



# Factsheet — Transitioning school students exempted from the National Planning Level

From 2026, international students who complete their Senior Secondary Certificate of Education (SSCE) in Australia will not be counted as a New Overseas Student Commencement (NOSC) when they transition to tertiary study.

This NOSC exemption provides international school students and their education providers with greater certainty as they plan their future education pathways, and supports a smooth transition for these students to move into tertiary study.

## Conditions for exemption from the National Planning Level

International students who have completed the SSCE in Australia while on a student visa (subclass 500) will not count as a NOSC upon commencement of their subsequent higher education or vocational education and training (VET) course. The following conditions must be met:

- This exemption applies only to students who complete their SSCE and transition to tertiary study as the holder of a primary student visa (subclass 500). It does not extend to those on secondary visas or other visa types, such as those accompanying a parent or guardian on a different visa subclass.
- The student must have completed the SSCE in the same year, or the year prior, to the commencement of the higher education or VET course. The SSCE must have been completed onshore.
- The student must not undertake any other CRICOS registered course in between the SSCE and the higher education or VET course.
- The subsequent higher education or VET course must commence no earlier than 1 January 2026.

## Process

No action is required from students or providers. Eligible students will be automatically identified in the Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS) and the exemption applied to the relevant Confirmations of Enrolment (CoEs) at their new provider.