

Pacific Training Group Closure

Education Agents Information Session

July 2023

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Director, Program Management









Outline

- Tuition Protection Service (TPS)
- Visa matters (Home Affairs)
- Student records (ASQA)
- Study Queensland, Study Gold Coast and Study New South Wales
- How to use TPS Online



Purpose of this meeting

- Inform education agents of how the Tuition Protection Service can assist students
- Present information on visa matters
- Present information on getting a copy of a student's study records
- Identify other assistance available



Pacific Training Group (OHS Media Services Pty Ltd)

- Pacific Training Group ceased delivering courses to students on Wednesday 19 July 2023
- Pacific Training Group did not meet its obligations to students and the Tuition
 Protection Service (TPS) activated on Friday 21 July 2023
- We will be working to arrange for students to continue their studies with an alternative provider, or provide students with a refund of their unspent tuition fees

What is the Tuition Protection Service (TPS)?





Tuition Protection Service (TPS)

- Australian Government initiative within the Department of Education
- Student tuition fee protection scheme
- Supports students following an education provider closure by:
 - 1. arranging for students to continue their studies with an alternative provider; or
 - 2. providing students with a refund of unspent tuition fees



TPS Operations Team



- Led by TPS Director
- Small team of around 16
- Located in Canberra

TPS Online system

- TPS Online is the system used to request and receive TPS assistance
- Students, or agents on students' behalf, can request a place with an alternative provider or request a refund in TPS Online
- We will show you how to use TPS Online later in this presentation
- TPS Online step-by-step instructions are on the TPS website
- If a student would like their agent to act on their behalf in TPS Online, the student must request and return an Authority to Act form by emailing support@tps.gov.au





Continuing studies with an alternative provider

- Our priority: to help students find a new education and training provider so they
 can continue their studies
- TPS Online contains a list of alternative courses at different providers nearby
- Students will need to contact the new provider to enrol with them. The provider
 will upload an offer in TPS Online that students will need to accept. The TPS will
 pay what is owed to the student by Pacific Training Group directly to the new
 provider
- If a student has already enrolled at a new education provider,
 the TPS can pay their unspent tuition fees through TPS Online





Unspent tuition fees

 Unspent tuition fees are the fees that were paid to Pacific Training Group for education or training that a student did not receive:

For example, if 10 weeks of tuition were paid and a student only attended classes for 7 weeks, the remaining 3 weeks are their **unspent** tuition fees.

 The TPS can provide students with a refund of any unspent tuition fees that were paid to Pacific Training Group for their tuition



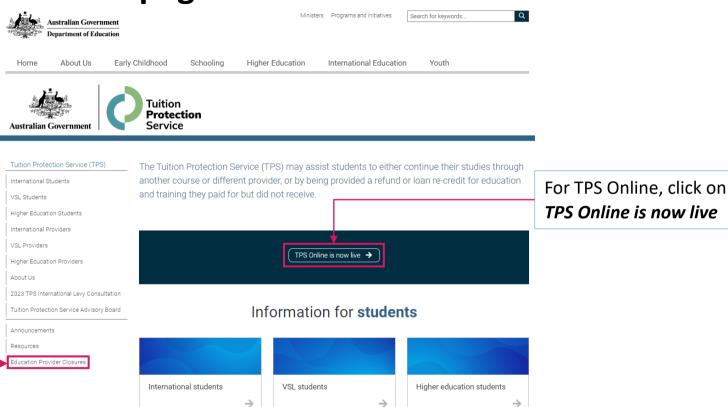


Unspent tuition fees

- A student's refund can be deposited to:
 - their personal bank account
 - another nominated bank account (for example: a family member)
 - their new education provider (if they have secured a placement in an alternative course)
 - their education agent.
- If a student would like their agent to receive their refund on their behalf, the student must request and return an Authority to Act form by emailing support@tps.gov.au



TPS website home page





For information

Training Group

closure, click on

Closures

Education Provider

about the Pacific



Visa Matters

- Applications and visa status
- Visa Application Charge exemptions
- Contacts and further information





Information session on education provider closures

Department of Home Affairs

What will we cover?

- Applications and visa status
- VAC exemption
- Welfare for students under 18
- Work conditions
- Travelling home
- Contacts and further information

What is my status?

- International student visa holders need to maintain enrolment in a course that is registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) at all times while in Australia.
- You can continue staying in Australia on your valid student visa if you enrol with another provider to study a course at the same level.
- Students affected by provider default are afforded an extended period of three months in which to finalise a new enrolment.
- If you have a student visa application that has not yet been decided and your provider
 has closed, the Department of Home Affairs will contact you to request a new CoE from
 another provider. Your application will be assessed based on the new course you have
 chosen to study and you will be afforded additional time to provide a new CoE.

Do I need a new visa?

- Please check the expiry date of your student visa. If you require more time to finish your new course, or you move to a new course that is at a lower AQF level than your previous course, you must apply for a further student visa.
- There are arrangements in place to waive the Visa Application Charge (VAC) for students affected by an education provider closure if you apply within 12 months.
 - You must hold a student visa or your last substantive visa must have been a student visa.
 - When you apply let us know you have been affected by a provider default and attach evidence of your enrolment with the new education provider, such as your CoE.

Do I need a new visa?

 You can check your visa expiry date by using the Department of Home Affairs' Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) service at https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/already-have-a-visa/check-visa-details-and-conditions/check-conditions-online/visa-holders

Students under 18

- You must maintain welfare arrangements at all times as a condition of your student visa if you are under 18.
- If your education provider issued a Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) to take responsibility for your welfare in Australia, you must seek alternative enrolment immediately and make alternative welfare arrangements.
- If you will turn 18 soon, you will still need to ensure you have appropriate arrangements in place until you turn 18.

Work arrangements

Condition 8105 – Work restriction

- All student visa holders have this condition on their visa. Normally there are two main scenarios to consider:
 - 1. Study has started you can work 48 hours per fortnight
 - Study has not yet started you cannot work if you have not commenced your course unless you held a visa when you applied for your student visa and your previous visa permitted you to work.
- If you are on a Bridging visa (BV), you will need to refer to the conditions attached to your BV regarding work and other conditions

Travelling home and delays

- You are able to travel home and return to Australia while you arrange your enrolment and commencement in another course. You must have a valid Student visa to enter Australia on your return.
 - If you have applied for a Student visa and area awaiting a decision, you must have a valid Bridging Visa B in order to travel.
- Students affected by provider default have up to three months to finalise a new enrolment.
- If it takes longer than three months to finalise your enrolment, the Department of Home Affairs may further extend its special arrangements on a case-by-case basis. You must provide relevant information for consideration.

Further information and contacts

- For further information about your Student visa, https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500
- Queries or concerns about visa arrangements, http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/
- Specific information on education provider default
 <u>https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/student-500/education-provider-default</u>
- Service Centre: telephone 131 881 (in Australia).



Australian Skills Quality Authority

Getting a copy of a student's study records







When closing, a registered training organisation (RTO) is expected to issue:

- an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) testamur and record of results to any student who has completed the requirements of the relevant qualification, or
- a statement of attainment to a student who has not completed the requirements of a qualification,
 but has completed one or more units of competency.

You will need evidence of the competencies you have achieved to transfer and continue the rest of your training at another RTO. The easiest way to do this is to provide the new training provider with a statement of attainment.

If you have been unable to obtain either a statement of attainment or testamur, ASQA may be able to assist you with a letter and transcript confirming competencies that you have achieved. This confirmation is only possible if ASQA holds records of competency completion from the closed RTO.

www.asqa.gov.au/students/student-record

Contact details for ASQA

- www.asqa.gov.au/students/how-asqa-can-help-students
- www.asqa.gov.au/students/student-record

- Phone from in Australia: <u>1300 701 801</u> between 9am to 7pm (AEDT) Monday to Friday
- Phone from outside Australia: +61 3 8613 3910

STUDY QUEENSLAND START HERE. GO ANYWHERE. STUDY GOLDCOAST.

Study Queensland and Study Gold Coast

Support for international students







Study Stu

Student Blog

Why Live

Careers

Student Arrivals



https://www.studyqueensland.qld.gov.au/live-in-queensland/student-support https://eqi.com.au/student-support/hotline







The Gold Coast Student Hub is the ultimate social and study space for current Gold Coast Students, boasting monthly events, modern workstations, free Wi-Fi and unlimited tea and coffee.



HOW DO I SIGN UP?

On your first visit, bring your current student ID card and then you're ready to go! You have complete access to the hub services and facilities any weekday from 9:30am - 4:30pm.



WHY USE THE HUB?

As well as being an excellent place to study, the hub also hosts a number of events in and outside of the space - giving you the perfect opportunity to connect with other Gold Coast students.



NEED SUPPORT?

Access free student support, helping you with: accommodation, mental health & well-being, basic careers support, navigating Australian systems, referrals to legal, social or community organisations.

https://www.goldcoaststudenthub.com/
https://www.goldcoaststudenthub.com/support/



Study New South Wales

Support for international students







HOME TRAVEL ADVICE ✓ DESTINATIONS ✓ STUDY ✓ LIVE ✓ WORK ✓ NEWS ✓ INDUSTRY ✓ ABOUT ✓ CONTACT US



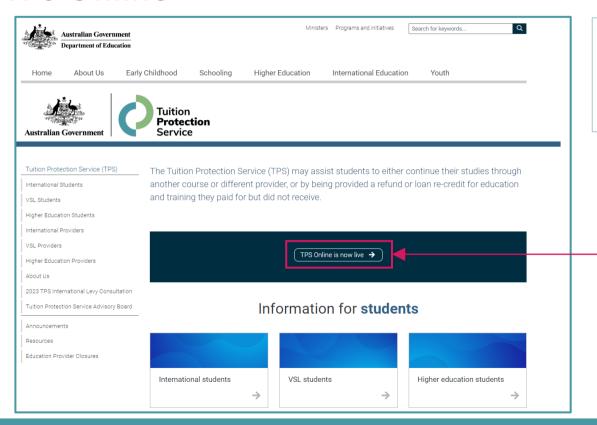
https://www.study.nsw.gov.au/live/support-services



How to use TPS Online

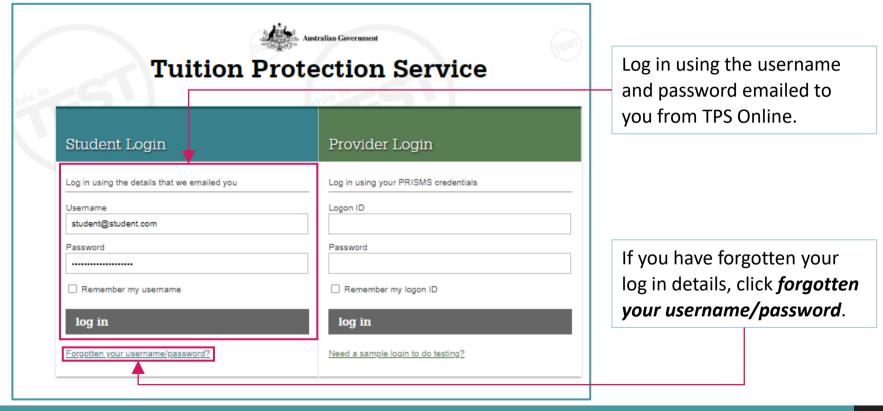
- Accessing TPS Online
- Using TPS Online to receive a refund of unspent tuition fees
- Summary of tasks to complete in TPS Online

TPS Online

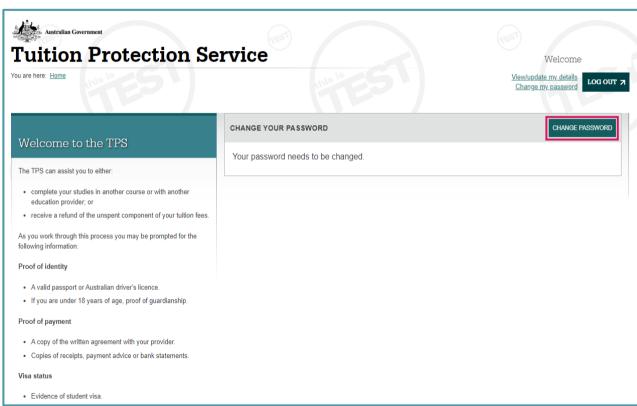


Visit <u>www.tps.gov.au</u> and click on *TPS Online is now live* to be redirected to the TPS Online system.

TPS Online: Log-in page

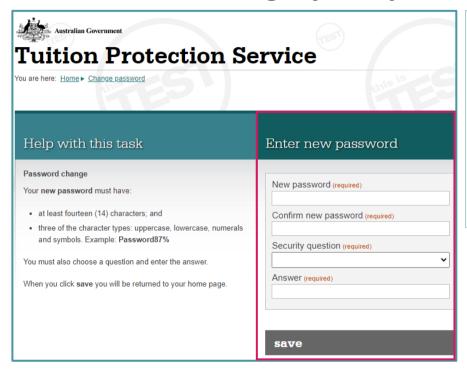


TPS Online: Change your password



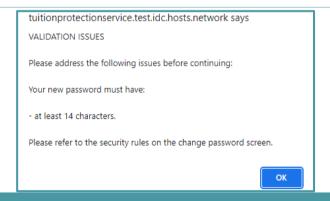
You must *change your password* to continue.

TPS Online: Change your password



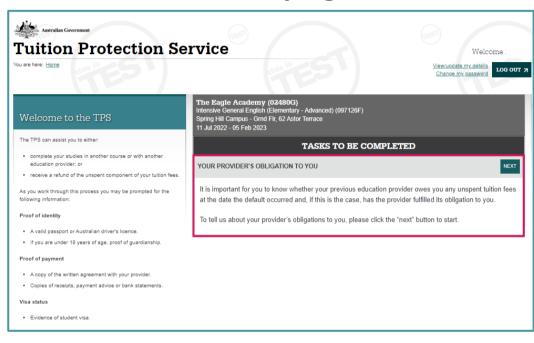
- Enter your new password twice
- Choose a security question and answer
- Click save.

Your new password must have **fourteen (14) characters** including uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols (e.g. !, \$ or #). If your new password does not meet the criteria, you will see this message:





TPS Online: Home page



Your home page will list any tasks you need to complete to progress your claim with the TPS.

Check your home page regularly for tasks to complete!

TPS Online: Your provider's obligation to you

YOUR PROVIDER'S OBLIGATION TO YOU



It is important for you to know whether your previous education provider owes you any unspent tuition fees at the date the default occurred and, if this is the case, has the provider fulfilled its obligation to you.

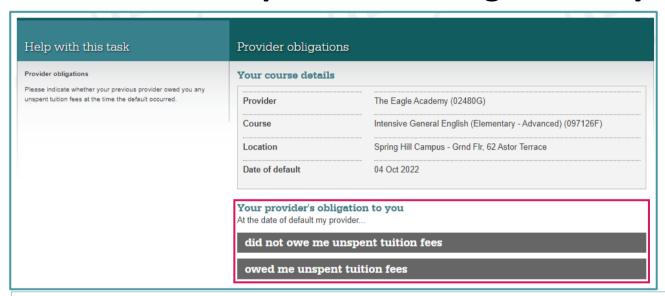
To tell us about your provider's obligations to you, please click the "next" button to start.

It is important to know whether your provider owed you a refund of any unspent tuition fees at the date of the default and whether the provider fulfilled its obligations to you.

On your home page, click **next** on **YOUR PROVIDER'S OBLIGATION TO YOU**.



TPS Online: Your provider's obligation to you



On the date of the default, did your provider owe you any unspent tuition fees?

- If you select **owed me unspent tuition fees**, you will need to provide proof of payment documents.
- If you select *did not owe me unspent tuition fees*, the financial assessment process will end. You will only be able to browse alternative courses.



TPS Online: Your provider's obligation to you

Outcome Outcome My provider has offered me a place in an alternative course at their own expense, which I have accepted. My provider has refunded all of my unspent tuition fees. My provider has only refunded some of my unspent tuition fees. My provider has not refunded any of my unspent tuition fees.

Select the option that applies to you.

Click save.

Return to my home page

TPS Online: Proof of your identity

PROOF OF YOUR IDENTITY



For you to receive tuition protection assistance from the TPS, you are required to provide us with proof of your identity.

It is recommended you provide us with a scan or photo of your photographic identification - either your passport or driver's licence.

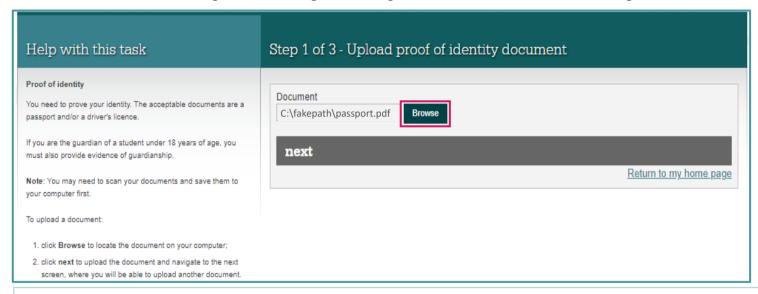
Before you start, you may need to scan documents and save them on your computer to upload.

Please click 'Start' to begin.

To receive any assistance from the TPS, you must provide proof of your identity. On your home page, click **start** on **PROOF OF YOUR IDENTITY**.



TPS Online: Upload your proof of identity document



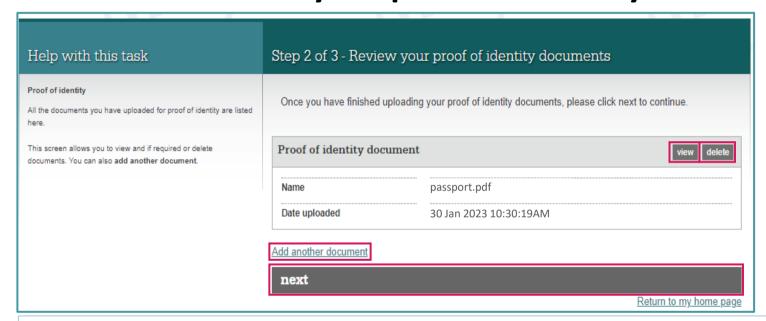
You will need to upload a photo of your passport (preferable) or driver's licence from your device to prove your identity.

- Click browse and select the file you wish to upload
- Click ok and then next.





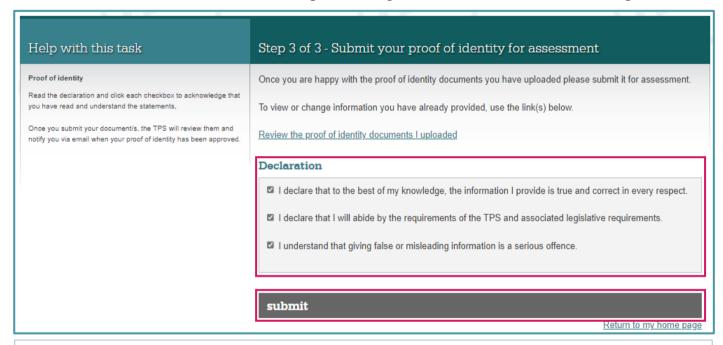
TPS Online: Review your proof of identity document



View the document you uploaded to make sure it is the right document.
If you have uploaded an incorrect document, click delete and then add another document.
If you are happy with the document, click next.



TPS Online: Submit your proof of identity document

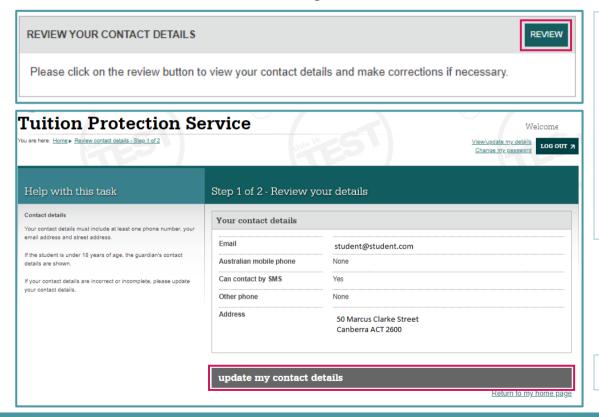


Read the declaration.

If you are happy to proceed, tick all three boxes and click submit.



TPS Online: Review your contact details



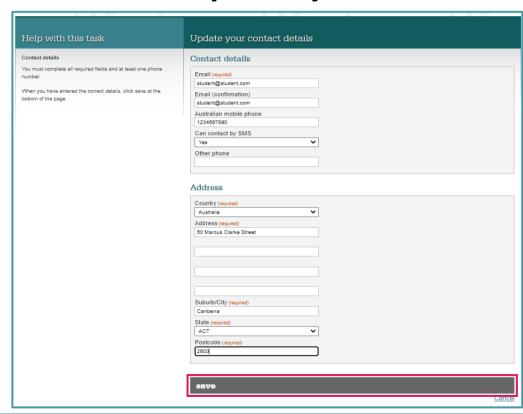
The TPS will send you any notifications or requests using your contact details in TPS Online.

On your home page, click **review** on **REVIEW YOUR CONTACT DETAILS** to make sure your contact details are correct.

Click update my contact details.

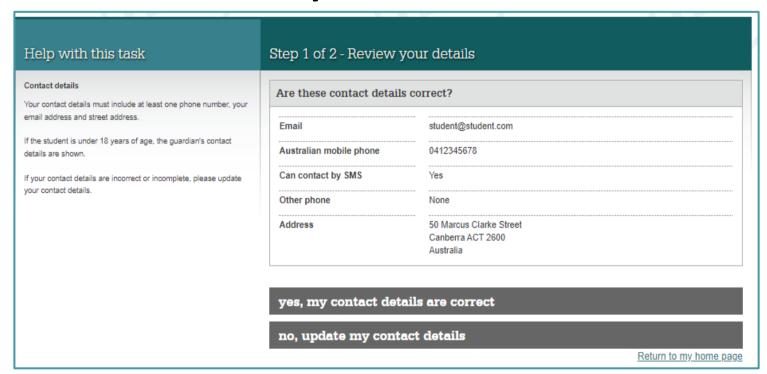


TPS Online: Update your contact details



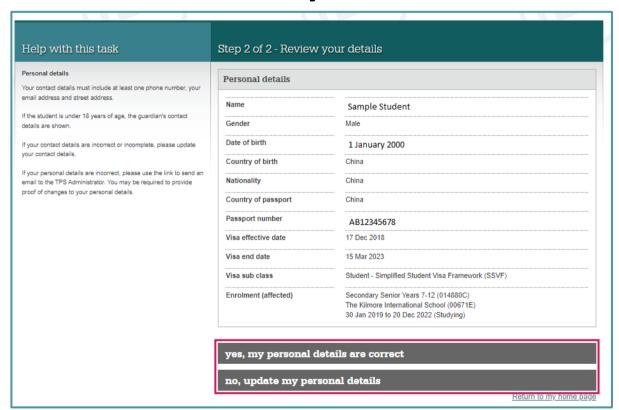
Update your contact details and click *save*.

TPS Online: Review your contact details



After updating your contact details, you will be asked to confirm that they are correct.

TPS Online: Review your contact details



If your details are correct, click **yes, my personal details are correct**.

If any of your details are incorrect, click on *no*, *update my personal details*. You will be advised to send an email to support@tps.gov.au.

PROOF OF PAYMENT



We need some further information from you to help us calculate your unspent tuition fees.

Please provide proof of payment for any tuition fees you paid that are directly related to the course. This may include documents such as receipts, bank statements or written agreements. Please include anything else you think might assist us. For example, additional information may include any email correspondence that you have had previously with your provider regarding a claim for refund.

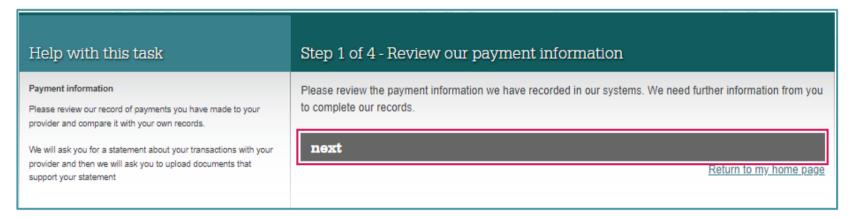
If you are eligible for placement, you may be able to use this money towards the cost of placement in an alternative course, or get a refund if there is no suitable alternative available.

Please click the 'start' button to enter your proof of payment.

If your provider owes you a refund of unspent tuition fees, you must submit proof of payment documents.

On your home page, click start on PROOF OF PAYMENT.

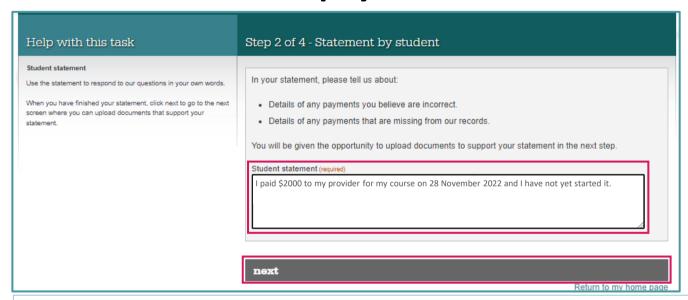




Payments you made to your provider may have been recorded in our systems.

Click *next* to review our payment information.





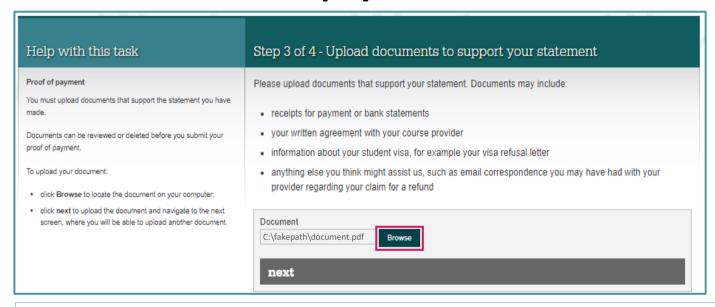
In the student statement box, please provide:

- details about all payments made to your provider (and your agent, if applicable) for your course; and
- a brief explanation of your individual circumstances.

Click *next* to begin uploading documents to support your statement.







Click **browse** to select documents to upload from your device.

Refer to the following checklist to ensure you upload all of the required documentation.

This task will be returned to you to upload additional documentation if necessary.



TPS Online: Proof of payment document checklist

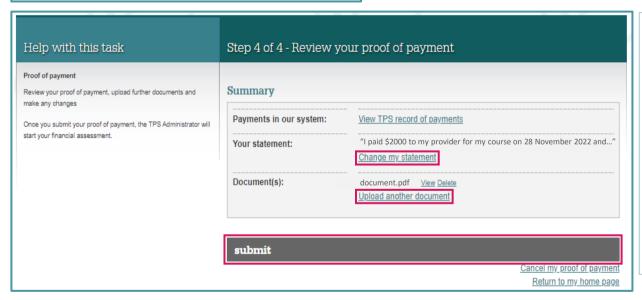
st upload the following documents for the TPS to calculate your unspent tuition fees:
Provider and bank receipts for all payments made to your provider for your course
Bank statements showing all payments made to your provider for your course. Bank statements must indicate who owns the bank account.
Letter of offer outlining all payments due to your provider for your course
Any other documentation (e.g. emails) that will assist us in assessing your financial claim.
have an agent? If you have an agent, you must upload the following documentation:
Receipts or bank statements for all payments made to your agent
Receipts for all payments your agent made to your provider on your behalf. You may need to contact your agent to obtain these.
Agent commission statement or invoice. You may need to contact your agent to obtain these.
defer your course? If you deferred your course, you must upload the following documentation:
Approval of deferment
Your deferment form







Click **next** once you have uploaded all of the required documents.

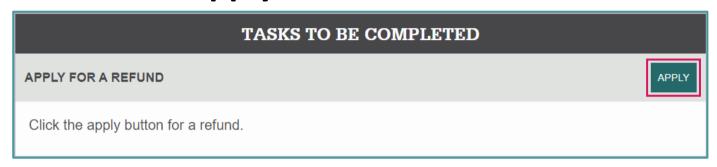


Review your statement and your proof of payment documents.

To make any changes, click change my statement or upload another document.

Click **submit** to upload your statement and proof of payment documents.

TPS Online: Apply for a refund

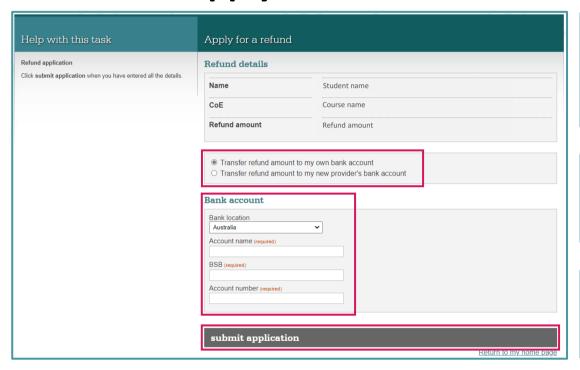


If the TPS determines that you are eligible for a refund of unspent tuition fees, you will need to apply for a refund.

On your home page, click *apply* on **APPLY FOR A REFUND**.



TPS Online: Apply for a refund



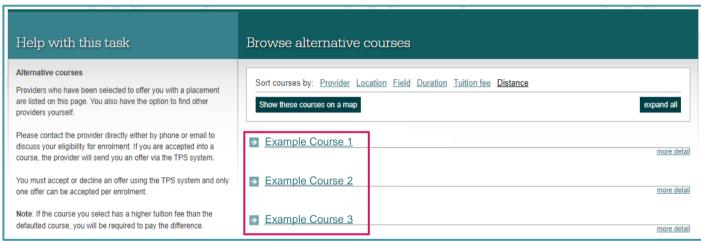
Select whether you would like the refund to be transferred to your own bank account or to your new provider (if applicable).

Provide the details of the bank account you would like your refund to be transferred to.

Check the information you have provided, then click *submit application*.

TPS Online: Browse alternative courses



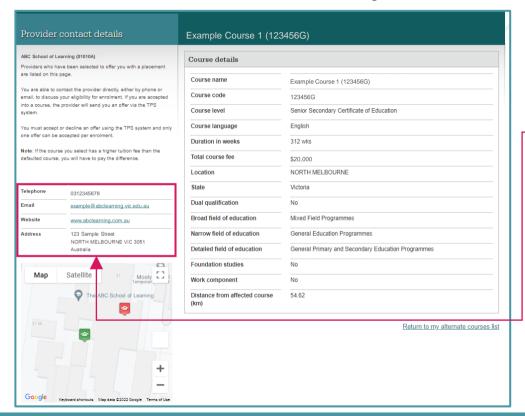


On your home page, click **browse** on **BROWSE ALTERNATIVE COURSES** to view a list of suitable alternative course options.

Click on the course links to see information about the course and the contact details for the alternative provider.



TPS Online: Alternative provider contact details



Contact the new provider to request enrolment using the contact details provided.

Your new provider will upload an offer in TPS Online. You must log into TPS Online and accept this offer.

TPS Online: Summary of tasks

- ✓ Log in to TPS Online
- √ Change your password
- ✓ Indicate whether your provider owed you a refund of unspent tuition fees on the date of the closure
- Provide proof of your identity
- ✓ Update your contact details
- ✓ If your provider owes you a refund of unspent tuition fees, upload your proof of payment documents
- ✓ If you are eligible to receive a refund of unspent tuition fees, apply for a refund
- ✓ Browse the alternative course list and contact alternative providers to request enrolment
- ✓ View and accept your alternative course offer from your new provider
- Check your emails and TPS Online regularly for notifications and tasks to complete. Be quick to respond to TPS requests!













www.tps.gov.au



support@tps.gov.au



1300 131 798

