



Innovation Development Fund

Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030

On 26 November 2021, the Australian Government released the *Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030* and key initiatives supporting its implementation. This includes \$9.4 million for the Innovation Development Fund.

The fund will provide further short-term targeted support to private English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) providers to diversifying their education offerings into online and offshore delivery. The new program will commence from January 2022 and provide targeted funding for six months. The new Innovation Development Fund builds on the fully subscribed Innovation Fund announced in early 2021.

Applications opened on 4 January 2022 and eligible providers will be able to apply, through the English Australia website, for grant funding of up to \$150,000 to invest in infrastructure, staff expertise, marketing and promotion of education services, service delivery costs, and to fund the design of curriculums and innovative digital teaching solutions for online and offshore delivery.

The Innovation Development Fund recognises that even with borders opening to fully vaccinated international students from 1 December 2021, it will take some time for students to return. By targeting further support to eligible ELICOS providers through COVID-19, these providers will be able to re-establish a pipeline of students, supporting long-term recovery until international students return at scale.

Who is eligible?

The Innovation Development Fund is targeted at private ELICOS providers registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students who continue to be most affected by Australia's border closures.

Guidelines for the fund, which set out further details on eligibility criteria for providers, are available at www.dese.gov.au/australian-strategy-international-education-2021-2030/resources/innovation-development-fund-guidelines-2022. New applicants that did not receive funding under the Innovation Fund, and who submit strong applications will be given priority. However, all providers who meet the eligibility criteria will be able to apply for grant funding.