



Industry-led offshore micro-credentials

Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030

On 25 November 2021, the Australian Government released the *Australian Strategy for International Education 2021-2030* and announced a package of initiatives supporting its implementation. As part of this package, an industry-led micro-credentials competitive fund will be established to provide \$8 million in seed funding for Australian industry to develop up to 70 globally relevant micro-credentials.

The industry-linked micro-credentials will be licensed to tertiary education providers for delivery online and offshore – targeting international students – and will have links to Australia’s skills needs identified by the National Skills Commission. They will be developed by industry, commercial or professional bodies in consultation with both public and private providers and will demonstrate recognition/accreditation by industry.

International students completing the micro-credential courses may wish to continue their study onshore, with the micro-credential courses contributing credit towards a full Australian qualification.

The micro-credentials developed will be listed on the National Micro-credentials Marketplace (to be launched mid-late 2022) and must meet the requirements stipulated in the National Micro-credentials Framework. The Marketplace will not include the functionality to host micro-credentials – rather, education providers must be able to host them on their LMS or other systems.

Who is eligible?

Funding for the industry-led micro-credentials is for professional associations and commercial bodies. These organisations will be able to apply through a competitive selection process based on their ability to develop a micro-credential in an area of global skills needs. Eligibility criteria are under development but will be announced closer to the launch date.

Start date

A procurement process commenced on 1 April 2022 and closes on 18 May 2022, to facilitate 2022-23 funding and development.