Australian Government
Department of Education

Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships

Additional Payment for Remote Professional Experience Placements Policy

1. Purpose

The Commonwealth Teaching Scholarships (CTS) Program Additional Payment for Remote Professional Experience Placements (Remote Placement Payment) Policy (the policy) sets out the eligibility requirements and application process for CTS recipients undertaking their final professional experience placement in a remote or very remote government school or government run early learning setting.

This policy should be considered in conjunction with the CTS Grant Opportunity Guidelines (Scholarship Guidelines) for the relevant round available on the Scholarships website. The Scholarship Guidelines will prevail over this policy to the extent of any inconsistency.

2. Background

A payment of $2,000 may be available to CTS recipients who undertake their final-year unpaid professional experience placement in a remote or very remote area, as defined by the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS)[1] (refer to section 3 below). CTS recipients who apply and are eligible are not guaranteed to receive the payment.

3. Eligibility

The purpose of the Remote Placement Payment is to assist with additional costs associated with travelling to, and completing, a short-term mandatory final professional experience placement in a remote or very remote eligible educational setting, as part of an accredited initial teacher education (ITE) program.

An eligible educational setting refers to a government school or government-run early learning setting located in a remote or very remote area, as defined by the ASGS.

[1] See https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/statistical-geography/australian-statistical-geography-standard-asgs for current version.

To be eligible for the Remote Placement Payment, a CTS recipient must undertake a final-year unpaid professional experience placement in an eligible educational setting.

CTS recipients who are completing accredited employment-based ITE programs or internships, which involve participants working in schools while receiving a salary, are not eligible to receive the Remote Placement Payment.

4. Application Process

The application process for the Remote Placement Payment will be undertaken twice each year in February and July. CTS recipients who are in the final year of their accredited ITE program (based on the date of scholarship funding completion) will be contacted by the Department and provided with information and a link to an application form. CTS recipients who apply for a Remote Placement Payment will be required to provide the Department with evidence issued by their ITE provider confirming details of their unpaid final-year professional experience placement in a remote or very remote eligible educational setting.

5. Assessment and Allocation Process

CTS recipients who have submitted eligible applications will be ranked by the remoteness of the eligible educational setting (as defined by the ASGS) for their final-year professional experience placement.

Allocation of the Remote Placement Payment is a demand driven and eligibility-based process. Accordingly, CTS recipients who apply and are eligible are not guaranteed to receive the Remote Placement Payment and financial and/or final-year professional experience placement decisions should not be made in reliance on the payment.

If the Remote Placement Payment is undersubscribed, no further applications will be sought or Remote Placement Payments made.

If applications are over-subscribed, the Remote Placement Payment will be allocated to eligible CTS recipients based on the remoteness of the eligible educational setting as defined by the ASGS until the funding is exhausted. Where there are multiple applications of similar remoteness, funding will be assigned in order of the date each application is lodged until the funding is exhausted.

The Department's decision to approve or reject Remote Placement Payment applications is final and there is no mechanism to appeal these decisions.

CTS recipients who are allocated a Remote Placement Payment will be advised by the Department via email.

6. Scholarship Agreement

The Scholarship Agreement (agreement) signed by the CTS recipient on commencement outlines the requirements of the Remote Placement Payment.

The Scholarship Agreement will be varied for CTS recipients who receive the Remote Placement Payment to include the payment in the funding schedule.

7. Payment

The Department will make a one-off payment of $2,000 to those CTS recipients allocated a Remote Placement Payment. The payment will be paid directly into the bank account nominated by the CTS recipient at the time of scholarship commencement unless the CTS recipient formally advises otherwise by submitting a Notifiable Events form within 28 days of the change in details.

In accordance with the Scholarship Guidelines, CTS recipients of the Remote Placement Payment are able to access other support or financial assistance.

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) published a Class Ruling on 30 September 2026 (ATO Legal Database, **CR 2026/70**) which states that payments, including the Remote Placement Payment, to CTS recipients will be exempt income under the circumstances described in the Class Ruling. The Department cannot provide advice on whether those circumstances apply to any individual recipient. It is a CTS recipient's responsibility to seek advice on tax matters.

The Remote Placement Payment may also have social security payment implications. It is a CTS recipient's responsibility to seek advice on social security matters.

8. Reporting Obligations

When a CTS recipient completes the remote placement they must self-declare, via a form provided by the Department, that they undertook the final-year professional experience placement in an eligible educational setting. The declaration must be provided to the Department within 14 days of completing the placement.

9. Debt Recovery

CTS recipients who do not undertake, complete or otherwise fulfil the professional experience placement in the remote or very remote eligible educational setting may be required to pay back the Remote Placement Payment to the Department in accordance with the Scholarship Agreement.

No interest will be payable on repayments.

10. Complaints

Any complaint about a decision made by the Department regarding Remote Placement Payments will be handled in accordance with the CTS Complaints Handling Policy.