each prospective and continuing inbound international student acknowledges and agrees to the terms and conditions of the international student refund policy on signing the International Student Agreement Form.
- 2.2 The terms and conditions set out in this International Student Refund Policy apply equally to commencing and continuing students unless otherwise specified.
- 2.3 Applications for refunds for inbound international students must be authorised by the Manager International (**the Institute**) or his or her nominee.
- 2.4 The Institute reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions at any time.
- 2.5 Where fees are paid by a party on behalf of the student, the Institute reserves the right to notify that party.

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- 2.6 The Institute is obliged to inform the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) of any change of status where a student completes his or her course early, transfers to another provider, is excluded on academic grounds and fails to meet his or her visa conditions, defers or intermits his or her study or otherwise changes the expected completion date of his or her study.
- 2.7 The funds covering the tuition fees must be clear at the time that the refund request is made by the student and all debts to the Institute must be paid before any refund can be made.
- 2.8 Refund requests for full or partial refunds must be made in writing on the Refund Application Form, must set out the reasons for the request and be accompanied by supporting documentation as appropriate. The refund request must be forwarded to:

International Office
Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE
P.O Box 170
BENDIGO
Victoria 3552
AUSTRALIA

- 2.9 The written Refund Application Form must include the date of the claim, the student's full name, the basis for making the claim, the address and bank account details to which the refund is to be forwarded and the student's signature. Claims will not be processed where the signature on the claim does not match the student's signature as shown on other documents provided by the student for admission to the Institute.
- 2.10 This Policy, the Student Agreement and the availability of complaints and appeals processes, do not remove the right of the student to take action under Australia's consumer protection laws.

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3. Schedule 1

Category	Time application received by Institute	Amount of refund for formal courses	Amount of refund for ELICOS	Documentary evidence required in addition to the Refund Application Form
A.1 Visa Refusal	At and any time	All payments less administration fees (\$55.00)	All payments less Administration Fee (\$55.00)	Original letter of refusal from the Department of Immigration and citizenship (DIAC)
A.2 Application Refusal by the institute A.3 Application withdrawal by the Institute on the basis of incorrect or incomplete information	At and any time	All payments less administration fees (\$55.00)	All payments less administration fees (\$55.00)	Non Offer Letter
B. Special circumstances	Prior to commence of semester	All payments for upcoming semesters less Administration fees (\$55.00)	All payments for upcoming semesters less Administration fees (\$55.00)	Evidence or proof to the satisfaction of the Institute
	After semester has commenced	All payments for current and upcoming semesters less 20% of current semesters fees	All payments for current and upcoming semesters less 20% of current semesters fees	Letter from the student and original air ticket and evidence or proof to the satisfaction of the Institute
C. Withdrawal by student, including but not limited to cases of : 1. Visa Cancellation; and 2. Transfer to another provider (subject to the Institute student Transfer Policy)	More than 28 days before semester commences	All payments less 20% of next semesters fees	All payments less 20% of ELICOS fee for 20 weeks maximum	Withdrawal Proof of withdrawal from all subjects, original air ticket /e Ticket, evidence of payment of fare, and letter from the student.
	28 days or less before semester commences	50% of next semesters fees	All payments less 50% of ELICOS fee for 20 weeks maximum	Visa Cancellation None
	On or after the day semester commences	No refund	No refund	Transfer Letter of Release according to Institute Student Transfer Policy
D.1 Cancellation of course by the Institute	At any time	Full refund	Full refund	None – Refund will be paid directly to the student
D.2 Part of course not offered by the Institute	At any time	Full refund	Full refund	None – Refund will be paid directly to the student
D.3 Offer of place withdrawn by Institute where no incorrect or incomplete information provided by student	At any time	Full Refund	Full refund	None – Refund will be paid directly to the student

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3.1 In the unlikely event that the Institute is unable to deliver a course in full, the student will be offered a refund of all the course money paid to date. The refund will be paid within 2 weeks of the day on which the course ceased being provided. Alternatively, the student may be offered enrolment in an alternative course by the Institute at no extra cost. The student has the right to choose whether he or she would prefer a full refund of course fees, or to accept a place in another course. If the student chooses placement in another course, the Institute will ask the student to sign a document to indicate acceptance of the placement.

4. Special Circumstances

4.1 Special circumstances are determined at the discretion of the Manager International, or his or her nominee, as preventing a student for taking up the course where:

4.2 illness of disability prevents a student for taking up the course;

4.3 the student has been excluded from the Institute for failure to meet progression rules and where fees were paid in advance of notification of that exclusion;

4.4 there is a death of a close family member of the student (parent, sibling, spouse or child);or

4.5 other special or extenuating circumstances, including political, civil or natural events affect the student.

5. Refunds for Students who obtain Permanent Resident Visa Status

5.1 Permanent resident status is recognised from the date that the permanent resident visa is formally notified to the student and not the date on which the application for the permanent visa was made.

5.2 If a student obtains Australian permanent resident status before his or her enrolment in a course but after the date of the Letter of Offer for the course, the fee-paying overseas place will be withdrawn. If the student wishes to continue study at the Institute he or she must apply for a local student place and will be subject to the same selection criteria applicable to these applicants and will be liable to pay the Tuition and the Student Services and Amenities Fee for that course. If the student has already paid the tuition fees, applying to inbound international students for this semester, or any future semesters, a total refund of these fees is payable to the student.

5.3 If a student obtains a permanent resident status after enrolling in a course, the student will be liable to pay the tuition fees applying to inbound international students for that semester in which the permanent resident status was granted.

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6 Payment of Refunds

- 6.1 In circumstances where the Institute course does not start on the agreed starting date, or in which the Institute stops the course after it starts and before it is completed or where the course is not provided fully to the student because the Institute has a sanction imposed by a government regulator, the refund of fees will be paid in full to the student within 2 weeks.
- 6.2 In any other circumstances, the Institute will refund the amount within 4 weeks after receiving the completed and signed Application for Refund forms together with appropriate supporting documentation.
- 6.3 Refunds will be made in Australian dollars to the same person or body from whom the original payment was received on behalf of the student.
- 6.4 Date of the notification for request for refund is the date the request for a refund is received at the International Office.
- 6.5 In the event that a student wishes to contest the decision on a refund request, he or she would have access to the Institute's Grievance Policy and Procedure

7 Package Fee Refunds

- 7.1 A full refund will be made under the categories A1-3 and B in the table above.
- 7.2 Where a student has paid a package course fee deposit in advance and gives notice that they cannot undertake the principal course or is granted a release from the requirement to study 6 months of the principal course a refund of the deposit paid for the principal course will be paid less \$1000 administrative fee.

Definitions

DIAC is the Commonwealth Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

DEEWR is the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Inbound International Students are students who are enrolled at the Institute and are holders of a student VISA.

PRISMS is the DEEWR Provider Registration and International Students Management System.

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Associated Documents

BRIT Student Fees and Charges Policy
Student Grievance Procedure
International Student Agreement
International Student Application for Refund Form
International Student Handbook

References

Education Services for Overseas Students Act 200(ESOS Act 2000)

National Code of Practise for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2007 (The National Code 2007).

Australian Migration Regulations

DIAC Student Visa Conditions

For International Students

Australian Government National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2007, and Explanatory Guide to the Standards. <http://aei.gov.au/AEI/AboutAEI/Default.htm>

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