



OFFICIAL

Migration Strategy – Student and Graduate visa measures fact sheet

English Language requirements

Visa type	Current	Future	Implementation
Temporary Graduate visa (TGV) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government will increase the minimum score required for a TGV from IELTS 6.0 to 6.5 (or equivalent¹), with a minimum score of 5.5 for each component of the test (reading, writing, speaking and listening). - The Government will decrease the test validity window for a TGV from 3 years to 1 year. TGV applicants will need to provide evidence that they have completed an English Language test 1 year immediately before the date of the visa application. 	6.0	6.5	Early 2024 Changes to English language requirements will apply to all Student and Temporary Graduate visa applications lodged on and after the day of commencement.
Student visa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government will increase the minimum score required for a Student visa from IELTS 5.5 to 6.0 (or equivalent²). 	5.5	6.0	
ELICOS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Government will increase the minimum score required to undertake a packaged ELICOS from IELTS 4.5 to 5.0. - For those students studying English only through ELICOS, there will be no change given the generic nature of their study. 	4.5	5.0	
University Foundation or Pathway programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The test score required for students undertaking university foundation or pathway programs that deliver English language training will be IELTS 5.5 (or equivalent). 	5.5	5.5	Further consultation will be conducted on other pathway programs in 2024.

¹ Other English test provider equivalent scores: OET (C+); TOEFL iBT (79); PTE Academic (57); Cambridge English Advanced (CAE) (176), accepted if test is taken on or after 1 January 2015.

² Other English test provider equivalent scores: TOEFL iBT (60) accepted if test is taken on or before 25 July 2023; Cambridge English Advanced (CAE) (169); Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE Academic) (50); Occupational English Test (B for each of the four components).

Student processing priorities and Genuine Student requirements

Measure		Implementation
<p>Ministerial Direction No. 107 The order for considering and disposing of Student Guardian visa applications and offshore Subclass 500 (Student) visa applications.</p>	<p>Ministerial Direction No.107 establishes prioritisation of processing Student and Student Guardian visa caseloads based on the risk-level of providers.</p>	<p><u>Commenced 15 December 2023.</u></p> <p>Ministerial Direction 107 sets out the overall priorities for the processing of offshore Subclass 500 (Student) visa applications and Student Guardian visa applications. It prioritises processing of applications in accordance with provider level risk, as assessed by their evidence level under the Simplified Student Visa Framework SSVF.</p> <p>Under the Ministerial Direction, higher risk providers will experience slower processing times as visa decision makers consider the integrity of a provider, as well as the individual applications.</p> <p>In short, all visa applications will continue to be processed but low risk applications are given priority.</p>
<p>Ministerial Direction on Genuine Student requirement</p>	<p>This Ministerial Direction will outline key areas of consideration to support decision makers, including the circumstances of the applicant, such as their academic or career progression and the usefulness of the intended study to their future career prospects.</p> <p>The Direction will be clear in setting the expectations of students who come to complete study in Australia. Those who do not meet those requirements will not be granted a student visa.</p>	<p>Early 2024</p> <p>The ‘Genuine Student’ Ministerial Direction will apply to Student and Student Guardian applications made on and after the day of commencement (to be determined).</p> <p>Student visa applicant form changes will reflect required information under the Genuine Student requirement, including the applicant’s knowledge of and interest in their chosen course of study and a declaration that confirms that the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understands what it means to be a genuine student; • understands and intends to comply with their visa conditions; and • understands that post-study pathways to permanent residence are limited.

Note: all changes will be communicated to stakeholders, including the international education sector and the international student market in advance of their coming into effect. The Department will strive to ensure the accessibility of information once details are finalised.