



Procedure Name:

## International Student Refund

Document Number: FIN1.1.02

Approved by: CEO

Last Approval Date: April 2022

Review Date: April 2024

Audience: NIET (Australian Academy International) Administration Staff and Students

Contact Officer: Finance Manager

Related Documents: International Student Refund Policy; [ombudsman.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/enquiries-and-feedback](https://ombudsman.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/enquiries-and-feedback)

Legislation: [Overseas Student \(ESOS\) Act 2020: National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and training to overseas students Act 2018](#)  
[ESOS Act 2000](#);

### 1. Purpose and Scope

This procedure outlines NIET(AAI)'s arrangements for assessing and processing refunds for students and applies to all prospective, current and former students.

The International Student Refunds Policy and Procedure will be provided to students in their Letter of Offer/Enrolment Agreement and is also available on the NIET(AAI) website.

### 2. Exclusions

The following categories of refund are not covered by this procedure:

- Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) cancelled after arrival in Australia. International students should consult their OSHC provider about refund provisions.
- Fees for the IES Foundation Year. International students should contact International Education Services Ltd (IES).

*NOTE: Neither the procedures below nor the NIET(AAI) Complaints Handling and Appeals Process remove the right of a student to take action under Australia's Consumer Protection laws or to pursue other legal remedies*

### 3. PROCESS AND KEY CONTROLS

- Eligible students (or their agent/parent/guardian) must apply in accordance with this Procedure for a refund to be considered and processed by NIET(AAI).
- To process a refund application a student must have an amount in credit in their student account.
- The Finance Manager, NIET(AAI), has primary responsibility for managing the student fees function at NIET(AAI), including authorising refunds.
- NIET(AAI) will process refund requests within 28 calendar days of receiving a valid student refund application. If information required from a student to process an application is not complete or correct, the processing timeframe will commence once the required information is received.



- Unless stated in the International Student Refunds Policy and Procedure, administrative fees and charges, including the Enrolment Fee, Student Services Fee, and Textbooks and Materials Fee, will not be refunded on the cancellation of enrolment.
- Refunds are paid in Australian dollars.
- Refunds are generally made to the original payment source.
- Students have a right to seek a review of a refund decision in accordance with Section 4 of this Procedure.

## 5. ELIGIBILITY FOR REFUND

NIET(AAI) will provide refunds based on circumstances surrounding student or provider defaults as specified below:

Number	Circumstance	Refund amount
1	Visa Rejection (before course commencement date)	Full Tuition Fee refund  A Visa Rejection Administration Fee of \$500 or 5% of Tuition Fee will be applied, whichever is lower, as required by the <a href="#">Education Services for Overseas Students (Calculation of Refund) Specification 2014 (Cth)</a>
2	Visa Rejection (after course commencement date)	Pro-rated Tuition Fee refund  (A Refund Administration Fee will not be applied to the student refund, as required by the <a href="#">Education Services for Overseas Students (Calculation of Refund) Specification 2014 (Ct</a>
3	Withdrawal from course more than 12 weeks before course commencement date	80% Tuition Fee refund  A Refund Administration Fee will be applied.
4	Withdrawal from course 5-11 weeks before course commencement date	60% Tuition Fee refund  A Refund Administration Fee will be applied.
5	Withdrawal from course 0-4 weeks before course commencement date	40% Tuition Fee refund  A Refund Administration Fee will be applied.
6	Withdrawal prior to acceptance of offer	Full Tuition Fee refund  A Refund Administration Fee will be applied



<b>7</b>	Letter of Offer rescinded by NIET(AAI) due to a student's failure to provide the documents required for course commencement	<p>Full Tuition Fee refund</p> <p>A Letter of Offer Rescinded Refund Administration Fee of \$500 will be applied</p>
<b>8</b>	Student withdrawal after course commencement date	<p>No refund for current or previous semesters (or study periods for ELICOS courses)</p> <p>Full Tuition Fee refund for future study semesters (or study periods for ELICOS courses)</p> <p>An Administration Fee of \$500 will be applied if a student withdraws after Course Commencement Date.</p>
<b>9</b>	Student becoming Australian citizen	Any international student who becomes an Australian citizen or permanent resident, or a New Zealand citizen, during their enrolment in the CB Program and subsequently cancels their enrolment, no fees paid by the student are refunded. The student may complete the CB Program, however the offer of guaranteed admission to a university will be withdrawn.
<b>10</b>	NIET(AAI) inability to delivery qualification	<p>In the unlikely event that NIET(AAI) is unable to deliver a Program in full, a student will be offered a refund of all unspent prepaid tuition fees paid for the study period in which the default occurs, and any tuition fees paid in advance for future studies in the Program, or the student may be offered enrolment in an alternative program.</p> <p>If NIET(AAI) is unable to deliver the program that has been paid for and does not offer students an alternative program that they accept, or pay a refund of unspent prepaid tuition fees, the Australian Government's Tuition Protection Service (TPS) will assist students to find an alternative program or to get a refund, if a suitable alternative is not found.</p>

<b>Student requesting a transfer to another provider</b>	In accordance with the National Code, an international student who has <b>not completed six calendar months of his or her Principal Course</b> at NIET(AAI) and who wishes to transfer to another CRICOS provider in Australia must be approved for release by NIET(AAI), Refer NIET(AAI) International Student Release to another Provider Policy and Procedures for refund approval/refusal).
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## 6. APPLICATIONS FOR REFUND

1. Students (or parent/guardian if student is under 18 years of age) applying for a refund must submit an online Cancellation form via the NIET(AAI) Student Portal.
2. NIET(AAI) will process refund requests within 28 calendar days of receiving a valid student refund application. If information required from a student to process an application is not complete or correct, the processing timeframe will commence once the required information is received.
3. Where a student provides documentary evidence clearly demonstrating that compelling or compassionate circumstances apply, a refund of fees will be at the discretion of NIET(AAI) and will be consistent with the NIET(AAI) International Student Refund Policy.

**NB.** Compelling and compassionate circumstances are generally those beyond the control of the student and which have an impact upon the student's academic progress or well-being. These include, but are not limited to:

- i. Serious illness or injury.
- ii. Bereavement of close family members such as parents, siblings, or grandparents.
- iii. Major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country.
- iv. Involvement in a traumatic experience.

## 7. APPEALS PROCESS

1. Students will receive written notification of a decision regarding their refund application within 14 calendar days of receiving a valid student refund application. The student will also be provided with a copy of the NIET(AAI) Complaints Handling and Appeals Process. Where any student disagrees with NIET(AAI)'s application of the Refund Policy and Procedure the student has 20 working days to submit an appeal using the NIET(AAI) Complaints Handling and Appeals Process.
2. The student's appeal is reviewed by the Finance Manager. Students will receive written notification of a decision regarding the outcome of the appeal, including any reasons for an appeal being denied.
3. If the appeal is denied the student is informed of their option to appeal to the Queensland Ombudsman. The student is informed that they have 10 working days to make an appeal to the Queensland Ombudsman and that they are required to inform NIET(AAI) of their case number as proof of lodgement.



## Definitions

<b>CRICOS</b>	Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students. Database of every course and institution that enrolls overseas students.
<b>Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE)</b>	A document provided electronically, which is issued by the registered provider to intending overseas students and which must accompany their application for a student visa. It confirms the overseas student's eligibility to enrol in the particular course of the registered provider and specifies the dates of the enrolment period.
<b>Enrolment</b>	Where the student has been issued with an eCoE to confirm acceptance by NIET(AAI) is occupying a place in the CRICOS registered course for which the student was accepted. The period of enrolment includes any scheduled breaks between terms.
<b>Enrolment Agreement</b>	Written agreement between NIET(AAI) and student which outlines provisions and conditions of enrolment.
<b>ESOS Act</b>	The Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000. This Act regulates the delivery of education services to international students.
<b>Fees instalment</b>	Fees for the CB Program are payable quarterly instalments. The first is payable upon acceptance of offer.
<b>Letter of Offer</b>	The letter of offer including terms and conditions of a student's enrolment to study at the college. By signing the Letter of Offer a student acknowledges that they accept the terms and conditions to be admitted to a NIET(AAI) course.
<b>National Code</b>	The National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018, provides nationally consistent standards for the conduct of registered providers and the registration of their courses.
<b>PRISMS</b>	Provider Registration and International Students Management System. The system used to process information given to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection by registered providers.
<b>Student</b>	A student who is enrolled at NIET(AAI) and includes both prospective students and enrolled students who are 'overseas students' as defined in the National Code 2018.
<b>Student Visa</b>	An authorisation permitting people who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents to come to Australia for the primary purpose of studying in Australia as defined by the Migration Act 1958.

## Reference List

### Contacts

#### **NIET(AAI) Student Information**

<b>Description</b>	Contact details for all enquiries
<b>Contact Details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:studentservices@niet.edu.au">studentservices@niet.edu.au</a> Phone: (07) 3216 0288 Address: 8 Clunies Ross Court, Eight Mile Plains Q

#### **Queensland Ombudsman**

<b>Description</b>	Contact details for students to appeal decisions once the NIET(AAI) appeals processes have been exhausted
<b>Contact Details</b>	+61 7 3005 7000 Level 18, 53 Albert Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 GPO Box 3314, Brisbane QLD 4001 <a href="http://ombudsman.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/enquiries-and-feedback">ombudsman.qld.gov.au/about-us/contact-us/enquiries-and-feedback</a>

#### **Australian Commonwealth Government Department of Home Affairs**

<b>Description</b>	Contact details for visa enquiries
<b>Contact Details</b>	299 Adelaide Street, Brisbane QLD 4000 GPO Box 9984, Brisbane QLD 4001

## Version History

<b>Review Period:</b>		2 years from date of last approval		
<b>Version Number:</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>	<b>Approval Date:</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>	<b>Sections Modified:</b>
D1	Compliance Manager			Procedures developed
V1	CEO	April 2022	April 2022	Procedure Approved
V2	DCATM	Dec 2022	Dec 2022	Procedure changed re Section 5.2 – 5.4 re 28 days
V3	DCATM	June 2023	June 2023	Updated in line with Policy review