



# International education and managed growth arrangements for 2026 – pilot training courses

The Australian Government remains committed to a high quality, resilient international education sector with modest growth over time. A managed growth approach has been effective in returning student numbers to a more sustainable level in 2025 and the Government has now determined arrangements for 2026, including for providers delivering eligible pilot training courses.

More information about the [Government's managed growth arrangements for 2026](#) is published by the Department of Education.

[Allocations for all VET providers for 2026](#) were published on 4 August 2025 (and continue to be available in PRISMS) and provider progress against allocations will continue to inform prioritisation for offshore student visa processing.

## ***2026 arrangements for eligible pilot training courses***

Offshore visa applications for students enrolled in eligible pilot training courses will continue to receive 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)

Offshore 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 regardless of the prioritisation category displayed on the Summary Tab<sup>1</sup> of a provider's New Overseas Student Commencement (NOSC) Report, when downloaded in PRISMS.

Department of Home Affairs decision makers will never apply a lower processing priority to offshore visa applications from VET students enrolled in eligible pilot training courses.

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

VET providers delivering eligible pilot training courses are not required to do anything in order for continuous Priority 1 processing to apply. 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 from students enrolled in these courses.

For VET providers delivering eligible pilot training courses as well as other VET courses (which may include other aviation industry courses), offshore visa applications from students enrolled in those courses which are not eligible pilot training courses will be processed subject to a VET provider's prioritisation threshold. Information regarding the application of prioritisation thresholds for student visa processing generally is available here: [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](mailto:managedgrowth@dewr.gov.au).