



Factsheet – Pilot Training Courses and Ministerial Direction No. 111

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring the quality, integrity and sustainability of Australia's international education sector. Arrangements to improve the integrity and sustainability of the sector are set out in the *Education Services for Overseas Students Amendment (Quality and Integrity) Bill 2024* (ESOS Bill).

The ESOS Bill did not pass Parliament in time for arrangements to be implemented by 1 January 2025, and the proposed amendments are therefore not in operation.

However, the Government remains committed to managing the sector at sustainable levels. The introduction of [Ministerial Direction No. 111](#) on 19 December 2024 is consistent with the Government's intent and prioritises student visa applications in a fair and efficient way.

In 2024, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations informed VET providers of their 2025 indicative new overseas student commencement (NOSC) allocations. These allocations guide the prioritisation process for offshore student visa processing under Ministerial Direction No. 111.

More information about Ministerial Direction No. 111 can be found on the Department of Home Affairs website.

Ministerial Direction No. 111 affords the highest priority (Priority 1) processing on a continuous basis to visa applications from students enrolled in eligible pilot training courses. This supports aviation providers and helps preserve the significant strategic benefits of pilot training to the Australian national interest.

Eligible pilot training courses under Ministerial Direction No. 111

Visa applications for students enrolled in eligible pilot training courses will receive continuous high priority (Priority 1) processing under Ministerial Direction No. 111. Eligible pilot training courses are the:

- Diploma of Aviation (Commercial Pilot Licence – Aeroplane)
- Diploma of Aviation (Commercial Pilot Licence – Helicopter)
- Diploma of Aviation (Instrument Rating)

- Diploma of Aviation (Flight Instructor)

This means that visa applications from students enrolled in these courses will always be given Priority 1 processing status by Department of Home Affairs decision makers, regardless of whether a VET provider has reached or exceeded its Prioritisation Threshold and moved to Priority 2 (standard) processing status.

For higher education and VET providers, the Prioritisation Threshold refers to 80 per cent of an individual provider's 2025 indicative new overseas student commencements (NOSCs) allocation.

VET providers are not required to do anything in order for continuous Priority 1 processing to apply. Eligible pilot training courses have already been identified in Department of Home Affairs systems and Priority 1 processing status will automatically apply to all visa applications from students enrolled in these courses.

VET providers delivering eligible pilot training courses will still have an indicative 2025 NOSC allocation. Visa applications from students enrolled in courses other than eligible pilot training courses will be processed subject to the Prioritisation Threshold and Priority 2 processing will apply once a VET provider's threshold has been reached.

Indicative 2025 NOSC allocations are published on the department's website and continue to be available in PRISMS.

Questions about student visa application processing under Ministerial Direction No. 111 for students enrolled in pilot training courses can be directed to strategicframework@dewr.gov.au.