



Factsheet – Definition of students of certain transnational education programs

The Australian Government supports providers to take Australian education and qualifications to the world. High quality transnational education builds important linkages and institutional partnerships, contributes to Australia's research goals and efforts to support foreign policy priorities and complements Australia's onshore education offerings.

Consideration of TNE for higher education providers

To recognise transnational education that is high quality and that reinforces the quality, integrity and character of Australia's education system in the international context, students part of an eligible transnational higher education arrangement will not count towards a provider's total of new overseas student commencements (NOSC) and will receive 'Priority 1 – High' status during student visa application processing.

Students studying under a TNE program are eligible for exemption from a provider's NOSC allocation and prioritisation of their student visa application if:

1. The overseas component of study forms part of the delivery of a regulated Australian higher education award, and/or
2. The overseas study program is co-delivered by the Australian provider, and the program is registered with the official in-country regulatory authority as an Australian twinning or joint program arrangement, where the student transfers to Australia to gain the Australian award (or vice versa), and
3. No more than 60% of the Australian award's course duration (in weeks) is to be completed in Australia, and
4. The arrangement was in place prior to 1 July 2024, or, for arrangements established after 1 July 2024, has been assessed as eligible by the department.

If an arrangement only provides for credit recognition of an overseas qualification, or the program does not lead directly to an Australian higher education qualification, this falls outside the scope of the TNE programs as described above.

Third party offshore delivery will meet criterion 1, above, where the Australian provider remains accountable for course quality, student experience and overall compliance with the Higher Education Standards (HES) Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021. This is to ensure appropriate due diligence and a demonstrable accountability mechanism for compliance with the HES Framework.

A program of successive Australian qualifications (e.g. Bachelors, Masters) may be treated as one program for the purposes of calculating the 60% maximum onshore component if both qualifications are delivered by the same Australian higher education provider and the provider has self-accrediting authority.

Providers must ensure the program is listed as an approved course of study as part of their CRICOS registration and ensure they have notified TEQSA of the offshore delivery arrangements.

TEQSA would expect to be informed of such arrangements through registration or a material change notification.

Information on criteria for VET sector transnational education is available on: www.dewr.gov.au



Examples

Student A enrolls in a three-year Australian-registered degree at an international branch campus of an Australian provider and undertakes two years of study in that country, with the final year in Australia. As no more than 60% of the Australian qualification's course duration is completed in Australia, **Student A's program falls within the scope of the TNE programs as described above.**

Student B enrolls in an Australian degree program consisting of a three-year Australian AQF bachelor degree and two-year Australian AQF masters by coursework degree. The first two years of their bachelor degree are completed at an overseas campus of an Australian institution with self-accrediting authority status. The final year of the bachelor's degree is completed onshore at the Australian institution. The two-year master's component is completed entirely onshore at the Australian institution. As the whole program of study is Australian-accredited and no more than 60% of the packaged program's total course duration is completed in Australia, **Student B's program falls within the scope of the TNE programs as described above.**

Student C enrolls in a joint or double degree program involving an Australian-accredited bachelor qualification with an Australian institution in partnership with an overseas institution where the first two years are studied offshore and the final two years are completed in Australia. The student is enrolled in the Australian qualification from the beginning of the program. As the whole course of study is Australian-accredited and no more than 60% of the Australian qualification's course duration is completed in Australia, **Student C's program falls within the scope of the TNE programs as described above.**

Student D enrolls in a joint or double degree program between an overseas university and an Australian university, approved by the Ministry of Education with oversight of the overseas university. The Australian university contributes to the design and delivery of the overseas university component of the joint degree program (lasting two years), although formal enrolment in the Australian award only begins when the student commences study in Australia (also lasting two years). **Student D's program of study falls within the scope of the TNE programs as described above.**

Student E enrolls in an articulation arrangement with an overseas institution that leads to a pathway for credit recognition with an Australian provider. As the study with the overseas institution does not lead to an Australian qualification, **Student E's program of study does not fall within the definition of TNE as described above.**

Student F enrolls in a packaged program which involves a combination of foundation course components delivered offshore with a pathway to an Australian qualification. **Student F's program of study does not fall within the scope of the TNE programs as described above.**

This is not an exhaustive list of all possible transnational education arrangements that could be undertaken by providers, and providers should assess their arrangements against the scope of the TNE programs as described above.

