

Under 18 International Students Policy 2025





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About this document

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Part 1 Purpose and application

1.1 Purpose

- (1) This Policy:
 - (a) provides for appropriate accommodation, support and welfare arrangements for international students aged under 18; and
 - (b) meets the requirements of Part B, Standard 5 of the [National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018](#).

1.2 Start date

- (1) This Policy commences on 9 May 2025.

1.3 Application

- (1) This Policy applies to:
 - (a) the University;
 - (b) entities operating under the University's CRICOS Provider Code 00026A, including pathway providers;
 - (c) staff;
 - (d) students; and
 - (e) affiliates.



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Part 2 Enrolment and welfare arrangements

2.1 Enrolment

- (1) We and our pathway providers will only enrol international students under 18 if the relevant delegate is satisfied that the student will live in Australia:
 - (a) with a parent or legal guardian;
 - (b) with a relative:
 - (i) aged over 21;
 - (ii) of good character;
 - (iii) who has been nominated by a parent or legal guardian; and
 - (iv) approved by the Department; or
 - (c) under accommodation, support and welfare arrangements approved by the University.
- (2) Students with University approved arrangements must attend an orientation session designed for international students under 18.
- (3) We and our pathway providers will:
 - (a) not enrol international students under 16 years of age at their commencement date under any circumstances; and
 - (b) not charge fees for approving accommodation, support or welfare arrangements.

2.2 Checking and monitoring arrangements

- (1) The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) will approve procedures that:
 - (a) list the requirements for students with University approved accommodation, support or welfare arrangements; and
 - (b) detail the methods for monitoring and checking to ensure requirements are met.

Note: See the [Procedures](#) for information on monitoring and checking.
- (2) The relevant delegate must not approve the enrolment of students to whom this policy applies unless:
 - (a) the student's accommodation, support or welfare arrangements are approved by the University; and
 - (b) these arrangements comply with the Procedures.
- (3) Approved accommodation, support and welfare arrangements must:
 - (a) begin 7 or 14 days before the student's start date; and
 - (b) remain in place:
 - (i) for the whole of the student's enrolment, plus 7 days; or



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- (ii) until the student turns 18 (“the **approval period**”).
- (4) Students must not travel to Australia before the beginning of the approval period.
- (5) Students must not change their accommodation, support or welfare arrangements during the approval period, without the written approval from:
 - (a) the relevant delegate; and
 - (b) their parent or legal guardian.

2.3 Required agreements

- (1) If a student requires University approved accommodation, support and welfare arrangements, the student and their parent or legal guardian must provide evidence of:
 - (a) a binding agreement with the student’s accommodation provider; and
 - (b) a binding agreement with the student’s welfare provider;
 on or before the date of accepting the offer of admission.
- (2) The student must accept the following terms and conditions, as detailed in their offer of admission.
 - (a) The student must agree to:
 - (i) continue to live in the approved accommodation until they are 18, unless approved for different accommodation;
Note: See [subclause 2.2\(5\)](#).
 - (ii) keep the University informed of current contact details, including details for their parents, legal guardian or any other adult responsible for their welfare;
 - (iii) maintain one-to-one contact with their welfare provider, including regular phone and face-to-face or online meetings; and
 - (iv) act responsibly, including being aware of their responsibilities under Australian law, and avoiding illicit activities and risk-taking behaviour.
 - (b) The student must acknowledge that:
 - (i) we are not responsible for any fees and costs related to their accommodation and welfare arrangements;
 - (ii) we are not legally responsible for their actions whilst in Australia; and
 - (iii) we are entitled to withdraw approval for their accommodation, support and welfare if they breach these conditions.
- (3) All agreements with accommodation providers or welfare providers must meet the University’s minimum standards.

Note: See [subclause 2.3\(1\)](#) and the schedules in the [Procedures](#).



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Part 3 Termination and transfer

3.1 Termination, suspension and cancellation of enrolment

- (1) If the student's enrolment is terminated, suspended or cancelled, we will continue to monitor their accommodation, support and welfare arrangements until:
 - (a) the student is accepted by another registered provider who assumes that responsibility;
 - (b) the student leaves Australia;
 - (c) the Department approves care of the student by a parent or nominated relative;
 - (d) other suitable arrangements are made; or
 - (e) we report to the Department:
 - (i) that we can no longer approve the student's arrangements; or
 - (ii) that we have concerns for the student's welfare and are unable to contact them after all reasonable efforts.
- (2) If a student appeals the termination, suspension or cancellation of their enrolment, we will continue to monitor their arrangements until:
 - (a) all internal and external appeals have been exhausted;
 - (b) other suitable arrangements are made; or
 - (c) we report to the Department that we can no longer approve the student's arrangements.

3.2 Transfers between registered education providers

- (1) If a student under 18 enrolls with welfare arrangements approved by another registered education provider, we or our pathway provider will:
 - (a) work with the other provider to set a transfer date for welfare arrangements, ensuring there is no gap in support;
 - (b) inform the student that they must:
 - (i) keep their current welfare arrangements until the transfer date;
 - (ii) seek approval for any new or alternative welfare arrangements; or
 - (iii) return to their home country until new arrangements are in place.
 - (c) require written approval for the transfer from the student's parents or legal guardian; and
 - (d) confirm responsibility for approving the student's accommodation and welfare arrangements if the student is not under the care of a parent or relative in Australia.



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3.3 Terminating welfare arrangements

- (1) If a student breaches the University or a service provider's requirements, we may:
 - (a) cease to approve the student's welfare arrangements;
 - (b) notify the student in writing of this decision; and
 - (c) cancel the student's Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare Arrangements letter.
- (2) If we or our pathway provider cannot contact a student and are concerned about their welfare, we will make all reasonable efforts to find the student. This may include informing the police and relevant Commonwealth or State agencies as soon as possible.
- (3) If we are no longer able to approve the welfare arrangements of a student, we will:
 - (a) make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the student's parents or legal guardians are notified immediately; and
 - (b) notify the Department within 24 hours.

3.4 Compliance reviews

- (1) The Compliance Unit in the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) portfolio will review compliance with this Policy and report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) annually.
- (2) The annual report will include:
 - (a) statistical data, including student numbers and courses of study;
 - (b) results of accommodation provider and welfare provider audits; and
 - (c) details of student complaints and outcomes.



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Part 4 Roles and responsibilities

4.1 University and its pathway providers

- (1) comply with Australian laws for the welfare international students under 18 including:
 - (a) the [Education Services for Overseas Students \(ESOS\) Act 2000](#); and
 - (b) the [National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018](#).
- (2) provide clear, accessible information to students under 18 and their guardians about the student's rights, responsibilities, and available support services;
- (3) ensure students under 18 meet the enrolment requirements, including guardianship and welfare arrangements;
- (4) review and approve students' welfare arrangements;
- (5) monitor welfare arrangements throughout enrolment and after, as required;
- (6) manage breaches of University or a service provider's requirements;
- (7) communicate with guardians to ensure they are informed of any academic or welfare issues concerning students under 18; and
- (8) report on policy compliance.

4.2 Students

- (1) comply with the terms and conditions in their offer of admission;
- (2) for University approved accommodation, support and welfare arrangements:
 - (a) enter into an agreement with an accommodation and welfare provider; and
 - (b) seek approval from the University for changes to their accommodation or welfare arrangements; and
- (3) report any concerns about their wellbeing or accommodation or welfare provider.



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Part 5 Definitions

(1) In this Policy a reference to 'we', 'our' or 'us' means the University.

accommodation provider	a person or organisation that is responsible for providing a student's accommodation during the approval period.
approval period	the period during which approved accommodation, support and welfare arrangements for a particular student must remain in place as set out in subclause 2.2(3) .
Department	the Australian Department of Home Affairs.
international student	<p>an enrolled or intending student who holds a temporary visa with student rights and is not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an Australian or New Zealand citizen (whether solely or as a dual citizen with another country); • a holder of an Australian permanent resident visa; or • a holder of an Australian permanent humanitarian visa. <p>For the purposes of this Policy, this term also includes non-award students where relevant, even though they are not admitted to candidature in an award course.</p>
pathway provider	<p>any entity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operating under the University's CRICOS Provider Code 00026A; and • engaged in delivering the University's foundation programs or non-award courses. <p>This includes the Centre for English Teaching, and Taylors College in relation to the University of Sydney Foundation Program.</p>
procedures	the Under 18 International Students Procedures
relative	<p>a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • grandparent or step-grandparent; • sibling or step-sibling; • aunt or uncle, or step-aunt or -uncle; • niece or nephew, or step-niece or -nephew.



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start date

the date on which:

- a student arrives in Australia to attend their course for the first time; or
- if they are already living in Australia, the date the University assumes responsibility for their accommodation, support and welfare arrangements.

welfare provider

a person or organisation that is responsible for providing a student's support and welfare during the approval period.



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Part 6 Notes

Rescissions and replacements

This document replaces the following, which are rescinded as from the date of commencement of this document:

- (1) Under 18 International Students Policy 2016, which commenced on 1 July 2016.

Under 18 International Students Policy 2025

Date approved 6 May 2025

Date commenced 9 May 2025

Date amended

Approver Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

Owner Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

Review date 9 May 2030

Rescinded documents Under 18 International Students Policy 2016

Related documents

[Children's Guardian Act 2019](#)

[Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 \(Cth\)](#)

[National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018](#)

[Working with Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy](#)

[Student Critical Incidents Procedures](#)

[Under 18 International Students Procedures](#)

[Working with Children Procedures - Staff and Affiliates](#)

[Working with Children Procedures – Students](#)



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Part 7 Amendment history

Register Version	Approved by	Clause	Amendment	Commenced
