



Dear _____,

Thank you to Zita and Wendy who presented to ISANA Vic/Tas branch recently. Some valuable lessons learned about the needs of international students at this time, but also some candid reflections on how supporting students post lockdown may change. Copies of the presentations are attached for your reference.

Discussions are starting to change around the workplace. From managing lockdown to return to work. The school sector have begun this transition. For others you are considering the return to campus and providing input in terms of the questions your students have begun asking? Should I return home for holidays? If I return home, can I continue to study online for the whole semester? Will this cause problems with my visa? I studied online in first semester can I return for second semester? Will this be classroom based? Will I be quarantined on my return? Where and how and at whose cost?

As we await official answers from governments and regulators we continue to provide support for our students, responding to their unique circumstances, their anxieties and their aspiration to continue or commence their educational journey in Victoria and Tasmania.

Thank you again for your tireless commitment to our students. You make a difference.

Margaret
[ISANA VicTas Branch President](#)

Temporary Graduate Visa – Home Affairs Responds

DVC-I Question:

Under current provisions, if a student studies a 3 year course and completes the first 8 months overseas online but then the next 16 months/92 weeks in Australia, do they qualify for a Temporary Graduate Visa?

Home Affairs response:

The short answer is Yes.

- Questions have been raised regarding the Australian Study Requirement (ASR) for students who are studying online overseas and are unable to travel to Australia due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
- The ASR requires that a student must have completed a course requiring at least two academic years study and the course must be completed in no less than 16 months.
- Two academic years required by the ASR is at least 92 weeks, the duration of a course or courses registered under the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act.
- The ASR does not require visa applicants to have completed a single course of study of two academic years duration and applicants may use study for more than one qualification to meet the ASR.
- If a student is studying a three year course and completes the first eight months overseas online and then studies in Australia for the next 16 months/92 weeks, they would meet the ASR.
- Recognised prior learning (RPL) undertaken overseas does not contribute to the ASR, nor does it contribute to the 2 academic year study. However, if a student has RPL and has then studied in Australia for at least 16 months and completed a course of two academic years, they would meet the ASR.
- The Government understands many international students are currently unable to travel to Australia due to travel restrictions and are therefore studying online overseas. A range of measures are being considered to ensure international students are not disadvantaged as a result of COVID-19, including how online study may be treated in these circumstances.

Further information on the Australian Study Requirement is available at

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/temporary-graduate-485/australian-study-requirement> .

International Students Ask

Created by Study Australia and Insider Guides, 'International Students Ask' is a video series giving students the opportunity to ask any question relating to studying in Australia during COVID-19.

The purpose of these videos is to not only inform international students about the latest Australian Government information and advice, but to also answer the questions students are most concerned about, ensuring they feel heard, supported and informed.

Study Australia has found industry experts to answer these questions via video which will be shared across our Study Australia platforms.

The website can be found here: <https://insiderguides.com.au/international-students-ask/>

SCAM alert

There are a growing number of scams during lockdown and most recently one posing as DHL. Please continue to alert students to scams <https://www.scamwatch.gov.au/types-of-scams/current-covid-19-coronavirus-scams>

Legal Help Students during COVID 19

There are many international students seeking advice with regard to housing, safety and work. This link <https://imcl.org.au/news/international-student-rights/international-student-covid-19-webinar> is a recording of community lawyers from WestJustice and Inner Melbourne Community Legal discussing issues with students.

Also find useful legal fact sheets at Inner Melbourne Community Legal <https://ishelp.org.au/>

ISANA National Code Tutorial

Last week Bronwyn Gilson, ISANA National President, announced the National Code Tutorial (NCT) instructional tool is ready to take enrolments. For further details please visit the [NCT web page](#).

ISANA Professional Development (PD)

Next week, the project team will be hosting an introductory session on the National Code Tutorial including an interactive walk through and Q & A. [CLICK HERE](#) for the ISANA PD calendar.

