



Extension of the overseas student transfer restriction period to 12 months

Factsheet for students

There has been a change to Standard 7 of the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (National Code) regarding the transfer restriction period.

This fact sheet is a plain language guide to the change and should not be relied upon as legal advice. Where there is doubt, please refer to the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* ([ESOS Act](#)) and the [National Code](#), or contact your provider.

What is changing?

An overseas student who wants to transfer to another provider must now complete at least **12 months** of their principal (main) course, with some exceptions. Previously, overseas students could transfer after completing 6 months of their main course.

This change is temporary. From 1 July 2027, the transfer restriction period will revert to 6 months.

Overseas students in the school sector are not affected by this change. Overseas school students are still able to transfer to a new provider once they have completed 6 months of their first school course.

This change does **not** mean that overseas students are transfer restricted for an **additional** 12 months from the time this change takes effect. However, some students who were already allowed to transfer under the previous 6-month rule may now no longer be able to transfer for a time. They will need to continue studying with their current provider until they have completed a total of 12 months of their main course. **Please see pages 2 and 3 of this Factsheet for some examples.**

As an overseas student, you can still transfer to another provider outside of the transfer restriction period. If you are interested in transferring to another course or provider, you should confirm that you would not be in breach of your visa conditions by doing so (please see the Department of Home Affairs [Check your visa details and conditions](#) page).

There are also some cases where overseas students are allowed to transfer within their transfer restriction period, including where:

- your current provider or the course you are enrolled in is no longer registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS)
- you cannot continue studying your course at your provider because your provider has a sanction on their registration (for example, where the regulator has decided that your provider can no longer deliver that course)
- your government sponsor (for example, if your study is sponsored by a foreign government) thinks the change will be in your best interests and has given their written support for the transfer.

You can also ask to be released from the transfer restriction period early where, for example, your provider has failed to deliver your course as outlined in your written agreement. You should make this request to your provider, in line with their policies and procedures. Your provider will assess this request in line with their policies and may choose to release you, if appropriate.

When in doubt, it is always best to contact your provider, who will likely be best placed to help you.

Examples

The following examples have been included to help students and providers understand how the extension of the transfer restriction period may affect them.

Case study A

A student commenced their principal course 12 months or more before the extension

Student A commenced a two-course package with an ELICOS course and a higher education course on 1 June 2025. Student A commenced the higher education course, their principal course, on 20 July 2025. They are transfer restricted until 20 January 2026, when they have completed 6 months of their principal course.

Student A is not impacted by the new extension of the transfer restriction period, as they have already completed more than 12 months of their principal course by 20 July 2026. Student A remains unrestricted.

Case study B

A student commenced their principal course 6-12 months before the extension

Student B commenced a bachelor's degree on 20 January 2026. They are transfer restricted until 20 July 2026. In August 2026, Student B considers transferring to another provider in the coming months and starts researching new providers.

The transfer restriction period is extended to 12 months. Student B has not yet completed 12 months of their principal course, so they are now transfer restricted until 20 January 2027.

After 20 January 2027, Student B is no longer transfer restricted.

Case study C

A student commenced their principal course less than 6 months before the extension

Student C commenced a package of two consecutive VET courses on 10 June 2026. The second course, Student C's principal course, is set to commence on 10 January 2027. Student C is set to be transfer restricted until 10 July 2027.

The transfer restriction period is extended to 12 months. Student C has not yet commenced their principal course, so remains transfer restricted.

On 1 July 2027, the transfer restriction period reverts to 6 months. On 10 July 2027, Student C is now no longer transfer restricted, as they have completed 6 months of their principal course.

Case study D

A student commenced their principal course after the extension

The transfer restriction period is extended to 12 months.

Student D commences a bachelor's degree on 15 March 2027. Due to the extension of the transfer restriction period, they are set to be transfer restricted until 15 March 2028.

On 1 July 2027, the transfer restriction period reverts to 6 months. On 15 September 2027, Student D is now no longer transfer restricted, as they have completed 6 months of their principal course.