



Changes to offshore higher education delivery

The Australian Government views high-quality offshore delivery as an important part of a sustainable international education sector. However, offshore education delivery has some distinct characteristics from onshore delivery that require additional consideration to confirm the Higher Education Standards Framework ([Threshold Standards](#)) are met and to uphold Australia's high-quality education reputation.

The new requirements will provide government the visibility needed to address any quality concerns before they arise and ensure Australian offshore education remains ahead of the curve.

Amendments to the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (the TEQSA Act) will require providers seeking to engage in offshore delivery of higher education to:

- obtain and maintain authorisation from the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) to deliver Australian courses of study offshore
- notify TEQSA of new courses they are delivering offshore and certain changes to existing courses
- submit an annual report to TEQSA on their offshore delivery activities.

The commencement date of these requirements is the day after Royal Assent of the *Education Legislation Amendment (Integrity and Other Measures) Act 2025* (the Integrity Measures Act).

This factsheet is intended as a plain language guide to the changes and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Where there is doubt, please refer to the TEQSA Act.

What is changing?

Authorisation

Registered higher education providers must now be authorised by TEQSA to offer or confer Australian higher education awards for Australian courses of study provided offshore. This authorisation will be at the provider level and is not required for each individual course.

Existing offshore providers

A registered higher education provider already delivering courses offshore will be taken to be authorised if the provider:

- was providing, or had entered an arrangement to provide, an Australian course of study offshore as at the commencement date of this requirement; and
- began to provide the course or entered an arrangement to provide the course before 9 October 2025 (the day the Integrity Measures Act was introduced to the Australian Parliament); and
- provides TEQSA written notice of the above circumstance(s) within 60 days of the commencement date, and the notice meets any requirement specified by TEQSA in writing.

This will provide certainty for the students enrolled in existing offshore-delivered courses and the providers delivering them.

New offshore providers

Registered providers that are seeking to deliver Australian courses of study offshore but do not already do so will need to apply to TEQSA for authorisation. Providers will be able to make applications from 1 January 2026.

To be authorised, TEQSA must be satisfied that the applicant meets the [Threshold Standards](#) and the applicant must include in their application any additional information TEQSA requests. Unless relevant circumstances arise beyond TEQSA's control, TEQSA will be required to make a decision within 9 months of receiving an application.

Authorisation maintenance

Authorisations do not expire but will be subject to review as part of the TEQSA re-registration process that providers must undertake at least every 7 years. TEQSA may cancel a provider's authorisation if they fail to meet a condition of authorisation, including notification and data reporting requirements.

Notification

Authorised offshore providers are required to notify TEQSA of any of the following events or changes:

- the provider starts delivering a new Australian course of study offshore
- the provider changes the premises where they deliver an Australian course of study offshore
- the provider stops delivering an Australian course of study offshore
- an Australian course of study that the provider delivers offshore begins to be provided by another entity, even if only partly.

When notifying TEQSA, the provider must detail:

- the event or change
- when it occurred or will occur
- the name of the relevant course(s) of study
- the address of the offshore premises
- the name of any other entity involved in delivery.

Providers must notify TEQSA as soon as they become aware of the event or change and no later than 90 days before the event or change is to occur.

Annual Reporting

Commencing 31 October 2026, authorised offshore providers must submit a report to TEQSA each year on their offshore delivery of Australian courses of study. TEQSA may, by legislative instrument, specify the data and information required in the reporting. Providers should be assured that government is seeking a light-touch approach to data reporting, and TEQSA will consult with the sector prior to making a legislative instrument to avoid duplicative data collection and minimise regulatory burden.

Offences and civil penalties

Offence provisions will commence on 31 October 2026 meaning that it will be considered an offence to offer or confer an Australian higher education award for the completion of an Australian course of study delivered offshore without authorisation. Breaching a condition of authorisation will also attract a civil penalty of 120 penalty units.

Scope

Courses in scope of this requirement include Australian courses of study that:

- lead to a joint or dual award (including '4+0' delivery models)
- are delivered through a foreign branch campus.

Activities not considered in scope of the requirement include:

- formal semester-exchange agreements
- an Australian course of study that involves the undertaking of research not in Australia

The amendments enable the Minister for Education to make a legislative instrument to exclude classes of courses from the scope of this requirement. As an example, such an instrument could exclude certain types of arrangements (such as articulation or credit transfer arrangements) or courses based on modes of delivery (such as purely online programs). This supports government to ensure balanced regulation and allows the transnational education sector to continue evolving to support student choice.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will these measures apply to all registered higher education providers?

Providers engaging in offshore delivery are representing Australian education in a way that requires appropriate transparency and quality measures. In addition, consistent visibility across all registered higher education providers delivering offshore will support an improved whole-of-sector picture of transnational education engagement, including concentration risks and diversification opportunities. For these reasons, the amendments will apply to all providers registered under the TEQSA Act, regardless of self-accrediting status.

What powers does TEQSA have in relation to offshore delivery?

TEQSA will have the capacity to cancel or impose conditions on an authorisation. TEQSA will also be able to use existing powers in the TEQSA Act, including to request information or impose conditions on registration or accreditation.

Will authorisation requirements apply to third parties or sub-entities?

TEQSA will not directly regulate third parties or sub-entities. A registered Australian higher education provider engaged in delivery with third parties or sub-entities will be responsible for ensuring that all parties enable the Threshold Standards to be met.

How much will the applications for authorisation cost?

Further details on application fees will be provided in late 2025.