

ESOS for Students

International students under the age of 18

Living and studying away from your parents may be an unsettling experience. It is important to talk with your parents about whether you are ready for the challenge. When deciding where you will study, think about the arrangements available to support you at your preferred education provider, and get as much information as possible before applying.

When you receive your written agreement, carefully check the information about your approved accommodation and welfare arrangements.

Your parents will need to sign and accept this agreement.



Provider approved welfare arrangements

Your education provider retains the ultimate responsibility for approving and ensuring welfare arrangements for international students. There are different types of approved welfare arrangements. Some providers may provide their own support service at an added cost, while others may require you to have an additional arrangement with a company that specialises in supporting young students, also at extra cost.

Your education provider is responsible for your welfare and it will have specific requirements about how often its staff meet with you and any other programs you need to attend. If you do not follow your provider's requirements it will notify your parents and it may have to cancel your Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW).

Think very carefully about the approved options. Once your CAAW is issued, you cannot change your welfare and accommodation arrangements without your provider's approval.

Provider approved accommodation options

Each provider determines which accommodation options it allows its under 18 students to live in. These options could include homestay, residential colleges, Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) and rooming houses.

Before approving your accommodation, your education provider must make sure that the accommodation is suitable for your age and needs. Your education provider must check the suitability of your accommodation every six months, so it may limit the number of options or offer only one option. You are only allowed to stay in accommodation that is approved by your education provider, so think carefully about which option best suits your needs.

Expect your accommodation option to have a curfew. This means you must be at your approved accommodation each night by a designated time. If you breach curfew you will be notified and it may be necessary to advise your parents.



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Do not enter Australia before your welfare start date unless you are accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. This is considered a breach of your student visa condition and you risk having your visa cancelled.

Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare Arrangements

If your preferred education provider is willing to take responsibility for your welfare, you and your parents must agree to its strict requirements before it will issue your Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare Arrangements (CAAW) form. The CAAW is issued at the same time as your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and you need both documents when applying for a student visa.

Guardian visas

Not all education providers accept under 18 students and some may only accept students if they are living with a person who holds a guardian visa approved by the Department of Home Affairs. Please refer to the **Home Affairs website** for information about this arrangement.



Victorian Child Safety Standards

All education providers in Victoria who enrol students must meet the requirements relating to child welfare and protection from abuse. The **Commission for Children and Young People** regulates these requirements. Your education provider will give you information on seeking assistance and reporting any incidents.

Emergency contact details

Please make sure you always have your provider's emergency contact information handy in case you need it. Your provider must give you your emergency contact information either before you arrive or immediately after you arrive in Australia.

The information in this fact sheet is based on an education provider's obligations in Standard 5 of the **National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018**.

ESOS for Students is an ISANA project funded by Study Melbourne under its International Student Welfare Program. The ESOS legislation protects and enhances the experiences of international students studying in Australia. This project aims to raise awareness of their rights and responsibilities.



<http://www.isana.org.au/esosforstudents>