



International education and managed growth arrangements for 2027 – pilot training courses

The Australian Government remains committed to a high quality, resilient and sustainable international education sector. A managed approach has been effective in returning student numbers to more sustainable levels in 2025 and 2026 and the government has now determined arrangements for 2027, including for pilot (aviation) training courses.

More information about [managed growth for international education](#) is published by the Department of Education.

2027 arrangements for eligible pilot training courses

Offshore Student visa applications for students enrolled in eligible pilot training courses will not count towards a provider's total of New Overseas Student Commencements (NOSC) and will receive unlimited ongoing Priority 1 processing. This supports aviation providers and helps preserve the significant strategic benefits of pilot training to the Australian national interest.

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)

Students enrolled in these courses are eligible for exemption from a provider's NOSC allocation and prioritisation of their Student visa application, regardless of whether the provider has reached or exceeded its prioritisation threshold, and regardless of the prioritisation category displayed on the Summary Tab¹ of a provider's NOSC Report, when downloaded in PRISMS.

VET providers delivering eligible pilot training courses are not required to do anything for their students enrolled in these courses to access continuous Priority 1 processing. These courses have already been identified in Department of Home Affairs systems so that Priority 1 processing status will automatically apply to all offshore visa applications for these courses.

¹ The Summary Tab provides information on allocations and NOSCs. It also displays a provider's 'Prioritisation Percentage' and 'Offshore Visa Processing Prioritisation Category'.

The standard arrangements for determining offshore Student visa processing priority will apply to any other VET courses delivered by providers delivering eligible pilot training courses.

Information regarding the application of prioritisation thresholds for Student visa processing is available at [Student visa processing priorities](#).

Questions about the prioritisation of Student visa application processing for students enrolled in an eligible pilot training course can be directed to ManagedGrowth@dewr.gov.au.