



International Student Handbook

Version 1.6 Apr 2023



Welcome

Thank you for choosing the Victorian Academy of Commerce and Technology Startups (VACTS) to assist you in achieving your learning goals.

At VACTS we are proud of our facilities and the quality of the education that we provide to our students. We welcome you to our college and to our city. We want you to enjoy your time here and gain the most from your experience.

This information booklet is designed with you (the student) in mind. We hope that it will provide you with all the information you need to gain all that you can from your time at VACTS.

This booklet provides you with information to help you settle in to Australia and VACTS. It sets out a range of processes and procedures that have been put in place to ensure that we provide you with a consistent and high quality service.

We aim to provide you with the best of facilities, trainers and support services to ensure that your learning experience at VACTS meets and exceeds your expectations.

We wish you an enjoyable and rewarding experience with VACTS.



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Important Information and Emergency Contacts

VACTS Melbourne

Contact Details:

Victorian Academy of Commerce and Technology
Startups

171 Sydney Road, Coburg VIC 3058

Telephone: (03) 99953642

Email: info@vacts.edu.au

Website: www.vacts.edu.au

Advice for international students

Information about arrangements for international students, you should contact the Student Services Manager. If you cannot make contact using the VACTS business telephone number, you can call the 24 hour emergency contact number.

International Student –

24 Hour Emergency Contact

The emergency contact number for students is 0420 925 727. In an emergency, this number will be answered regardless of the time of day.

Transport

Information about all public transport in Melbourne is available from Public Transport Victoria:

www.ptv.vic.gov.au

Railway Station

VACTS is approximately 0.4 km from Moreland railway station.

Taxis

Melbourne's major taxi companies are:

13 CABS (13 22 27)

Homestay advice

For information about arrangements for homestay, you should contact the Student Services Manager.

Police Fire Ambulance 000

Dept. Of Home Affairs

Website: www.homeaffairs.gov.au/

Melbourne office

Ground Floor, Casselden Place,

2 Lonsdale Street

MELBOURNE VIC 3000

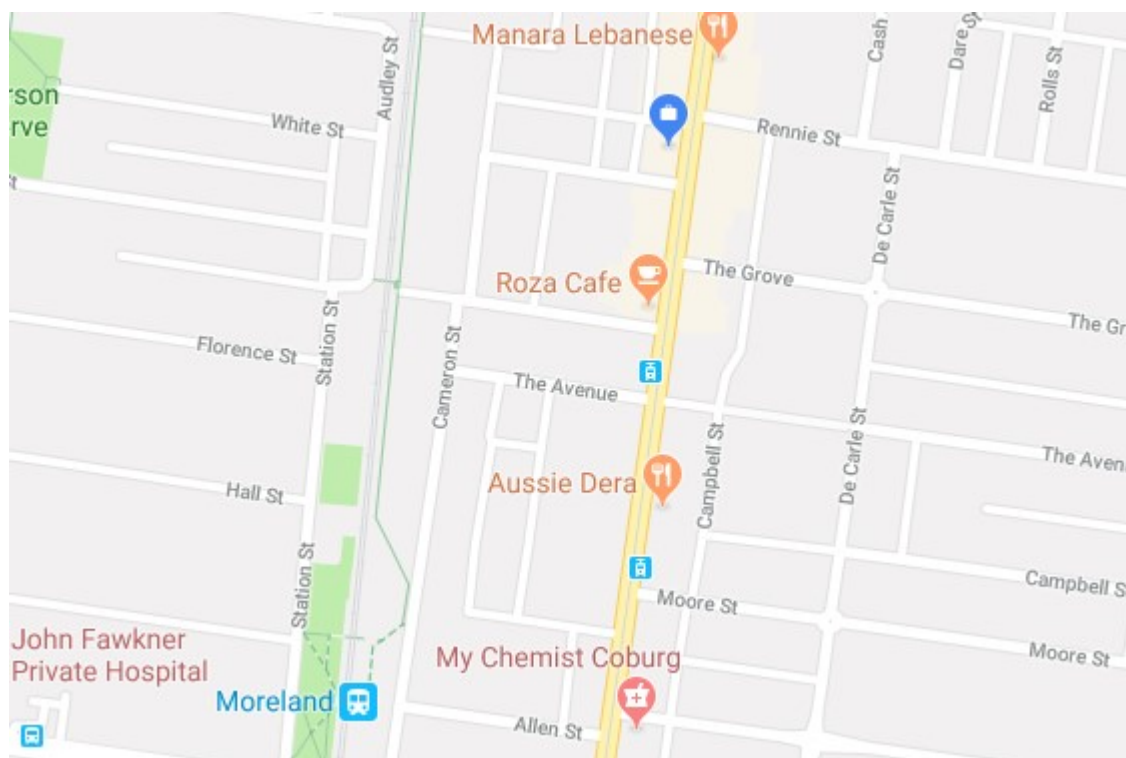
Counter hours

Mon-Fri 0900-1600 (Wed 0900-1330) Ph: 131 881

College Location

VACTS is located at 171 Sydney Road, Coburg VIC 3058.

MAP



Travelling to VACTS by Public Transport

VACTS is approximately 0.4 Km from Moreland railway station.

1. Mission Statement

Victorian Academy of Commerce and Technology Start-ups (VACTS) is committed to providing high quality education to enable its students to seek self-improvement, irrespective of nationality, gender or belief.

VACTS is a quality provider of vocational education for both domestic and international students. By the dedicated pursuit of best practice teaching and assessment and the provision of a dynamic, student-centred learning environment, VACTS endeavours to foster in its students entrepreneurial thought, intellectual integrity and social responsibility.

2. About VACTS

VACTS offers vocational educational courses to local and international students.

3. About Melbourne

Melbourne is the capital city of Victoria and the second largest city in Australia. Melbourne is a large, and growing, city, with nearly four million residents.

Victoria is one of the most culturally diverse places in the world. Of the people living in Victoria, 44% were either born overseas or have at least one parent born overseas. More than 180 different languages are spoken in Victoria, and 20 percent of the Victorian population speaks a language other than English at home.

The city of Melbourne has a thriving food culture, offering a wide range of dining choices and interesting laneway cafes. A variety of food markets offer the freshest of every ingredient for home cooking and eating. The range of shops from large department stores to smaller designer shops and markets mean whatever you need and want can be found in Melbourne. The streets are alive at night with theatres, bars, nightclubs, and restaurants that line the city streets and the Yarra River in Southbank.

Melbourne is home to many major cultural and sporting events each year. Melbourne is an attractive city boasting magnificent gardens, nearby beaches and easy access by car and bus to snowfields, national parks and inland lakes and rivers.

We think that you will find that living and working in Melbourne is a wonderful experience.

For more information about Melbourne, you should visit the city's official website: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au

Other websites with useful information about living in Melbourne and Victoria are:

www.visitvictoria.com

www.thatsmelbourne.com.au

www.visitmelbourne.com.au

4. VACTS CRICOS Provider Code

The following are VACTS's registration details.

Vanshraj Enterprises Pty Ltd Trading as Victorian Academy of Commerce and Technology Startups

RTO No. 41428

CRICOS Provider Code: 03477E

5. Staff Details

CEO: Amitava Banerjee

Student Admin/ Services – Shivani Banerjee

6. Accommodation

Homestay

Many students prefer to stay in homestay accommodation whilst studying. Homestay accommodation provides you with the opportunity to share the lifestyle of a local family and gain an understanding of life in Australia. An average homestay accommodation costs about AUD\$290 per week. Still we recommend you to check online for cheaper price.

Satisfaction with student homestay arrangements is monitored by the VACTS Student Welfare Officer. Accommodation and Welfare Questionnaires are to be completed by students within four weeks of beginning every new homestay placement and then at the end of every three months during the placement.

Lease and Shared Accommodation

It is important to consider the full range of costs and responsibilities with leased accommodation. The demand is usually high and ranges generally from AUD\$80 – AUD\$550 per week unfurnished or AUD\$100 – AUD\$600 per week furnished depending on the size, condition and location of the house/apartment. Shared accommodation also varies greatly in price.

Where to look for accommodation

The following is a list of places where you can go to find advertisements for accommodation:

Newspaper classifieds

The Melbourne Age has advertisements for flats (apartments) and share houses every week. The Domain section of the Age, published every Saturday, has a very extensive list of available rental properties in Melbourne.

Online information

The following websites are useful sources of information about shared and rental accommodation

www.domain.com.au

www.realestate.com.au

7. Cost of Living

The following table provides a list of approximate prices, in Australian dollars, of some typical foods, goods and services that you can compare with those in your home country:

Basic Lunch Menu (Drink Included)	\$15	1 kg / Apples	\$4.32
Fast Food Combo Meal	\$12	1 kg / Potatoes	\$3.35
1 Litre Milk	\$1.24	1.5 Litres of Water	\$1.00
A Dozen Eggs	\$4.00	2 Litres of Coca Cola	\$2.99
1 kg / White Rice	\$2.64	Bread 1 loaf	\$2.50
500 gr Cheese	\$6.50	Two Movie Tickets	\$36
1 kg / Tomatoes	\$5.00	Cappucino or Flat White Coffee	\$3.50

It is estimated that in addition to your accommodation costs, a single international student requires a minimum of AUD\$18, 000 per year (or AUD\$350 per week) for living expenses.

8. Medical and Health

Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC)

You must be covered by approved health insurance while you are in Australia. You will be asked to pay for your annual membership of Medibank Private's Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) when you receive your VACTS enrolment offer and acceptance agreement.

Medibank Private's Overseas Student Health Cover is approved by the Australian Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. You should check the following website for information about Medibank Private's Overseas Student Health Cover:

<http://www.medibank.com.au/Overseas-Students/About-OSHC.aspx>

The fees for the coverage of OSHC for a single student for one year, kindly visit the above link.

Medical facilities

There are a number of medical professionals in the vicinity of the campus. Please see the Important Information and Emergency Contacts page at the start of this document. If you require help with any medical concerns, you should inform the Student Services Manager or the Admin staff who will assist you to find a doctor.

9. School-Aged Dependents

If you have dependants with you when you come to Australia, they are required to be enrolled in a school if they are of school age. If they are enrolled in either a government or a non-government school you will be required to pay full fees.

10. Childcare

Finding suitable childcare in Australia requires patience and planning. Waiting lists for places in most childcare centres are long.

Many primary schools offer before and after school care programs (usually between 7:00am - 8:45 am and 3:30pm - 6:00pm) and holiday program during the holiday period. Children who need these programs must be registered with the school.

11. Access and Equity

VACTS provides equal access to training and delivery services for all students. If a student with a disability meets the course entry requirements, VACTS will make reasonable adjustments necessary for that person to perform their undertaken course. This involves:

- thorough consideration of how an adjustment might be made
- discussions with the student
- consultation with government agencies or organisations that represent or provide services to people with a disability

Our trainers will implement learning support strategies to assist you in achieving the required competencies. However, students with learning difficulties beyond our areas of expertise are referred to external specialist agencies.

Recruitment at VACTS is carried out in an ethical manner in accordance with principles of access and equity.

Trainers and assessors at VACTS:

- recognise the cultural diversity of all students
- ensure equal treatment of all students
- encourage full participation and assisting all students to achieve course outcomes
- provide equal access to resources
- refer students with specific learning problems to appropriate agencies

12. Places of Worship

There is complete freedom of religion in Australia. Most of the religions of the world are represented in Melbourne and have their own places of worship. These can be found in the City's White Pages telephone directory, listed alphabetically under the denomination.

The majority of Australians are Christian, the three largest denominations being Anglican, Roman Catholic and Uniting Church. Smaller Christian denominations include Lutheran, Jehovah's Witness, Seventh Day Adventist and Baptist. Other major religions with a great many adherents in Australia include Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Taoism

13. Driving in Australia

You may be eligible to drive in Australia if you have a driver's licence from another country, but for a limited time. Your driver's licence must be in English or officially translated into English. Please refer to the following website to obtain information about how to gain a VIC driver's licence. <http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au>.

You must ensure that you obey all driving laws while driving in Australia. The penalties for disobeying driving laws can be quite severe, especially those which apply to drinking alcohol and driving.

14. Australian Laws

It is your responsibility to have knowledge of Australian law. Some basic information is available at the following website

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

Also from 1st January 2015, all the students should have a Unique Student Identifier (USI#) in order to enrol in the qualifications. If you do not have a USI number, VACTS can create one for you with your approval. You can also create one by going to <http://usi.gov.au>

15. Weather

Australia's seasons are at opposite times to those in the northern hemisphere. December to February is summer; March to May is autumn; June to August is winter; and September to November is spring.

Australia has a climate which varies from cool during the winter months in the middle of the year to occasionally very hot during summer. You can obtain information about weather from the Bureau of Meteorology website. <http://www.bom.gov.au>

16. Time Difference

Australia time is GMT plus 10 hours. In Victoria, time changes to Daylight Savings on first Sunday in October, when we move clocks forward by one hour. The Daylight Savings come to an end on first Sunday in April, when we move clocks backward by one hour.

www.timeanddate.com/worldclock

17. The Business Environment in Australia

The business environment in Australia is vibrant and exciting. There are many opportunities for dedicated and talented people who have a desire to succeed. Employers place great value on individuals who have acquired relevant skills during their studies and who are able to apply those skills in the work environment. VACTS's courses are designed to put you in this group of highly desired workers.

18. List of Helpful Websites

Following are some websites which contain information you might find helpful:

Tourist Information Services

Australian Street Maps

<http://www.whereis.com.au/whereis/home.jsp>

Currency Conversions

<http://www.xe.com/>

Australian Tourist Commission

<http://www.australia.com/>

Australian Weather

<http://www.bom.gov.au>

World Times

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/>

Government Departments

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

Study in Australia

<http://www.studyaustralia.gov.au>

Embassies and Missions

<http://www.border.gov.au/contacts/overseas.htm>

Medibank Private

<http://www.medibank.com.au>

Department of Education (DOE)

<http://www.education.gov.au>

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/>

Airlines Information

Qantas Airlines

<http://www.qantas.com.au/>

Virgin Blue

<http://www.virginblue.com.au>

Jetstar

<http://www.jetstar.com/>

General Services

Laws in Australia

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/>

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

Telephone Directory - Sensis (White and Yellow Pages)

<http://www.whitepages.com.au>

Public Holiday

<https://business.vic.gov.au/business-information/public-holidays>

In Case of Emergency

For Police, Fire or Ambulance services, dial 000 or if calling from a mobile phone, dial 112.

VACTS has a 24-hour emergency contact service. You will be given a 24-hour contact number when you enrol. VACTS staff is always on hand while students are at the campus to deal with a range of problems and difficulties.

19. Workplace Health and Safety

VACTS aims at all times to provide a healthy and safe environment in which to study. If you see anything that you think might be unsafe or dangerous, please tell a member of the VACTS staff.

Emergency evacuation procedures will be explained to all students during the orientation presentation.

“No Smoking” in any area of VACTS premises. We encourage you to not smoke, but if you wish to, you must leave the premises.

A First Aid Kit is located at the reception desk.

You are responsible for:

- Always conducting yourself in a safe and healthy manner.
- ensuring the prevention of injury and disease to yourself, fellow students and VACTS staff
- Identifying and reporting to your trainer any possible hazards from equipment, facilities and the environment.
- Refraining from drinking and/or eating in classrooms.

You must make sure you know where the fire exits are. (See the plan of VACTS on the back of every classroom door, and on the last page of this student handbook). The fire exits are clearly labelled and your teacher will show you where the nearest one is located.

During your time at VACTS you may be asked to take part in an evacuation of the building. This may be a practice, or a real emergency evacuation and you must follow your teachers/fire wardens’ instruction and evacuate the building and assemble at the designated meeting location.

You should move quickly and calmly to the evacuation site with your teacher. Once there, your teacher will mark off your name on the class roll. It is important that all students are accounted for, otherwise someone will have to look for you. You will not be permitted to re-enter the building until you are informed by VACTS staff that it is safe to go back into the building.

20. Legal Services

This section provides information about legal services available in Melbourne & Sydney.

Legal Aid:

You can contact the Legal Aid Vic Service for free general information over the phone about the law and how we can help you. It is open from Monday to Friday, 8.45 am to 5.15 pm. The telephone number is 1300 792 387

The Legal Aid website is:

www.legalaid.vic.gov.au

Law Institute Victoria

If you need legal advice from a solicitor you can go to the online legal referral service of the Law Institute of Victoria. This is a free referral service. With a referral letter, participating law firms will see clients for up to the first 30 minutes, free of charge. After the first thirty minutes, you will need to pay. The website of the Law Institute of Victoria is <http://www.liv.asn.au>.

You can call the Law Institute of Victoria on (03) 9607 9311.

21. Useful contact numbers (in alphabetical sequence of service)

Australian Health Management (AHM)	134 246
AHM Emergency helpline	1800 006 745
Alcohol & Drug Information Service	1800 177 833
Department of Home affairs	131 881
Wageline	1800 287 287
Workplace Rights Hotline	1800 535 727
Domestic Violence	1800 811 811
Emergency Services (Police and Ambulance and Fire)	000
Human Rights & Equal Opportunity Commission	(02) 9284 9600
Complaints Info line	1300 656 419
Privacy Hotline	1300 363 992
International Directory Service	1225
Kids Help Line	1800 551 800
Legal Aid Australia	1300 651 188
Lifeline 24 Hours	13 11 14
Quit Line	131 848
Telephone Directory Service	12455
Telephone Interpreting Services	131 450
State Emergency Service	132 500
Telstra Call Tracing Service	1800 007 097
Poisons Information	13 11 26
Electricity Emergencies	13 12 80
Suicide Helpline Victoria	13 11 14
Victorian Sexual Assault Crisis Line	1800 806 292

22. Things to do when you first arrive

Open a bank account

Select a bank – each bank is different and offers different types of accounts. It is best to visit several banks before deciding which one suits you best. Remember to ask about fees and charges.

Ensure that you are allowed to work

VACTS will advise Dept. of Home Affairs in your first week of study that you have arrived. You should visit <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/> and follow the links to understand the rules regarding working in Australia.

Apply for a tax file number

How to apply

Your employer will probably ask you for a tax file number, and you will need to apply for it at the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) - www.ato.gov.au

Submitting your Application

You can complete your application online. Go to the ATO website at www.ato.gov.au, select Forms and Services, TFN – tax file number application form, Online individual tax file number (TFN) registration (Nat 4157), apply for a tax file number then complete the form online. You will need to enter your passport and work permission visa numbers. There is no charge for a tax file number. Alternatively, you can submit your application directly with the Australian Taxation Office and you will need the following documentation:

- Your current visa with permission for work
- Two (2) different proofs of identity, e.g., student card, Passport, bank statement, others (please enquire at the ATO).
- Tax file number application form (you can also obtain this from the ATO).

It is important that all students provide their tax file number to employers, so that they are insured under Worksafe. If you are injured at work, you will be paid part or your entire wage during any time you are unable to work, and also assist you in returning to work. Some or all of the medical and rehabilitation expenses incurred will also be covered. Remember to advise all employers of your tax file number.

23. VACTS Facilities

VACTS campus is located at 171 Sydney Road, Coburg VIC 3058. All of VACTS qualifications are delivered at this location. For commercial cookery and hospitality courses (SIT qualifications) VACTS is equipped with a commercial kitchen at this premises.

Students have access to the Student computer lab, where they can work on assignments, prepare for assessments, and converse in English to enhance their language skills.

VACTS provides wireless computing network, enabling students' access to the internet and to printing facilities. Students may use their laptop computers for research activities, for assignment work and to develop their language skills, or they can use the desktop computing facilities available in the Student computer lab.

24. Scheduling and Timetabling

Students will be provided with the following documents at orientation during their first day at VACTS:

- Academic calendar for the period of their enrolment
- Timetables for the period of their enrolment

These documents are also placed on the student noticeboard.

No student will have more than eight hours of classes timetabled in a single day.

All classes will be conducted between 8:00am and 9:30pm.

25. Student Satisfaction Survey

At the end of each term, a survey is conducted to obtain feedback from the students regarding the subjects that they undertake. Please ensure you carefully complete the questionnaires at the end of each term. It is through your feedback that we can continue to deliver relevant courses and improve the quality of all that we do.

26. Who to go to for help

The following table provides a list of student support and welfare requirements, indicating in each case which staff member, from whom you can seek advice.

	CEO/RTO Manager/ CEO	Student Services Manager	Student Administration Officer
Issuing documents		✓	
Issues with student identification cards			✓
Information and advice about VACTS's policies and procedures	✓	✓	✓
Emergency assistance and referrals to students in crisis situations	✓	✓	✓
Making available a checklist of professional counsellors	✓	✓	✓
Assistance in making appointments with relevant professionals	✓	✓	✓

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Information, support and advice on financial issues, financial literacy and money management		✓	
Personal, educational, and practical welfare needs	✓	✓	✓
Advice on cultural and social issues, and living skills	✓	✓	✓
Advice on part-time employment whilst studying	✓	✓	✓
OHSC issues		✓	✓
Accommodation issues (including homestay)		✓	✓
Help with settling in to Australia	✓	✓	✓
The VACTS orientation program	✓	✓	✓
Student orientation packs		✓	✓
Cultural and social events		✓	✓
Recreation activities		✓	✓
LLN skills assistance		✓	✓
Learning and study skills		✓	✓
Career advice		✓	✓
I.T. support		✓	✓

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Questions about visa conditions	✓	✓	
Peer mentoring		✓	✓
Industry mentoring		✓	
CV development		✓	✓
Support for students with special needs		✓	✓

27. Personal Counselling

Personal counselling is available to all students. The VACTS Student Services Manager and the admin staff are familiar with issues with which international students commonly need to deal. The Student Services Manager and admin staff are able to help with general welfare requirements of students and refer students to professionals should they require counselling.

The Student Services Manager and admin staff can deal with issues such as accommodation, banking, student visa requirements, medical issues and cultural acclimatisation.

The Student Services Manager is the responsible person for student support services. Any questions about the student services available at VACTS should be directed to the Student Services Manager.

28. Academic Counselling

If you need help in the planning and management of your study program, or you are having difficulties with your day-to-day learning, you should make an appointment with the CEO/RTO Manager. The CEO/RTO Manager is aware of the obligations of your student visa and can assist with issues of academic performance or general understanding of your program. The CEO/RTO Manager will help you to implement a study skills program to help address the problems you are experiencing. This can be individual support, in small groups or class groups depending on specific needs.

Particular areas of support to students may include:

- note-taking skills
- writing skills
- time management
- test preparation
- improving general study skills
- computer skills for study
- completing assignments
- referencing
- English language skills
- numeracy skills
- spelling
- reading course material.

29. Language, Literacy and Numeracy Support

If you are experiencing difficulty with your study because of issues of language (either written or spoken), literacy, or numeracy, we are able to assist. You should ask at the reception desk if you need help. An appointment will be made for you with the CEO/RTO Manager, who will discuss with you the help which is available.

30. I.T. Support

It is important to feel comfortable with the I.T. environment at VACTS and at home. Many of your assessments are based upon work you will complete using the I.T. facilities available to you. If you have any questions about the I.T. facilities, or you feel you need I.T. support, you should ask at the reception desk for an appointment with the CEO/RTO Manager.

31. CV Development

Your CV should be as individual as you are. Over the years, your CV will be an ever evolving document that develops with your education and experience. VACTS's Student Services Manager or admin staff will provide you with ideas and tips for the development of your CV.

32. Peer Mentoring

VACTS offers a peer mentoring program to students. Students who are nearing the completion of their program offer their services as volunteer mentors for beginning students. This service is organised by the Student Services Manager.

33. Availability of staff

The Student Services Manager is available to see students, without appointment, for eight hours each weekday (Monday to Friday). Appointments can be made for outside of these hours.

34. Careers Guidance

Guidance about careers in the field you are studying is readily available to you. You can ask your teachers or make an appointment with the CEO/RTO Manager to discuss careers and the opportunities available to you.

35. Fees for Student Services

Fees apply for some student services, as follows:

Moderation on appeal (per assessment task per unit)	No charge
Additional Statement of Attainment	\$50.00
Replacement Diploma / Certificate	\$100.00
Academic support class (for two-hour class)	No charge
Repeat Unit	\$750.00
"One-on-one" Mentoring (for two-hour class)	No charge
Replacement ID card	\$10.00
RPL Assessment (per unit of competency)	\$150.00
LLN Skills assistance (per hour)	No charge
Re-assessment	No charge

Deferral of Study	\$1,000.00
Fees for late payments per month	\$100

36. Students with Special Needs

Support is available for students with a disability or with special needs. Please do not hesitate to ask to see the CEO/RTO Manager, Student Services Manager or Admin staff if you need support.

37. Social Program

VACTS has a Social Program organised by the Student services Manager. Activities range from cultural and sightseeing events, to dinners, excursions and sports outings. The activities allow students to enjoy the city's social scene and learn about Australia.

38. Classrooms

VACTS has comfortable, modern, well fitted classrooms. Your teacher will arrange the furniture and equipment in the classroom to provide you with the most effect possible learning environment. You should tell your teacher if there is anything about the learning environment which you find difficult.

39. Assessment Methods

Assessment methods used at VACTS are flexible (they are designed to be appropriate to the needs of students at VACTS), valid (they are designed to assess what they claim to assess), reliable (they are consistent from learner to learner and context to context) and fair there is no disadvantage to any individual or any group of students.

A number of methods of assessment are used at VACTS, including

- analysis of workplace scenarios
- written assessments
- one-on-one questioning
- written assessment
- trainer / workplace supervisor observation
- project work
- oral presentations
- discussions
- role-plays
- practical demonstration

40. The ESOS Framework

VACTS is committed to providing you with quality education and protecting your rights.

The following is the text of a document published by Australian Education International, which is the international arm of the Australian Government's Department of Education. The document is entitled "The ESOS framework – providing quality education and protecting your rights". It is available from the AEI's website www.aei.gov.au. It is also available to VACTS students at the VACTS reception desk.

The ESOS Framework – providing quality information and protecting your rights.

The Australian Government wants overseas students in Australia to have a safe, enjoyable and rewarding place to study. Australia's laws promote quality education and consumer protection for overseas students. These laws are known as the ESOS framework and they include the *Education Services for Overseas (ESOS) Act 2000* and the National Code 2018.

Protection for overseas students

As an overseas student on a student visa, you must study with an education provider and in a course that can be found on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) at www.cricos.education.gov.au. CRICOS registration guarantees that the course and the education provider at which you study meet the high standards necessary for overseas students. Please check carefully that the details of your course – including its location – match the information on CRICOS.

Your rights

The ESOS framework protects your rights, including:

- your right to receive, before enrolling, current and accurate information about the courses, fees, modes of study and other information from your provider and your provider's agent.
- your right to sign a written agreement with your provider before or as you pay fees, setting out the services to be provided, fees payable and information about refunds of course money. You should keep a copy of your written agreement.
- your right to get the education you paid for. The ESOS framework includes consumer protection that will allow you to receive a refund or to be placed in another course if your provider is unable to teach your course.

The ESOS framework sets out the standards Australian education providers offering education services to overseas students must obey. These standards cover a range of information you have a right to know and services that must be offered, including:

- orientation and access to support services to help you study and adjust to life in Australia
- who the contact officer or officers is for overseas students
- if you can apply for course credit
- when your enrolment can be deferred, suspended or cancelled
- what your provider's requirements are for satisfactory progress in the courses you study and what support is available if you are not progressing well
- if attendance will be monitored for your course, and
- a complaints and appeals process.

One of the standards does not allow another education provider to enrol a student who wants to transfer to another course, but has not completed six months of the principal course of study you plan to undertake in Australia. If you want to transfer beforehand you need your provider's permission.

Your responsibilities

As an overseas student on a student visa, you have responsibilities to:

- satisfy your student visa conditions
- maintain your Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the period of your stay
- meet the terms of the written agreement with your education provider
- inform your provider if you change your address
- maintain satisfactory course progress
- if attendance is recorded for your course, follow your provider's attendance policy, and

Contact details

Who	Why	How
Your provider	For policies and procedures that affect you	Speak with your provider Go to your provider's website
Department of Education	For your ESOS rights and responsibilities	https://internationaleducation.gov.au ESOS Helpline 1300 615 262
Dept. Of Home Affairs (Dept. of Home Affairs)	For visa matters	www.homeaffairs.gov.au Phone 131 881 in Australia Contact the Dept. of Home Affairs office in your country

Information

For more information about VACTS's policies and procedures that affect you, you should contact the Student Services Manager. You can make an appointment with the Student Services Manager by asking at the reception desk, or by telephone, on (03) 9995 3642 in Melbourne. You can email at info@vacts.edu.au or on website is www.vacts.edu.au.

For more information about your ESOS rights and responsibilities, you should contact the Commonwealth Department of Education. You can do this by calling the ESOS help line 1300 615 262. The website to visit for information about your rights and responsibilities under the ESOS framework is <https://internationaleducation.gov.au>

For more information about visa matters, you should contact the Dept. Of Home Affairs(Dept. of Home Affairs). The telephone number in Australia for Dept. of Home Affairs is 131 8811. Dept. of Home Affairs’s website is www.homeaffairs.gov.au. You can also contact the Dept. of Home Affairs office in your home country.

41. Fees payment (international students)

Applicants must make an agreed prepayment of tuition fees, the enrolment fee and the OSHC fee in order to secure their enrolment with VACTS. Fees are payable according to a payment plan program that is scheduled and agreed upon on enrolment.

Fees are to be paid directly to the VACTS bank account or if the student has applied to VACTS through an education agent then the student is required to pay the fees directly to the agent, which will subsequently be transferred to us. Details of the VACTS bank account are sent with the enrolment offer and acceptance agreement.

42. Program details and schedule of fees payable at enrolment

Please see “VACTS course fees and charges” for more details or speak with one of our friendly staff member.

Definitions

Tuition Fees or Fees

Please see “VACTS course fees and charges” for more details or speak with one of our friendly staff member.

Enrolment Fee

This refers to the administration and processing fee for enrolling a student.

OSHC Fee

This refers to the fee for Overseas Student Health Cover, medical insurance scheme for overseas students

Materials fees

These are the fees for the equipment, textbook and materials which are compulsory for the courses in which you enrol.

43. Course materials

All of the materials which are essential for use during your course will be supplied as part of your compulsory course materials fee. You are not required to purchase any additional materials. If you choose to purchase additional textbooks or other materials which are not included in the compulsory materials fee, you will need to pay for them yourself.

44. Fee increases

Tuition fees will not increase during your period of enrolment at VACTS. The additional fees identified above, may, however, be subject to increase. Notices will be placed throughout the campus notifying students if any of these fees are to increase. Students will be provided with four weeks' notice of the intention to increase any of these fees.

45. Security of Student Fees

VACTS assures the security of student fees through its compliance with the requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS) and the provisions of the Tuition Protection Service (TPS).

46. Reassessment

All students are provided with an opportunity for reassessment for each assessment task which they do not satisfactorily complete. No fees are charged for reassessments under any circumstances.

Re assessments will take place during breaks between terms under the supervision of the CEO/RTO Manager / trainer and assessor. The arrangements for reassessments will be agreed in an interview with student and the CEO/RTO Manager.

Students will be required to confirm in writing that they accept the rules of the reassessment process. If a student does not satisfy the requirements of the reassessment process, the NYC (Not Yet Competent) previously awarded for the unit of competency will remain. This will result in the issuing of a Statement of Attainment but no certificate or qualification being awarded at the end of the course.

If, following reassessment, a student is assessed as NYC for a unit of competency, the student will need to repeat all the classes for that term in which the unit of competency was taught and assessed. There will be an additional cost for this.

If the unit is a prerequisite for other units such as "SITXFSA005 use hygienic practices for food safety" in a SIT qualification offered by VACTS, the student will be given a second opportunity. Additionally, for assessments that is theoretical the student will be allowed to re submit the assessment at the earliest before enrolling in any other SIT unit which has "SITXFSA005 use hygienic practices for food safety" as a prerequisite . If the student does not achieve competency in the practical component of the assessment, a second practical class will be rescheduled to provide a second opportunity to the student to achieve competency in the prerequisite unit.

If the student is still found to be "not yet competent" then the student will either be enrolled in a unit that does not require the unit "SITXFSA005 use hygienic practices for food safety" as a prerequisite or will have to enrol for the prerequisite at the next entry point for the course the student has applied for, as that is when the prerequisite unit will be delivered again for new enrolments.

Scheduling of reassessments

Reassessments for those assessment tasks which students have not satisfactorily completed are scheduled during VACTS's non-compulsory study periods. Students are required to make themselves available for reassessment at the date(s), time(s) and location(s) agreed (see below).

For SIT qualifications where the unit “SITXFSA005 use hygienic practices for food safety” is a prerequisite, a re- assessment will be scheduled within the same week or as soon as practicable to enable a student to enrol in other units which requires “SITXFSA005 use hygienic practices for food safety” as a prerequisite. Consequently, a student who has to be reassessed for this prerequisite unit must achieve competence before enrolling in any other unit that requires this prerequisite to be completed. This could affect the student’s completion date of the course, and the student will be advised accordingly.

No additional fee for reassessment

No additional fee will apply for reassessment.

One reassessment per unit of competency

Reassessment is allowed once for each assessment task attempted during or following a student’s attendance of the classes for each unit of competency or rescheduled reassessment class..

NYC remains if the requirements of the reassessment process are not satisfied

If a student does not satisfy the requirements of the reassessment process, the NYC (Not Yet Competent) previously awarded for the unit of competency will remain.

Repeating the classes for units of competency

If, following reassessment for a unit of competency in all of the assessment tasks which the student did not satisfactorily complete, the student’s assessment outcome remains “Not Yet Competent”, the student may repeat all of the classes for that unit of competency. This provides the student with an additional opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge to be assessed.

There will be an additional fee for repeating units. The fee is published in the student handbook, and on the offer enrolment and acceptance agreement, signed by the student.

The processes for assessment and reassessment that apply after having repeated the classes for a unit of competency are the same as those which apply the first time the classes are undertaken.

There is no restriction applied to the number of times a student can repeat the classes for unit of competency.

If a student decides to repeat the classes for a unit of competency, the student must make arrangements with the RTO Manager for the scheduling of the classes.

Students are informed that repeating the classes for units of competency might increase the length of their course, and that they might have to apply for an extension to their visa. Students are required to refer to the section in the Student Handbook entitled “Completion within Course Duration”.

47. Statements of Attainment

A formal Statement of Attainment is available at the end of each term on the request of the student at no additional cost to the student, provided the student has paid in full for the tuition related to the units of competency on the Statement of Attainment. Students are entitled to a formal Statement of Attainment on withdrawal, cancellation or transfer, prior to completing a qualification, provided the student has paid in full for the tuition related to the units of competency to be shown on the Statement of Attainment.

48. Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Domestic students only

Applicants for enrolment at VACTS, and students enrolled in a course at VACTS, may apply for recognition of prior learning (RPL). VACTS will ensure that all applicants for enrolment and all students have access to the recognition of prior learning (RPL) policy and procedures.

The recognition of prior learning policy recognises that prior study, together with work and life experiences, may have provided an applicant for enrolment or a student with competence in the outcomes prescribed in a training package.

Credit for units of competency will be provided if a candidate who applies for recognition of prior learning is able to demonstrate learning, skills and knowledge that meet the performance criteria of the units of competency for which the candidate is applying for recognition of prior learning.

49. Credit Transfer

VACTS recognises qualifications issued under the Australian Qualifications Framework and Statements of Attainment issued by other Registered Training Organisations.

Application for Credit Transfer

Applicants for enrolment or enrolled students can apply for credit transfer using the “Application for Credit Transfer” form. Applications for credit transfer are made and documents submitted at the reception desk. Applicants will be provided with a copy of this credit transfer policy and a copy of a credit transfer application form.

50. Privacy Policy

Collection and Use of Personal Information

VACTS ensures that it manages personal information in an open and transparent manner. VACTS will only collect personal information by fair and lawful means which are necessary for it to perform its functions. VACTS is committed to ensuring the confidentiality and security of the information provided to it, in accordance with Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and Australian Privacy Principles (APPs).

For overseas students, information is collected on the application form and during student enrolment in order for VACTS to meet its obligations under the ESOS Act 2000 and the National Code 2018 and to ensure student compliance with the conditions of their visas and their obligations under Australian immigration laws generally. The authority to collect this information is contained in the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the Education Services for Overseas Students Regulations 2019 and the National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018.

For domestic students, information is collected on the application form and during student enrolment in order for VACTS to meet its obligations under the VET Quality Framework. The authority to collect this information is contained in the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011.

How VACTS collects personal information

Students are asked to supply information to VACTS when applying for enrolment, at orientation sessions and during the periods of study. Generally this information includes name, address, telephone number(s), email addresses(s), date of birth, gender, citizenship, ethnic origin, religion, passport details, academic and English language attainments, disabilities, health information, including illnesses, allergies and dietary information.

At the time information is collected, students will be advised if they are required by a specific law to supply the information requested.

Personal information supplied by individuals to VACTS will be used to provide information about study opportunities, course administration, academic information and to maintain proper academic records. If an individual chooses not to give VACTS certain information then VACTS may be unable to enrol the individual in a course or supply them with appropriate information.

In collecting personal information, VACTS will comply with the privacy requirements of the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 and the APPs set out in the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

Disclosure of Personal Information

Information collected about students on the enrolment application form and during enrolment can be provided, in certain circumstances, to the Australian Government and designated authorities and, if relevant, VACTS's domestic student tuition assurance scheme or the Tuition Protection Service. In other instances information collected on the enrolment application form and during enrolment can be disclosed without consent where authorised or required by law.

This information includes personal and contact details, course enrolment details and changes, and the circumstance of any suspected breach of a student visa condition.

VACTS will not disclose an individual's personal information to another person or organisation unless:

- the individual concerned is reasonably likely to have been aware, or made aware that information of that kind is usually passed to that person or organisation;
- the individual concerned has given written consent to the disclosure;
- VACTS believes on reasonable grounds that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the life or health of the individual concerned or of another person;
- the disclosure is required or authorised by or under law; or
- the disclosure is reasonably necessary for the enforcement of the criminal law or of a law imposing a pecuniary penalty, or for the protection of the public revenue.

Where personal information is disclosed for the purposes of enforcement of the criminal law or of a law imposing a pecuniary penalty, or for the purpose of the protection of the public revenue, VACTS shall include in the record containing that information a note of the disclosure.

Any person or organisation to whom personal information is disclosed as described in this procedure will be required to not use or disclose the information for a purpose other than the purpose for which the information was supplied to them.

Cross-border disclosures

Before VACTS discloses personal information to an overseas recipient, it will take reasonable steps to ensure that the overseas recipient does not breach the APPs (other than APP 1) in relation to that information.

Security of Personal Information

VACTS will take all reasonable steps to ensure that any personal information collected is relevant to the purpose for which it was collected, and accurate, up-to-date, complete, and not misleading. VACTS will store securely all records containing personal information and take all reasonable security measures to protect, personal information collected from unauthorised access, misuse or disclosure.

Right to Access and Correct Records

Individuals have the right to access or obtain a copy of the personal information that VACTS holds about them. Requests to access or obtain a copy of personal information must be made in writing. There is no charge for a student to access personal information that VACTS holds about them; however we may charge a fee to make a copy. Individuals will be advised of how they may access or obtain a copy of their personal information and any applicable fees within 10 days of receiving their written request.

If an individual considers their personal information to be incorrect, incomplete, out of date or misleading, they can request that the information be amended. Where a record is found to be inaccurate, a correction will be made. Where a student requests that a record be amended because it is inaccurate but the record is found to be accurate, the details of the request for amendment will be noted on the record.

Written requests for access to or to obtain a copy of personal information held by VACTS should be sent to the CEO by email to ceo@vacts.edu.au or by mail to 171 Sydney Rd, Coburg, 3058.

Publication

These Privacy and Personal Information Procedures will be made available to students and prospective students by publication on VACTS's websites. In order to ensure that students have given their informed consent for their personal information to be disclosed to certain third parties as outlined in this procedure, VACTS will advise students on enrolment about these procedures and where they are located.

Complaints and Appeals

If a student has a complaint or an appeal regarding privacy and personal information, the Complaints and Appeals Policy will apply.

51. Code of Practice

VACTS's approach to all that it does is based upon the democratic principles of Australia's system of government.

The programs and teaching of VACTS support and promote the principles and practice of Australian democracy, including a commitment to:

- elected government
- the rule of law
- equal rights for all before the law
- freedom of speech and association
- the value of openness and tolerance

VACTS endeavours to ensure that the education interests and welfare of students are safeguarded at all times.

No VACTS client will be discriminated against on the basis of race, ethnicity, language, religion, value and belief systems, disability, class, sexuality, gender, age, or educational background.

52. Refund Policy

Refunds will be processed according to the information supplied on VACTS Deferral or Withdrawal Form.

Refunds in Full

Tuition fees will be refunded in full where:

- The course does not start on the starting date notified in the Letter of Offer;
- The course is discontinued after it starts and before it is completed; a stop being provided after it starts and before it is completed;
- The course is not provided fully to the student because VACTS has a sanction imposed by a government regulator; or
- An offer of a place is withdrawn by VACTS and no incorrect or incomplete information has been provided by the student.

Instead of refunding all tuition fees, VACTS may offer the student a place on an alternative course and the student can decide whether to accept this offer or not.

VACTS may also arrange for another course, or part of a course, to be provided to the student at no additional cost to the student as an alternative to refunding the course money. Where the student agrees to this arrangement, VACTS will not be liable to refund the money owed for the original enrolment.

If VACTS is unable to provide a refund or offer the student a place in another course, the Tuition Protection Scheme of which VACTS is a member will place the student in an alternative course at no extra cost to the student. If this is not possible, the final course of action is for the Tuition Protection services to attempt to place the student in an alternative course and if this is not possible, the student is entitled to a refund as calculated by TPS.

A full refund will also be provided to students in the following circumstances:

- A student is unable to obtain a student visa;
- A student cannot commence the course because of illness or a disability;
- A student paid fees in advance prior to a notification that

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- If the student withdraws from a course less than 14 days from the start date, the student will not be entitled to a refund.
- If the student withdraws from a course after the course start date, the student will not be entitled to a refund.

Partial Refunds

Partial refunds will be provided in the following circumstances:

- If a student has supplied incorrect or incomplete information and as a result VACTS withdraws offer, the student will be eligible to receive all tuition fees paid for the term period less a 20% administration fee.
- If a student who has accepted an offer of a place gives more than 28 days written notice before the commencement of the study period that they will not be undertaking the course, the tuition fees paid for the term period are refundable less a 20% administration fee.
- If a student who has accepted an offer of a place gives a written between 14 to 27 days' notice before the commencement of the study period that they will not be undertaking the course, the tuition fees paid for the term period are refundable less a 30% administration fee.
- Where a student has not met the conditions included in the letter of offer and withdraws 28 days before course commencement, the tuition fees paid for the term period will be refunded less a 20% administration fee.

No Refund

Students will not be eligible for a refund in the following circumstances:

- Where VACTS terminates the student's enrolment, because of a failure to comply with VACTS policies, misbehaviour or unsatisfactory course progress or attendance, the student is not entitled to a refund.
- If a student's visa is cancelled during a study period, the student is not eligible for a refund.
- If the student withdraws from a course less than 14 days from the start date, the student will not be entitled to a refund.
- If the student withdraws from a course after the course start date, the student will not be entitled to a refund.

Refunds for students who have a packaged offer for multiple courses

Where students have a packaged offer for multiple courses within VACTS and they do not receive their results until less than 28 days before the course commencement date and the results show that the student does not meet the entry requirements for the next course, and if the student submits a Deferral or Withdrawal Form to VACTS of the intention to defer or withdraw from a course of study within 14 days of receiving their results, then one of the following will occur:

- all fees except the enrolment deposit are refundable less an administrative fee of 20% of the tuition fee for the term period; or
- The student can transfer the fees to the next available study period.

Payment of refunds

Eligibility for a refund will be assessed based on this Policy.

If a student's refund application is approved, the student's enrolment will be cancelled and fees refunded as per this policy.

Students, who withdraw from a course and wish to seek a refund or have the amount they owe on their fees reduced, must apply to VACTS in writing using the Deferral or Withdrawal Form. Students who have not completed these forms are not eligible for consideration of a refund.

Refunds will be paid within 2 weeks in full to students in the following circumstances

- where a course does not start on the agreed starting date; or
- where the course it stopped after the course has commenced and before it is completed; or

Where the course is not fully provided to the student because of a sanction put on VACTS

In all other circumstances refunds will be paid within 4 weeks of receiving the completed and signed Refund Application Form with supporting documentation as required.

The outcome of the refund assessment will be provided by written notice to the student's registered address, outlining the decision and reasons for the decision along with any applicable refund or adjustment notice.

Refunds will be paid in Australian dollars to the person who made the original payment.

Where a student does not agree with the refund decision, he or she may access VACTS Complaints and Appeals process.

This process does not circumscribe the student's rights to pursue other legal remedies.

Default by VACTS

This refers to those instances where:

- The course does not start on the agreed starting day, or
- The course ceases to be provided at any time after it starts but before it is completed, or
- The course is not provided in full to the student because a sanction has been imposed on VACTS under the NVR Act 2011 and/or the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000
- And the student has not withdrawn before the day of default

Default by the student

This refers to those instances where:

- The course starts on the agreed starting day, but the student does not start the course on that day (and has not previously withdrawn); or
- The student withdraws from the course (either before or after the agreed starting day); or
- VACTS refuses to provide, or continue providing, the course to

the student because of one or more of the following events:

- the student failed to pay an amount he or she was liable to pay VACTS, directly or indirectly (including any course money collected by education agents or other parties on behalf of VACTS, in order to undertake the course);
- in the case of an overseas student, the student breached a condition of his or her student visa, or
- misbehaviour by the student, as defined by VACTS's published rules.

Default day

This means the following:

- The day on which the course does not start or the day a student does not start the course (and has not previously withdrawn); or
- The day on which the course ceased to be provided; or
- The day on which the student withdraws from the course; or

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- The day on which VACTS refuses to provide, or continue providing, the course to the student due to the student's failure to pay VACTS an amount he or she was liable to pay; or
- The student breached a condition of his or her student visa (if the student is an overseas student);
 - And/or misbehaviour by the Student.

Default by VACTS

Where VACTS is in default then VACTS shall refund the total of the unused portion of prepaid tuition fees received in respect of the student (including any course money collected by education agents or other parties on behalf of the registered provider) prior to the default day.

Overseas students (Calculation of Refund as per specification 2014)

The amount of the refund is calculated as follows:

Weekly tuition fee =

(total tuition fee for the course / number of calendar days in the course) × 7, rounded up to the nearest whole dollar.

Weeks in default period =

(number of calendar days from the default day to the end of the period to which the payment relates) / 7

Refund amount =

(weekly tuition fee × weeks in default period)

VACTS will make payment of the refund within 14 days after the default day.

Overseas students

The following plain English statement is provided to all applicants for enrolment as overseas students:

"In the unlikely event that VACTS is unable to deliver your course in full, you will be offered a refund of all the unused prepaid tuition fees that you have paid to date. The refund will be paid to you within 2 weeks of the day on which the course ceased being provided. Alternatively, you may be offered enrolment in an alternative course by VACTS at no extra cost to you. You have the right to choose whether you would prefer a full refund of tuition fees, or to accept a place in another course. If you choose placement in another course, we will ask you to sign a document to indicate that you accept the placement.

If VACTS is unable to provide a refund or place you in an alternative course, the Tuition Protection Service will provide you with assistance in finding an alternative suitable course at another education provider. In the event a student cannot find an alternative course placement option, the student will be eligible to request a refund of unexpended pre-paid tuition fees from the TPS, and will be required to comply with any relevant immigration requirements."

Consumer protection laws

The agreement of the student to the conditions stated in the offer acceptance agreement, and the availability of complaints and appeals processes, does not remove the right of the student to take action under Australia's consumer protection laws.

Other Legal Remedies

The Terms and Conditions agreed to by a student do not circumscribe the student's right to pursue any other legal remedies.

This refund policy is clearly shown on the offer acceptance agreement signed by each student.

53. Deferment, suspension or cancellation

Under certain limited circumstances, a student's enrolment may be deferred, suspended or cancelled by VACTS.

Deferment means to delay the commencement of a course.

Suspension means the temporary postponement of enrolment during a course.

Cancellation means termination of enrolment in a course.

Deferments, suspensions or cancellations by VACTS

Under certain circumstances, VACTS may initiate the deferment, suspension or cancellation of a student's enrolment.

Deferment

VACTS may defer the commencement of a course if the course is not offered. Should this occur, students enrolled in the course will be offered a refund of all the course money they have paid to date. The refund will be paid within two (2) weeks of the day on which the course ceased being provided. Alternatively, such students may be offered enrolment in an alternative course by VACTS at no extra cost to the student. Students have the right to choose whether they would prefer a full refund of course fees, or to accept a place in another course. If they choose placement in another course, VACTS will ask them to sign a document to indicate that they accept the placement.

If VACTS is unable to provide a refund or place a student in an alternative course, the Tuition Protection Scheme will provide assistance to the student in obtaining a place in a suitable alternative course.

Suspension

VACTS may temporarily suspend a student's enrolment if the student's behaviour is assessed as unacceptable for an educational setting. The VACTS Management Committee is responsible for making this assessment. This is referred to as suspension of enrolment due to misbehaviour.

Grounds for suspending a student for misbehaviour

VACTS may suspend the enrolment of a student due to misbehaviour if the student:

- has been in breach of the VACTS Student Code of Conduct
- is assessed by the CEO as providing a threat to the well-being of other students or staff
- has been assessed as behaving in a way such as to constitute serious misconduct

Applicants are advised of each of these grounds for suspension due to misbehaviour prior to signing the Enrolment Offer and Acceptance Agreement.

Outcomes for the student's Confirmation of Enrolment

There are three possible outcomes for the CoE of a student whose enrolment has been deferred or suspended by VACTS.

Deferment or suspension without affecting the end date of the CoE

In this case, VACTS notifies DOE through PRISMS that it is deferring or suspending a student's enrolment for a period without affecting the end date of the CoE. In this case, there is no change to the CoE or the student's enrolment status on PRISMS. The student's CoE status will still be listed as "studying". The notice of deferment or suspension will, however, be recorded in PRISMS

and sent to Dept. of Home Affairs. This information will be kept by Dept. of Home Affairs for future reference.

Deferment or suspension which affects the end date of the CoE

In this case, VACTS notifies DOE through PRISMS that it is deferring or suspending a student's enrolment for a period which will affect the end date of the CoE. In such situations, PRISMS will cancel the original CoE and immediately offer VACTS the opportunity to create a new CoE with a more appropriate end date. If VACTS does not know when the student will return, the CEO will choose to not create a new CoE at this point, but to wait to issue the new CoE until the student has provided notification of the intended date of return.

Advice to contact Dept. of Home Affairs

Students whose enrolment is to be suspended by VACTS are advised to refer to the Dept. of Home Affairs website (www.homeaffairs.gov.au) or helpline (131 881) for information, and the local Dept. of Home Affairs office for advice, on how the potential change to enrolment status may impact upon his or her visa.

Cancellation

VACTS may cancel the enrolment of a student if the student:

- is in breach of a condition of ongoing enrolment, including:
 - the requirement to not plagiarise, collude or cheat
 - the requirement to pay agreed tuition fees by the dates agreed in the Enrolment Offer and Acceptance Agreement
- has been in breach of the VACTS Student Code of Conduct
- is assessed by the CEO as providing a threat to the well-being of other students or staff
- has been assessed as behaving in a way such as to constitute serious misconduct
- fails to meet the requirements of the course progress policy
- fails to pay tuition fees

Applicants are advised of each of these grounds for deferment, suspension or cancellation prior to signing the Enrolment Offer and Acceptance Agreement.

Notice of intention to defer, suspend or cancel enrolment

Where a deferment, suspension or cancellation is initiated by VACTS, the student will receive a notice of intention to defer, suspend or cancel enrolment.

Appealing against VACTS's intention to suspend or cancel enrolment

A notice of intention to defer, suspend or cancel enrolment will clearly identify that the student receiving the notice will be given 20 working days to access VACTS's internal complaints and appeals process. The 20 working days begins from a date specified in the letter which allows for reasonable time for delivery of the letter. Notices of intention to defer, suspend or cancel enrolment are sent by registered mail to the address on the student's file and by email to the email address on the student's file.

Contacting the student within the 20 working days available to appeal

If no appeal is received, then the Student Services Manager is responsible for contacting the student on the 19th working day following the date specified in the letter in order to provide the student with a final opportunity to lodge an internal appeal. Contact will be made by telephone and email.

For more information, please refer to the VACTS Complaints and Appeals Policy.

Maintaining enrolment in the case of an appeal

If an appeal against a deferment, suspension or cancellation by VACTS is lodged by the student, VACTS will maintain the student's enrolment until the internal appeals process is complete, unless there are extenuating circumstances relating to the student's welfare.

Extenuating circumstances relating to the student's welfare

Extenuating circumstances relating to the welfare of the student may include, but are not limited to, the following. The student:

- is missing
- has medical concerns, severe depression or psychological issues which lead VACTS to fear for the student's wellbeing
- has engaged, or threatens to engage in behaviour that is reasonably believed to endanger the student or others
- is at risk of committing a criminal offence

The Student Services Manager is responsible for ensuring that claims by VACTS of extenuating circumstances relating to the welfare of the student are supported by appropriate evidence. All such documentary evidence is filed in the student's file.

Reserving the right to not provide learning opportunities

VACTS reserves the right to not provide learning opportunities during throughout the 20 working days provided to a student to make an appeal and throughout the appeals process should it be deemed appropriate. The CEO is responsible for making this determination.

The suspension or cancellation will be notified to DOE on completion of the 20 working days if there is no appeal, or at the completion of the appeals process if there is an appeal and the appeal is not upheld, or if there is an appeal and the appeal is withdrawn.

Opportunity for external appeal

A student may choose to appeal against a decision with the Overseas Students Ombudsman, but VACTS is not required to wait for the outcome of an external appeal before notifying DOE of the change to the student's enrolment status. Students will be provided with counselling and advice about external appeal opportunities. This counselling and advice will be free of any additional fee for the student.

A student wishing to access an external appeals process must contact Dept. of Home Affairs and provide evidence of having accessed an external appeals process within 28 days of VACTS notifying DOE of the cancellation of enrolment. Dept. of Home Affairs will then consider the student's individual circumstances and whether to cancel or maintain the student's visa.

Notice of suspension or cancellation

If there is no appeal against a decision by VACTS to suspend or cancel a student's enrolment, or an appeal is lodged and the outcome supports VACTS's intention to suspend or cancel the student's enrolment, or an appeal lodged and then withdrawn, VACTS will issue a notice of deferment, suspension or cancellation. The notice of deferment, suspension or cancellation will indicate that the deferment, suspension or cancellation is to be initiated.

The Student Services Manager is responsible for ensuring that the notice of intention to defer, suspend or cancel enrolment is attached to the notice of deferment, suspension or cancellation of

enrolment and provided to the CEO. The CEO will then authorise the necessary changes to the student's enrolment details in the student database and PRISMS.

Filing documents

All documentation about the deferment or temporary suspension, cancellation by VACTS of a student's enrolment are filed in the student's file

54. Course Progress Requirements

Policy

VACTS systematically monitors and records the progress of each student for the courses in which they are enrolled. VACTS will monitor the progress of students and assist them to meet their study goals throughout their courses.

Students are required to meet satisfactory course progress requirements according to the Dept. of Home Affairs course progress policy.

A compulsory study period is defined as one VACTS term (ten weeks). Further definition is provided below.

All students will have their progress monitored at the end of each study period (one VACTS term, as defined). Arrangements will be put in place to assist those students who are identified as not making satisfactory course progress.

Students who do not meet the requirements for satisfactory course progress over two consecutive compulsory study periods will be considered in breach of visa condition 8202 and will be reported to the Department of Industry, Innovation Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Relations (DICS RTE) and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (Dept. of Home Affairs)

Compulsory study periods

A compulsory study period is defined by VACTS as one VACTS term (ten weeks). For each academic year, term one comprises the first compulsory study period, term 2 comprise the second compulsory study period, term 3 comprises the third compulsory study period, and term 4 comprises the fourth study period.

Satisfactory course progress requirements

A student who has been assessed as not yet competent in 50% or more of the units attempted in a compulsory study period of ten weeks (one VACTS term) is deemed to have not met satisfactory course progress requirements. Information about satisfactory course progress requirements is provided in the Training and Assessment strategy for each qualification.

Students at risk

A student at risk is defined as one who has not made satisfactory academic progress in a course for a compulsory study period (providing the study period is not the second consecutive study period for which this is the case), and is therefore subject to an intervention strategy. Information about satisfactory course progress requirements is provided in the Learning and Assessment strategy for each qualification.

The CEO/RTO Manager is responsible for identifying students at risk. Following the completion of the entry of all assessment outcomes at the end of each compulsory study period, the CEO/RTO Manager will produce a report which identifies all students at risk (Students at risk report). The

report will identify students at risk by student number and name, and list the units of competency for which they have been assessed as not yet competent.

Notifying students of the requirement to attend an intervention strategy meeting

The Student Services Manager is responsible for making contact by mail and email with all students at risk. The letter sent to students at risk is referred to as the notice of failure to meet course progress requirements.

The letter notifies students at risk that:

- they have not met satisfactory course progress requirements for the previous study period
- they are required to attend an intervention strategy meeting with the CEO/RTO Manager (or a designated trainer/assessor delegated by the CEO/RTO Manager)

The letter will have a current statement of attainment enclosed.

Students will be provided with details of a time and place to meet with the CEO/RTO Manager or a trainer/assessor delegated by the CEO/RTO Manager. Students are required to confirm that they will attend the meeting by tearing off the “meeting confirmation” slip and returning it to the reception desk.

If a student at risk does not return the meeting confirmation slip within five working days, the Student Services Manager will attempt to make contact with the student by telephone, email and text message in order to advise the student of the requirement to attend an intervention strategy meeting. If the student is unable to be contacted by any of these means, a note will be placed on the attendance roll alerting trainers/assessors to the fact that the student must be informed of the requirement to contact the Student Services Manager.

Intervention strategy meetings

The CEO/RTO Manager or a trainer/assessor delegated by the CEO/RTO Manager will meet with all students at risk. These meetings are referred to as intervention strategy meetings.

The objective of each intervention strategy meeting is to develop a strategy to:

- help the student meet the course progress requirements for the current study period
- enable the student to satisfy the conditions of their student visa by completing their course within the expected duration.

Intervention strategy meetings must take place as soon as possible following the end of the study period, but no later than the end of the third week of the following study period.

The intervention strategy meeting with each student at risk will address the issue of not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements in the previous study period.

The following topics will be amongst those discussed during the intervention strategy meeting with each student at risk

- the consequences (reporting to Dept. of Home Affairs for unsatisfactory course progress) of not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements in two consecutive study periods.
- the requirement to attend scheduled meetings to discuss progress
- the suitability of the course for the student
- a revised study plan (e.g. a decreased study load, reassessment in units of competency for which the student has not been assessed as competent and for which the student has not been previously reassessed)

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- the availability of academic support classes and their suitability for the student (there is a fee for each two-hour academic support class – please refer to the current fee schedule)
- the availability of referral to personal guidance counsellors (internal or external) (there is no fee for referral to counselling), although external counselling may incur a fee
- attendance at ongoing individual case management sessions to discuss progress
- assistance with issues of language, literacy or numeracy
The student may be required to attend LLN skills assistance classes
- the availability and suitability of one-on-one academic mentoring.

An intervention strategy, designed to provide the student with the opportunity to recover from the unsatisfactory academic progress and recommence a successful study program, will be planned, documented, and agreed during the intervention strategy meeting.

Intervention strategy agreement

At the end of the intervention strategy meeting, the CEO/RTO Manager or the delegated trainer/assessor and the student will agree upon an intervention strategy. The intervention strategy will require subsequent meetings with the CEO/RTO Manager or other identified members of staff. The CEO/RTO Manager will provide the student with an intervention strategy agreement which is signed by both parties. The intervention strategy agreement will summarise the topics discussed during the intervention strategy meeting and list the remedial activities agreed upon.

The intervention strategy agreement will include, but not be restricted to:

- actions to be taken by the student
- the timeframe for completing those actions
- details of weekly meetings to monitor the progress of the student as the intervention strategy proceeds (these will be with a trainer/assessor delegated by the CEO/RTO Manager).
- information regarding implications of not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements in two consecutive study periods
- a recommendation, if necessary, for the student to apply for an extension of course duration
- information on the VACTS complaints and appeals process

Monitoring the intervention process

Students at risk will be required to attend meetings with the CEO/RTO Manager, or with a trainer/assessor delegated by the CEO/RTO Manager, at the times and locations specified in the intervention strategy agreement. During these meetings, each student's progress according to the agreed actions of the intervention strategy will be reviewed.

If the CEO/RTO Manager determines that a student has failed to comply with the agreed actions of the intervention strategy or if the student is experiencing difficulty with the requirements of the intervention strategy, the CEO/RTO Manager or delegated trainer/assessor will organise additional support for the student as necessary.

Any additional support strategies will be discussed during a meeting of the CEO/RTO Manager or delegated trainer/assessor and the student, and documented and agreed in writing between the CEO/RTO Manager or delegated trainer/assessor and the student.

Additional support strategies may incur a fee according to the schedule of fees documented in the enrolment offer and acceptance agreement.

Register of students notified of at risk

All students at risk will have their details added to the register of students at risk.

Appealing the need for an intervention

A student at risk may decide to appeal the necessity for intervention. If so, the appeals process can be invoked by the student. A student has 20 working days to appeal the decision to report to place them on academic probation and implement an intervention strategy. The 20 working days begins from a date specified in the letter which allows for reasonable time for delivery of the letter.

Students no longer at risk of failure to meet course progress requirements

If a student demonstrates competency in 50% or more of the units of competency in the study period following that in which the student was identified as being at risk, the student will be deemed as no longer at risk. The register of students at risk requirements will be updated accordingly by the Student Services Manager.

Filing details of intervention

Individual intervention strategies are to be filed in the student's hard file, entered as notes in Job Ready and filed in the "students at risk" folder (maintained by the Student Services Manager). A record of each student's participation in activities agreed as part of the intervention strategy is to be kept and stored in the student's file.

Intention to report to Dept. of Home Affairs

At the end of each study period, the Student Services Manager will produce a report on the progress of all students previously identified as being at risk. Students who for two consecutive study periods have not met satisfactory course progress requirements will be notified by mail of VACTS's intention to report them to Dept. of Home Affairs.

Students who are sent a letter informing them of VACTS's intention to report them to Dept. of Home Affairs for not meeting course progress requirements will have their details added to the register of students to be reported to Dept. of Home Affairs for not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements.

Appealing the intention to report to Dept. of Home Affairs

A student has 20 working days to appeal the decision to report to Dept. of Home Affairs for not meeting course progress requirements. The 20 working days begins from a date specified in the letter (the specified date allows for reasonable time for delivery of the letter).

If the student appeals the decision, the appeals process will be invoked according to the VACTS complaints and appeals procedures. Grounds for students to appeal against VACTS's decision to report the student to Dept. of Home Affairs for not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements are:

- VACTS has not recorded or calculated the student's results correctly
- There are compassionate or compelling reasons which have contributed to the student's unsatisfactory progress
- VACTS has not implemented an intervention strategy in accordance with the documented policies and procedures

- VACTS has not implemented other policies which may impact upon the student's results, eg. assessment policy, feedback policy, moderation on appeal
- VACTS has not made relevant policies available to the student

Compassionate or compelling circumstances

The CEO/RTO Manager, Student Services Manager and Admin staff will meet to assess claims of compassionate or compelling circumstances. Taking a consensus approach, they will use their professional judgement to assess each case on its merits.

When determining whether compassionate or compelling circumstances exist, VACTS requires that documentary evidence be provided to support the claim. All documents provided by the student will be filed by the Student Services Manager in the student's file, along with a record of the decision about whether compassionate or compelling circumstances exist, and why the decision was made.

Compassionate or compelling circumstances are generally those beyond the control of the student and they have an impact on the student's capacity and/or ability to progress through a course. These could include:

- Serious illness or injury, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes
- Bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (where possible a death certificate should be provided)
- Major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring their emergency travel and this has impacted on their studies
- A traumatic experience which could include but is not limited to:
 - involvement in or witnessing of an accident
 - a crime committed against the student
 - the student has been a witness to a crime and this has impacted on the student (these cases should be supported by police or psychologist's reports).

Possible outcomes of the appeal process

Possible outcomes of the appeals process are:

- Appeal is upheld because an error was made in a calculation and the student has made satisfactory progress. No further action is taken. All documentation is filed in the student's file and a note is placed in the student's file to the effect that appeal has been upheld.
- Appeal is upheld due to compassionate or compelling reasons for failure to meet satisfactory course progress requirements. In this case, an intervention strategy is implemented to support the student. All documentation is filed in the student's file to the effect that the appeal has been upheld and an intervention strategy implemented.
- Appeal is dismissed. All documentation is sent to the CEO/RTO Manager for reporting to Dept. of Home Affairs through PRISMS as soon as practicable. All documentation is then placed in the hard file of the student.
- Student withdraws from the appeals process by written notice. All documentation is sent to the CEO/RTO Manager for reporting to Dept. of Home Affairs through PRISMS as soon as practicable.

Reporting to Dept. of Home Affairs

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At the end of the monitoring process following the end of each study period, the Student Services Manager will complete a report of students who have been sent a notice of intention to report to Dept. of Home Affairs for unsatisfactory course progress:

- and has not appealed
- who has appealed and whose appeal has been denied
- who has appealed and then withdrawn from the appeal process

All documentation is to be attached to the report.

The CEO/RTO Manager will verify that correct procedures have been followed and initiate the reporting via PRISMS. This is done as soon as practicable, but within five days (consistent with the requirement of Section 19(2) of the ESOS Act 2000. Dept. of Home Affairs will automatically be alerted when VACTS reports a student to the Secretary of the Department via PRISMS. The resultant letter from the PRISMS database will be forwarded immediately by the Student Services Manager to the student's last known address.

Documents to be filed

All documentation related to the reporting of the student for not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements is to be filed in the student's file. This includes:

- the details of the intervention measures implemented for the student (the intervention strategy agreement)
- the written notice informing the student of VACTS's intention to report for not making satisfactory progress and advising the student of his/her ability to access VACTS's complaints and appeals process within 20 working days (notice of intention to report for unsatisfactory course progress)
- all details of any appeal made by the student and the outcomes of the appeal process

55. Attendance

Policy

The VACTS attendance policy is in support of the VACTS monitoring course progress policy. Trainers will discuss assessments in almost every class. Assessment activities will take place during many classes. Because of this, it is essential that students attend and participate in the activities of every class. Accurate records will be kept of each student's attendance of scheduled classes.

Compulsory study periods

A compulsory study period is defined by VACTS as one VACTS term (ten weeks). For each academic year, terms one comprise the first compulsory study period, terms two comprise the second compulsory study period, terms three comprise the third compulsory study period, and terms four comprise the fourth compulsory study period.

Student acceptance of attendance as a condition of enrolment

When students sign the VACTS Enrolment Offer and Acceptance Agreement, they confirm that they understand the terms and conditions that apply to their ongoing enrolment.

Attendance rolls

Attendance details will be checked and recorded during each class by use of an attendance roll. Attendance rolls are generated (MS Excel spreadsheet) by the Student administration manager and maintained by the trainer/assessors.

Notifying VACTS of absences

Students who cannot attend a class are required to notify VACTS in advance by telephone. Students who are absent from class due to illness must provide a valid medical certificate from a recognised medical practitioner which encompasses the date of the class which was not attended due to illness.

Keeping VACTS informed of address and contact details

Students must keep VACTS informed of their address and contact details at all times. If a student changes address and contact details at any time during their period of enrolment at VACTS, they must advise VACTS within 7 days.

56. Complaints and Appeals

Policy

VACTS will take all complaints and appeals seriously. They will be resolved quickly and equitably, using the principles of natural justice. The procedures for complaints and appeals will be fair, objective and accessible.

The internal complaints and appeals processes will take place at no cost to the student who lodges the complaint or appeal. Any decision to be implemented as an outcome of a complaint or appeal (internal and/or external) which is in favour of the student who lodged it will be immediately implemented along with any preventative or corrective action required. The student will be advised immediately of a favourable outcome.

The complaints and appeals process is an important part of the VACTS continuous improvement process. The register of issues subject to complaints and appeals and the complaints and appeals monthly summary report will be considered at each meeting of the VACTS Management Committee.

References and Compliance requirements

Complaints and appeals by students about actions or decisions made by VACTS will be considered in reference to and in compliance with the following:

- VACTS code of practice
- VACTS Student code of practice
- Equal Opportunity Act 1995
- Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Act 1986
- Australian Privacy Principles
- Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS Act 2000)
- National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (The National Code 2018)
- Education Services for Overseas Students Regulations 2019

Information about the complaints and appeals process

The Student Services Manager will inform students about the complaints and appeals policy and procedures during the orientation program on the first day of enrolment. The student handbook, supplied to students during the first day of enrolment, contains details of the complaints and appeals process.

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Applicants for enrolment are provided with information about the complaints and appeals process in the pre-enrolment information with which they are supplied.

Students are provided with information about the complaints and appeals process at orientation and in the Student Handbook.

The CEO/RTO Manager is responsible for ensuring that all management staff, student services staff, marketing staff and trainers and assessors at VACTS are aware of the policies and procedures for complaints and appeals. Provision of information about the VACTS complaints and appeals process is part of an important aspect of the induction process for new members of staff.

Informal resolution

Students who wish to make a complaint about an aspect of VACTS's service or appeal against a decision made by VACTS are encouraged to initially engage in informal discussion about the matter with the staff member or staff members involved. Students can, additionally or alternatively, discuss the matter with the CEO/RTO Manager, Student Services Manager, or CEO/RTO Manager.

All staff involved in the discussion of an informal complaint or appeal are required to do their best to resolve the matter effectively and quickly in this way.

Lodging a complaint

If an issue about which a student has complained informally cannot be resolved informally, students who wish to lodge a formal complaint should do so using the VACTS complaint or appeal lodgement form, available from the VACTS reception desk or from the Student Services Manager. Students should submit the form at the reception desk, properly signed and dated, and accompanied by all relevant supporting documentation. Supporting documentation should comprise original documents or certified copies of original documents.

The VACTS Complaints Register

Details of a complaint are recorded in the VACTS complaints register and signed and dated by the staff member who accepted the complaint lodgement form. At this time a copy will be made of the complaint lodgement form and filed in the student's file. The original will be forwarded to the Student Services Manager. The Student Services Manager is responsible for ensuring that all of these actions are completed within one working day of the lodgement of the complaint.

Acting on a complaint

The Student Services Manager will add an agenda item to the next scheduled meeting of the VACTS Management Committee. As meetings of the VACTS Management Committee are scheduled fortnightly, the matter will be considered within the 10 working days of the lodgement of the complaint as required by Standard 8.1(e) of the National Code 2018.

Consideration of a complaint by the VACTS management committee

Complaints will be considered by the VACTS Management Committee, which comprises VACTS's CEO/RTO Manager, CEO/RTO Manager and Student Services Manager. Processing of the complaint may require one or more meetings of those involved. The objective of the process is to reach a determination.

The right to be accompanied by a support person during the complaints process

At any meeting to discuss a complaint, each involved party may be accompanied and assisted by a support person.

What can a complaint be about?

A complaint can be about:

- any aspect of the service provided, or not provided by VACTS
- the behaviour or decisions of staff, or
- policies and/or procedures of VACTS

Lodging an appeal

If a student disagrees with a decision made by VACTS, the student may lodge a formal appeal. The appeal should be submitted at the VACTS reception desk using the VACTS complaint or appeal lodgement form. It must be lodged within twenty (20) working days of notification of the decision which is being appealed against. Notifications of decisions which are provided to students in writing will include a date from which the twenty (20) working days available to lodge an appeal applies. The date specified will allow for time for delivery to the student of the notification.

The VACTS Student Appeals Register

Details of an appeal are recorded in the VACTS appeals register and signed and dated by the staff member who accepted the lodgement form. At this time a copy will be made of the completed lodgement form and filed in the student's file. The original will be forwarded to the Student Services Manager. The Student Services Manager is responsible for ensuring that all of these actions are completed within one working day of the lodgement of the appeal.

Acting on an appeal

The Student Services Manager will add an agenda item to the next scheduled meeting of the VACTS Management Committee. As meetings of the VACTS Management Committee are scheduled fortnightly, the matter will be considered within the 10 working days of the lodgement of the complaint as required by Standard 8.1(e) of the National Code 2018.

Consideration of an appeal by the VACTS Management Committee

Appeals against decisions will be considered by the VACTS Management Committee, which comprises VACTS's CEO/RTO Manager, CEO/RTO Manager and Student Services Manager. Processing of the appeal may require one or more meetings of those involved. The objective of the process is to reach a determination.

The right to be accompanied by a support person during the appeals process

At any meeting to discuss an appeal, each involved party may be accompanied and assisted by a support person.

Corrective action in the case of an appeal which finds in the student's favour

The notification of the outcome of the appeal will include the reasons for the decision. If an appeal finds in a student's favour, corrective action may include restoration of the student's academic record.

What can an appeal be about?

An appeal can be about any decision made by VACTS which has an impact on a student.

Internal appeals about VACTS's intention to report the student to Dept. of Home Affairs for breach of visa condition 8202 as a result of unsatisfactory course progress can be reviewed by an external reviewer.

Processing a complaint or appeal

VACTS management is committed to processing complaints and appeals effectively and efficiently, according to the following procedures.

Process begins within ten (10) working days of the formal lodgement of a complaint or appeal

The process of formal consideration of a complaint or appeal commences within ten (10) working days of the formal lodgement of the complaint or appeal. The formal lodgement of a complaint or appeal must be accompanied by all relevant documentation. All reasonable measures will be taken to finalise the process as soon as practicable.

Meeting of the VACTS Management Committee

The student who lodged the complaint or appeal and a support person will be invited to the meeting of the VACTS Management Committee which is considering the complaint or appeal. Any other parties involved in the complaint or appeal and their support persons will also be invited to the meeting.

Provision of relevant documentation

All parties involved in the complaint or appeal will be invited to provide relevant documentation as evidence to be considered by the VACTS Management Committee. Documentation provided must be original documents or certified copies of original documents.

Opportunity to formally present the case

The student making the complaint or appeal will be provided with the opportunity to formally present his or her case to the VACTS Management Committee.

Questioning

The student and all other parties in the complaint or appeal will be provided with the opportunity to ask questions and will be requested to provide answers to questions which are asked by members of the VACTS Management Committee.

Consideration by the Management Committee

After the student has presented his or her case and questioning of and by the student and other parties involved is complete, the student and the student's support person, and all other parties involved in the complaint or appeal, along with their support persons, will be asked to leave the meeting and wait while the committee considers the evidence.

Verbal notification of the outcome

The student and the student's support person and all other parties involved in the complaint or appeal, along with their support persons, will be invited back to the meeting for verbal notification of the interim outcome. If the student accepts the verbal notification of the interim outcome, it will be formalised with a written statement of the outcome (described below).

Opportunity to request a second meeting

After verbal notification of the interim outcome of the complaint or appeal, the student making the complaint or appeal may request the opportunity for a second meeting at which additional evidence may be presented. The student should make this request as soon as practicable, but no later than five (5) working days after the initial meeting. The student should make the request in person to the Student Services Manager. If an additional meeting is requested, it will be agreed to, and scheduled for a date and time suitable for the student, all other parties involved, and the VACTS Management Committee. The date for which the additional meeting is scheduled must be such that the complaints/appeal process can be finalised as soon as practicable.

Procedure for a second meeting

The procedure for the conduct of the second meeting of the VACTS Management Committee to consider the additional evidence will be the same as that for the initial meeting, except that the student will not have the opportunity to request an additional meeting following the second meeting. The student will, however, be able to invoke an external complaint or appeal handling process (see below).

Notification of the outcome of a complaint or appeal

Each student making a complaint or appeal is given a written statement of the outcome, including details of the reasons for the outcome. The form entitled "complaint or appeal resolution form" is used for this purpose.

Notification of the outcome of an appeal

In the case of an appeal, the document notifying the student of the outcome will summarise the information provided by the student during appeal process, why particular information was or was not taken into consideration, how much weight was given to the supporting documents and why it did or did not meet the grounds of appeal.

Complaint or appeal resolution form

The complaint or appeal resolution form will be mailed to the student at the address supplied on the complaint or appeal lodgement form. The form will be accompanied by a letter which provides a date after which the student has twenty days to appeal the outcome of the complaint or appeal. The letter informs the student that an appeal against a decision made regarding an appeal can only be made if new or additional evidence is supplied.

Appealing against VACTS's intention to defer, suspend or cancel enrolment

A notice of intention to defer, suspend or cancel enrolment will clearly identify that the student receiving the notice will be given 20 working days to access VACTS's internal complaints and appeals process. The 20 working days begins from a date specified in the letter which allows for reasonable time for delivery of the letter. Notices of intention to defer, suspend, or cancel enrolment are sent by registered mail to the address on the student's file and by email to the email address on the student's file. Registered post-delivery confirmation and email read delivery is requested.

If no appeal is received, then the Student Services Manager is responsible for contacting the student on the 19th working day following the date specified in the letter in order to provide the student with a final opportunity to lodge an internal appeal. Contact will be made by telephone and email.

For more information, please refer to the VACTS Deferment, suspension and cancellation policy.

Appealing against VACTS's intention to report to Dept. of Home Affairs for not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements

A student has 20 working days to appeal the decision in regard to not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements. The 20 working days begins from a date specified in the letter informing the student of VACTS's intention to report which allows for reasonable time for delivery of the letter. Notices of intention to report to Dept. of Home Affairs for not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements are sent by registered mail to the address on the student's file and by email to the email address on the student's file. Registered post-delivery confirmation and email read delivery is requested.

If no appeal is received, then the Student Services Manager is responsible for contacting the student on the 19th working day following the date specified in the letter in order to provide the student with a final opportunity to lodge an internal appeal. Contact will be made by telephone and email.

For more information, please refer to the VACTS Monitoring course progress policy.

Appealing an appeal

An appeal of a decision about an appeal can be made only if the student is able to provide new evidence in relation to the original decision which was appealed.

ASQA

Students may at any time, contact ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority), as VACTS's registering body, for advice.

ASQA's contact details are as follows:

Tel: 1300 700 801

Emails about complaints or appeals can be sent to the ASQA at complaintsteam@asqa.gov.au.

ASQA's website is www.asqa.gov.au.

The ESOS mailbox of DoE

The Department of Education (DoE) through the ESOS mailbox (esosmailbox@education.gov.au) will advise students on actions they can take if they cannot resolve a difference of opinion with VACTS and they believe that VACTS is not complying with the ESOS legislation. The telephone number for general education enquiries is 1300 363 0792.

Consumer Affairs

CA invites written complaints in circumstances where a consumer has made a reasonable attempt to resolve a dispute with a trader. Consumer Affairs website is www.consumer.vic.gov.au.

Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission

The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission will provide advice if a student believes that he or she has been treated unfairly, harassed, or vilified. Students can contact the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (03) 9281 7100 or by email at complaint_or_appeals@veohrc.vic.gov.au. Or in Sydney their details are complaintsinfo@humanrights.gov.au & website: www.humanrights.gov.au

The national training complaints hotline of Department of Education

Students can contact DoE about a training problem or concern by use of the national training complaints hotline of Skilling Australia, on 13 38 73 or by email at nationaltraininghotline@mailus.com.au

Information provided by VACTS in the complaint or appeal resolution form

The response provided to complainants and/or appellants will include information regarding

- reasons for any decisions made
- any changes that have resulted from the complaint or appeal
- an apology where appropriate
- information on where to seek an independent review
- acknowledgement of thanks to the complainant for their feedback.

Maintaining enrolment during the complaints and appeals process

While any internal complaint or appeal is ongoing, VACTS will maintain the enrolment of the student.

VACTS will maintain the student's enrolment during an external appeals process if the appeal is against VACTS's decision to report the student for unsatisfactory course progress. That is, for an appeal against a decision to report the student for unsatisfactory course progress, VACTS will await the outcome of the external process before proceeding, as reporting for unsatisfactory course progress may result in automatic visa suspension.

If the external appeal is against VACTS's decision to defer or suspend a student's enrolment due to misbehaviour, or to cancel the student's enrolment, VACTS will await only the outcome of the internal appeals process (if it is in support of VACTS's decision) before notifying DICCSRTE through PRISMS of the change to the student's enrolment. Once DICCSRTE has been notified of a deferment, suspension or cancellation of a student's enrolment, the student has 28 days in which to:

- leave Australia, or
- show Dept. of Home Affairs a new CoE, or
- provide Dept. of Home Affairs with evidence that he or she has accessed an external appeals process

57. External Reviews

If you wish to lodge an external appeal or complain about a decision, you can contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman. The Overseas Student Ombudsman offers a free and independent service for overseas students who have a complaint or want to lodge an external appeal about a decision made by their private education or training provider. See the Overseas Student Ombudsman website www.oso.gov.au or phone 1300 362 072 for more information".

Alternatively, you may choose to take action under Australia's consumer protection laws.

If the external review process supports the complaint, VACTS will immediately implement any decision and/or action required, and advises the student in writing. If the complaint is not upheld, then the student will be given a written explanation including the reasons for that decision.

Any decision to be implemented as an outcome of a complaint or appeal (internal and/or external) which is in favour of the student who lodged it will be immediately implemented along with any preventative or corrective action required. The student will be advised immediately of a favourable outcome.

58. Change of Address

Condition 8533 of your student visa requires you to notify your educational provider of any changes in your residential address within 7 days; failure to do so is a breach of Condition 8533 and may result in a cancellation of your student visa by the Immigration Department.

It is important that we have your correct details so please if you have a change of address you must notify us. You can do this by completing the change of address form. In addition to informing VACTS you will need to download a change of address and/or passport details form from the Dept. of Home Affairs website, fill it out and follow the instructions. Visit www.homeaffairs.gov.au

59. Transfer between Registered Providers

Policy

This policy applies only to international students enrolled at VACTS according to the provisions of a student visa.

Standard 7 of the National Code 2018 restricts the movement of students to an alternative provider during the first six months of the student's principal course. Students must, except under exceptional circumstances, complete six months of their principal program of study before changing providers. If a request for a release letter is refused, the student will be advised of the reasons for the refusal and informed of his or her right of appeal in writing.

Procedures

Application for a release letter

A student who wishes to request a transfer to another provider should first make an appointment to discuss the matter with the CEO. Students can make appointments with the CEO by enquiring at the reception desk.

Students who have completed fewer than six months of their principal course with VACTS may transfer to another provider only if they are provided with a release letter by VACTS. If the principal course is not with VACTS, the student must obtain a release letter from the provider of the principal course.

A student may request a release letter from VACTS by completing an application for a letter of release (available from the reception desk) and submitting it to the Student Services Manager. The application for a release letter must be accompanied by a valid enrolment offer letter from another registered provider.

To obtain a release letter from a provider other than VACTS, the student should contact the other provider. VACTS Learner Services staff is available to assist students with this.

Outcome of application for a release letter

The outcome of the application for a release letter will be available to the student within ten working days.

Filing applications for release letters

Applications for release letters are placed in the file of students who apply, along with offers of enrolment for the student from other providers.

Register of requests for a release letter

For each application for a release letter, an entry is placed in the register of requests for a release letter.

Provision of release letters

A release letter to allow a transfer to another provider will be provided during the first six months of a student's principal course at VACTS only under exceptional circumstances, where it is considered in the best interest of the student, academically and/or personally.

Release based on exceptional circumstances

Exceptional circumstances in this context are defined as circumstances in which the student can provide evidence that:

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- continuation of enrolment at VACTS would be to the detriment of the student's emotional or physical well-being
- it is in the best interest academically of the student to transfer to another provider
- the course the student wishes to transfer to better meets the study capabilities of the student
- the course the student wishes to transfer to better meets the long-term goals of the student, relating to future work, education, or personal aspirations
- the student will be provided with access to greater support
- the student's expectations about the current course are not being met
- the student was misled by VACTS or an education or migration agent regarding VACTS or the course in which the student is enrolled, which constitutes a breach of the ESOS Act
- compassionate or compelling circumstances
- VACTS is unable to deliver the course as set out in the student agreement
- An appeal (internal or external) on another matter results in a decision or recommendation to release the student.

Release based on academic best interests

In the case where a student applies for a release letter on the basis that it is in the best interest academically of the student to transfer to another provider, the student must provide evidence to demonstrate this. VACTS would consider a letter from a recognised careers counsellor in support of the student's claim as valid evidence. Should the student require assistance in gaining access to a recognised careers counsellor, VACTS will refer the student appropriately. Referral to a careers counsellor is at no cost to the student. VACTS will inform the student of any financial interest in the service to which the student is referred.

Release based on continuation of enrolment at VACTS would be to the detriment of the student's emotional or physical well-being

VACTS would consider a valid medical certificate from a recognised specialist medical practitioner stating that it would be detrimental to the student's emotional or physical well-being to remain enrolled at VACTS as valid evidence of the claim.

Letter of Offer from alternative provider to be provided

A letter of offer from another provider must be provided in support of an application for a letter of release.

Provision of release letter at no cost to the student

If a release letter is provided, it will be at no cost to the student.

"Assessment of application for letter of release" form

VACTS will provide the student with a completed copy of the "assessment of application for letter of release" form, which contains details of the assessment of the application and details of the outcome of the application. This will be provided to the student within 10 working days of the receipt of an application for a release letter.

Filing documents

A copy of the release letter and a copy of the "assessment of application for letter of release" will be filed in the student's file. The Student Services Manager is responsible for ensuring that the documents are filed correctly and in a timely fashion.

Register of provision of release letters

If a release letter is provided, the Student Services Manager is responsible for ensuring that an entry is made in the register of provision of release letters.

Advising the student of the need to contact Department of Home Affairs for visa advice

If a release letter is provided in order for a student to change provider, the student will be advised of the need to contact Department of Home Affairs to seek advice on whether a new student visa is required.

Rejection of application for release letter

A request for a release letter to allow a student to transfer to another provider may be refused for the following reasons:

- exceptional circumstances relating to the welfare of the student have not been demonstrated
- the proposed transfer may jeopardise the student’s progression through a packaged set of courses
- The proposed transfer may be considered detrimental to the student’s welfare or personal safety
- the student has not utilised the support services available from VACTS
- the student is attempting to avoid being reported to Department of Home Affairs for failing to meet the attendance or academic progress requirements of VACTS
- the student is attempting to avoid being reported to Department of Home Affairs for a breach of visa conditions
- the student owes course fees to VACTS
- the student has provided as a reason for the request for the request for transfer matters related to permanent residency

Letter of rejection of application for a release letter

If a student’s application for a release letter is refused, the student will be sent a letter of rejection of application for a release letter and a copy of the completed “assessment of application for letter of release” form, which contains details of the assessment of the application and details of the outcome of the application. The letter of rejection and the completed assessment of application for letter of release provide detailed explanations for the refusal of VACTS to provide a release letter. The letter will be sent within 10 working days of the application for release.

Documents to be filed in the case of rejection of an application for a release letter

A copy of the letter of rejection of request for a release letter and the completed copy of the “assessment of application for letter of release” form will be placed in the student’s file.

Register of rejection of applications for release letters

An entry will be placed in the register of rejections of applications for release letters.

Appealing the decision to deny an application for a release letter

A student who is denied an application for a release letter has 20 working days to appeal (from a date specified in the letter which provides sufficient time to allow 20 working days after the letter has been delivered) using the VACTS complaints and appeals procedure.

Recording on PRISMS

VACTS will not finalise the refusal status in PRISMS until the appeal finds in favour of VACTS, or the student has chosen not to access the complaints and appeals process within the 20 working days period, or the student withdraws from the process.

Students seeking to transfer from another provider within the first six months of their program

Students seeking to transfer from another provider within the first six months of their program are able to do so only in the following special circumstances:

- The registered provider has ceased to be registered or the course in which the student has enrolled has ceased to be registered.
- The original registered provider has provided a written letter of release, agreeing to such a transfer
- The original registered provider has had a sanction imposed on its registration by the Australian Government or state or territory government that prevents the student from continuing his or her CEO course, or
- Any government sponsor of the student considers the change to be in the student's best interest and has provided written support for that change.

Students of another provider seeking to transfer to VACTS will be required to provide evidence of one or more of the above circumstances with their application to be enrolled at VACTS.

60. Gaining access to your records

At VACTS, we believe it is important that you have easy, quick and thorough access to your records. We keep personal information about you so that we can locate you and provide you with information. We keep academic information about you so that we can monitor your course progress and provide you with additional help should you need it. We keep records about the following:

- Your enrolment details
- Your learning support needs
- Complaints or appeals you have made
- Your academic outcomes, at the level of:
 - Unit of competence
 - Qualification
- Licenses gained as a result of training
- Statements of attainment and qualifications issued

If you wish to know what information we are keeping about you, we have simple processes in place to enable you to find out. Students may request access to their records by asking at the reception desk for the application to view student records form. Students will be provided with access to their records within 10 working days of having submitted the Application to view student records form at the reception desk.

Students are informed about how to gain access to their records in the following ways:

- in this document, the student handbook
- in the material provided at orientation

- in notices placed on noticeboards throughout the campus
- from the Victorian Academy of Commerce and Technology Startups website

61. Student Code of Conduct

VACTS is an educational community which is built on respect for oneself and others. At VACTS, students are provided with a mature and professional learning environment. Students are not expected to behave according to a rigid code of discipline, but it is expected that all students will behave in a mature and responsible manner.

General Guidelines

It is expected that all students will:

- Attend classes on each day they are scheduled
- Be respectful and courteous to student services staff, trainer/assessors and other students
- Dress and behave in an appropriate manner
- Contribute to the life of the college in a constructive manner
- Respect the property of the college and other students
- Comply with all visa regulations for overseas students

Classroom behaviour

The classroom is a place of learning. It is expected that all students will:

- attend class on time
- bring the required learning resources, stationery and materials to class each lesson
- show appropriate respect toward the trainer/assessor and fellow students
- not disrupt the class or other students
- speak only English in class
- remain in the classroom throughout the class
- not eat or drink in the class
- turn off mobile phones during class time
- submit all class work and assessments
- leave the class room tidy after each lesson

Course Progress

It is the students' responsibility to be familiar with their course requirements and prepare a study plan that will assist them in meeting the course requirements. Students are required to make satisfactory course progress according to the VACTS course progress policy.

Assault

Any form of assault in class or outside class is strictly forbidden. This includes assaults of a physical, oral, written, electronic, sexual or racial nature. Assault between students or between student and trainer/assessor will not be tolerated.

Carrying Weapons

Carrying knives and other weapons or objects that may be used as weapons on campus is forbidden and may constitute criminal activity.

Bullying

Bullying is unreasonable behaviour that is intimidating, threatening or humiliating and repeated over time or occurring as part of a pattern of behaviour. Bullying can be physical, verbal or indirect, and creates an unfriendly, threatening or offensive environment.

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Examples of behaviour that could be bullying include, but are not limited to:

- excluding someone from workplace/learning activities
- giving someone the majority of unpleasant tasks
- verbal abuse
- abuse using electronic formats such as text messages, phone calls or posting messages or video recordings on websites
- humiliating someone through sarcasm or insults
- intimidation
- initiation practices
- sabotaging someone's work
- 'practical jokes'.

Any form of bullying in class or outside class is strictly forbidden. Bullying amongst students or between student and trainer/assessor or between staff will not be tolerated.

Cyber-bullying

Cyber bullying is the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behaviour by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others.

Students at VACTS have a responsibility to ensure that they:

- do not participate in cyber bullying
- do not use mobile phones, cameras or other digital devices to record audio and visual material unless they seek and receive authorisation to do so
- do not breach the privacy of students, staff and members of the VACTS community through any unauthorised recording or filming
- do not disseminate inappropriate information through digital media or other means
- report incidents of cyber bullying to a member of staff
- advise students being victimised by cyber bullying to talk to an adult

Harassment

Harassment is behaviour (through words or actions) based on the personal characteristics listed above that are unwanted, unasked for, unreturned and likely to make VACTS an unfriendly or uncomfortable place by:

- humiliating (putting someone down)
- seriously embarrassing
- offending (hurting someone's feelings) or
- intimidating (threatening someone so they behave in a certain way).

Some examples of harassment are:

- name calling
- stereotyping jokes
- offensive comments.

Sexual harassment is an unwelcome sexual advance; request for sex or any other sexual behaviour that a reasonable person would know or expect would offend, humiliate, seriously embarrass or humiliate another.

Some examples of sexual harassment are:

- unwanted touching
- unwelcome sexual innuendo or jokes

- displaying sexually explicit material (posters, emails, internet sites).

Racial and religious vilification

Vilification is behaviour (through words or actions) that incites hatred, serious contempt or ridicule of another person or group of people because of their race or religious belief.

Some examples of vilification are:

- public threats of harm
- encouraging others to hate someone because of their religion
- racist statements made in a public meeting
- racist graffiti

Discrimination

VACTS will act quickly to ensure that unlawful discrimination does not occur, or continue to occur in the workplace for trainer/assessors or in the provision of training and assessment to students. Discrimination in employment and in the supply of goods and services is unlawful under various Victorian and Commonwealth laws.

Discrimination is unlawful, and will not be tolerated, on the grounds of:

- age
- breastfeeding
- carer status
- disability/impairment
- gender identity
- industrial activity
- lawful sexual activity
- marital status
- parental status
- physical features
- political belief or activity
- pregnancy
- race
- religious belief or activity
- sex
- sexual orientation
- personal association with someone who has, or is assumed to have, one of these personal characteristics.

Food and Drink

To ensure a tidy and comfortable learning environment:

- Food and drinks are to be consumed in the common areas only.
- No food may be consumed in the classrooms and computer lab.
- All rubbish is to be placed in bins provided
- Kitchen areas are to be kept clean and tidy.

Alcohol and Drugs

The consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited at VACTS.

62. Completion within Expected Duration

VACTS monitors the enrolment load of each student throughout the student's course. Should a student's enrolment load vary from one compulsory study period (defined as one VACTS term) to another, VACTS will take action to ensure that the student is able to complete the course within the timeframe specified on the CoE. Under certain compassionate or compelling circumstances, VACTS will agree to vary a student's study load. If a student studies less than a full time load in one or more terms, the student is at risk of not completing his or her course within the expected duration as specified on the CoE. The student may then be required to make up the enrolment load by studying units during a non-compulsory study period (i.e. between VACTS terms) or by studying additional units in some terms. This will compensate for those terms in which the student was studying a reduced load. VACTS will agree to extend the duration of a student's enrolment and issue a new CoE only when it is clear that the student cannot reasonably complete his or her course within the expected duration as specified on the student's current CoE.

VACTS does not deliver programs by distance or online learning, so the requirements (Standard 9.5) that students undertake no more than 25% of their program by online or distance learning and that students not be enrolled exclusively in distance or online units in any given study period is met. Because VACTS does not offer distance or online learning, the ability to monitor the progress of each student against the expected course duration according to the CoE of the student is not compromised.

Compassionate or compelling circumstances

VACTS may consider variations to a student's study load or extension of a student's CoE to enable the student to complete the course in which he or she is enrolled if compassionate or compelling circumstances apply. Compassionate or compelling circumstances are generally those beyond the control of the student and which have an impact upon the student's course progress or wellbeing. These could include, but are not limited to:

- serious illness / injury supported by a medical certificate stating the student was unable to attend classes
- bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in home country requiring emergency travel when this has impacted on the students studies
- a traumatic experience impacting on the student, for example, involvement in, or witnessing a serious accident/crime (such should be supported by police or psychologist reports)
- where VACTS was unable to offer a prerequisite unit
- where the student was unable to begin studying on the course commencement date due to a delay in receiving a student visa.
- the reduced load or course extension is part of the intervention strategy which has been implemented to assist the student to successfully complete the course
- the student has studied, or plans to study (such a plan can be made only in consultation with the CEO/RTO Manager), extra units in another study period
- the student has only a few units to complete and these do not constitute a full-time load

Application for variation of enrolment

Students must apply to be enrolled for less than a full-time load. To do this, a student must complete an application for variation of enrolment. Documentary evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances must be provided in support of the application. If the reason for the

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application is a compassionate or compelling circumstance outside of the student's control, the application must be submitted within 10 working days of those circumstances. The CEO/RTO Manager will assess the evidence provided by students in support of applications for variation of enrolment.

If the application is successful:

- A record will be added to the register of students at risk of failing to complete their course within the expected duration.
- The student will be sent a letter with a notice of reduced study load. The letter will inform the student of the requirement to meet with the CEO/RTO Manager prior to the start of the next term to discuss the process of making up for the reduced study load.
- The approved application form and all documentary evidence will be placed in the student's file, along with the notice of reduced study load
- A meeting with the CEO/RTO Manager will be organised prior to the start of the next term. In this meeting, the process of making up for the reduced study load will be agreed upon. After this meeting, the student will be sent a letter with a notice of increased study load for the next term. The notice of increased study load will be placed in the student's file.

If the application is not successful:

- A letter will be sent notifying the student of the rejection of the application for variation in enrolment.
- The unapproved application form and all documentary evidence will be placed in the student's file
- The student will be required to maintain the current study load

The Student Services Manager is responsible for this procedure

Before the beginning of each term, the CEO/RTO Manager will meet with students who appear on the register of students at risk of failing to complete their course within the expected duration.

The CEO/RTO Manager will organise a revised study load for each student. This may involve the student undertaking an additional unit or units during the next term.

Application for course extension

A student who wishes an extension to his or her course duration must complete an application for extension of course duration. A student's course duration will be extended only when compassionate or compelling circumstances are demonstrated and when a reduced study load is not possible in order to accommodate these circumstances. Alternatively, a course extension may be approved if an approved deferment or suspension has been granted according to the conditions of Standard 13 of the National Code 2018. Students applying for an extension to course duration will be advised to check with the nearest Dept. of Home Affairs office for information about the impact of the extension of the course on the student's visa. The CEO/RTO Manager will assess the evidence provided by students in support of applications for course extension. If a student is applying for an extension of course duration in order to meet the requirements of an intervention strategy, the CEO/RTO Manager will ensure that, should the student meet the requirements of the intervention strategy, the student is likely to complete the course within the extended duration proposed.

- If the application is successful:
- the approved application form and all documentary evidence will be placed in the student's file
- the change in course duration is reported to Dept. of Home Affairs via the PRISMS system

- a new CoE is issued
- a note of the variation to the expected course duration and the reasons for the variation is placed in the student's file

If the application is not successful:

- a letter will be sent notifying the student of the rejection of the application for course extension.
- The unapproved application form and all documentary evidence will be placed in the student's file
- The student will be required to maintain the current study load

The Student Services Manager is responsible for this procedure.

63. Plagiarism, Collusion and Cheating

Policy and definitions

The plagiarism, colluding and cheating policy is in support of quality teaching, learning and assessment at VACTS.

VACTS requires students to submit for assessment responses to assessment tasks which are their own work. VACTS considers that plagiarism, collusion and cheating constitute academic misconduct for which penalties may be applied.

Plagiarism is defined as taking someone else's words, ideas or materials and presenting them as your own. Students at VACTS must avoid plagiarism by providing clear acknowledgement of the sources of any information, ideas or other material used in response to the requirements of an assessment task, which is not their own.

Collusion is an understanding or agreement between two or more people to intentionally cooperate to gain an unfair advantage in assessment. Collusion may include unauthorised and unacknowledged joint authorship in an assessment task and unauthorised and unacknowledged copying or use of material prepared by another person for use in assessment. Students at VACTS must not present solely as their own work any work done in collusion with another person or persons.

A class test environment is an environment where students are to be assessed in the company of other students and a teacher, where students are required to not communicate with other students in any way.

Cheating in a written or oral assessment task conducted in a class test environment is to seek to obtain an unfair advantage in that assessment task. Students will be informed in the learner guide for each unit of competency and prior to the assessment task if a particular assessment task is to be conducted in a class test environment.

Students at VACTS must not engage in any situation whereby the student knowingly attempts, or assists another student to attempt, to gain an unfair advantage by cheating during an assessment task conducted in a class test environment.

Referencing is defined as a standardised method of acknowledging the sources of information, ideas, and other material used in a submission in response to an assessment task. Teachers are responsible for explaining to students how to appropriately provide references in assessment task submissions. Teachers are also responsible for identifying and reporting plagiarism, collusion and cheating.

Responsibilities of students

Students are required to ensure that they are familiar with the conventions for authorship in the Australian educational framework and the appropriate use and acknowledgement of all forms of intellectual material. They must at all times submit only their own work for assessment (or the

work of the group to which they have been assigned by the teacher, in the case of an assessment task which requires a group submission). They are required to take responsibility to ensure that their work cannot be accessed by other students who might submit it inappropriately as their own. Students must submit every response to a written assessment task with an attached VACTS assessment cover sheet. A response to a written assessment task will not be considered to have been submitted if it does not have an VACTS assessment cover sheet which is signed and dated by the student attached to it.

Penalties associated with plagiarism, collusion or cheating

Any case in which a student has been involved in plagiarism, collusion or cheating is considered to be academic misconduct, and a penalty will apply. The following are the available penalties which may be applied by the Academic Misconduct Committee:

- reprimand by the CEO/RTO Manager
- record unsatisfactory completion of the assessment task (with the opportunity to be reassessed)
- record unsatisfactory completion of the assessment task (without the opportunity to be reassessed)
- suspension of enrolment
- cancellation of enrolment
- a combination of the above

64. Assessment Moderation on Appeal

VACTS provides students with the opportunity to apply for moderation of assessment outcomes (referred to as moderation on appeal). This process involves an assessor checking the accuracy and integrity of the assessment outcomes of the student.

Grounds for requesting moderation on appeal

A student may request moderation on appeal for any assessment outcome if the student believes:

- The assessment procedures do not conform with the AQF guidelines
- The assessment procedures do not conform with the VACTS’s assessment policy
- There are any procedural or computational errors in the assessment outcome

Application for moderation on appeal

Students who wish to have one or more assessment outcomes for one or more units of competency moderated on appeal must lodge an application for moderation on appeal, which they may obtain from the reception desk. An application for moderation on appeal of an assessment will be accepted only if the student was assessed as not having satisfactorily completed the assessment. Students are provided with ten working days from the date of release of the assessment outcomes for the units of competency undertaken in a given term to apply for moderation on appeal of their assessment outcomes.

Notification of outcome of moderation on appeal

A student who has applied for moderation on appeal will be notified of the outcome of the moderation within ten working days of the closing date for submitting applications for moderation on appeal. The notification will be by use of the “Notification of outcome of moderation on appeal”. The student is to be given the opportunity for a meeting with the CEO/RTO Manager and/or the moderating assessor to discuss the outcome of the moderation on appeal.

65. Student Safety and Security

Policy

VACTS will proactively take steps to ensure the safety and security of its students. These steps include the provision to students of detailed advice about safety precautions and the implementation of a security plan for students.

Personal safety

- Take the time to consider where you might be at risk and what steps you can take to make it safe
- Consider pre-booking a taxi for the time you intend going home
- Walk purposefully and appear confident
- Whenever possible, travel with a friend, or as part of a group
- Program the emergency number 000 into your mobile phone
- Tell people where you are going and what time you will return
- Avoid carrying non-essential items such as your passport and too much money
- Carry your wallet only in a place where it is not in clear view and not vulnerable
- Always keep your briefcase or bag in view and close to your body
- Stay in well-lit areas as much as possible
- Report any incidents to police or VACTS staff

Home security

- Your house number should be clearly visible from the street in case of an emergency
- Keep your front door locked if you are at the back of the house
- Do not leave messages on the front door, it is an indication that you are not at home
- Avoid having parcels left at your front door
- If you need to have something delivered while you are out, ask your neighbours to take delivery for you
- Keep cash and valuables out of sight

Safety whilst driving and parking

- Make sure you have enough fuel to reach your destination
- Do not respond to aggressive behaviour
- Avoid eye contact with people in other vehicles
- Drive with your car doors locked and windows closed at all times
- Keep valuables out of view
- Park in well lit areas
- Try to use car parks which have attendants

Safety on public transport

- Use a timetable to plan your travel and avoid unnecessary delays
- Choose well lit, busy areas rather than quiet spots
- Travel close to the guard or driver
- Where possible, exit public transport into well lit, busy areas

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- When boarding a bus, don't open your purse or wallet – have your money or your myki already in your hand
- Be aware of who is around, including who gets off with you
- In a train, try to make sure that you in a carriage with a number of other people
- Consider carrying a personal alarm

Taxis

- Make a booking by telephone for a taxi in preference to hailing one on the street. Taxi companies keep records of all bookings made
- Tell the driver the route you wish to take to your destination. Speak up if the driver takes a different route to the one you have specified
- Take note of the taxi number and fleet number. This will help in identifying the taxi if required
- If you don't want your home address known, stop a few houses away from your destination

Safety on the street

- Stay alert, as awareness is your best defence
- Cross the street if you feel unsafe
- Be confident and aware of your surroundings
- Keep to well-lit major roads and paths at night, do not take short cuts through parks
- If approached by a stranger, keep a safe distance
- If approached for money, advise you have no cash, avoid eye contact, and move toward other people
- If you are being followed, change direction and seek a safe place
- Keep personal items such as wallets or bags close to your body or out of sight

Safety at VACTS

- Get to know the layout of the campus, including safe paths and exits
- Contact a staff member immediately if you observe anything suspicious in or around the campus
- Do not leave valuables such as wallets or mobile phones unattended
- Avoid isolated areas and move around the campus with other people where possible
- Avoid leaving the campus alone

66. Student Declaration

All students are required to sign the following declaration. You should hand the signed declaration to the designated member of staff at the completion of the orientation session. If you have any questions about the declaration, you should go to the VACTS reception desk to make an appointment for a meeting with the Student Services Manager. You will not be allowed to attend any classes until you have signed this declaration.

1. I have read and understood the information in this handbook
2. I understand that VACTS is obliged to provide information to the Australian Government and designated authorities and, if relevant, the Director of the Tuition Protection Service. This information includes:
 - student personal and contact details
 - course enrolment details and changes
 - the circumstance of any suspected breach of a student visa condition.
3. I have read and agree with the Refund Policy.
4. I agree to comply with the student code of conduct. I acknowledge that VACTS may cancel my enrolment should I not comply with the student code of conduct.
5. I understand that VACTS will cancel my enrolment if:
 - I do not make satisfactory course progress, or
 - I do not pay my tuition fees according to the agreed payment schedule, or
 - I am found to have plagiarised, colluded or cheated in any submission in response to an assessment task.
6. I confirm that I have had the VACTS's Complaints and Appeals processes explained to me in detail at the student orientation session.
7. I have read the Complaints and Appeals policy and procedures in this handbook.

Name

Signature

Date