



TIIS Regulatory Environment TEQSA & CRICOS

Source for the attached: <https://www.teqsa.gov.au>

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

TERTIARY EDUCATION QUALITY & STANDARDS AGENCY (TEQSA)

Our purpose is to protect student interests and the reputation of Australia's higher education sector through a proportionate, risk-reflective approach to quality assurance that supports diversity, innovation and excellence.

All organisations that offer higher education qualifications in or from Australia, must be registered by TEQSA. Higher education providers that have not been granted self-accrediting authority (almost all of the non-university providers) must also have their courses of study accredited by us.

The Australian higher education sector includes public and private universities, Australian branches of overseas universities and other higher education providers. Higher education providers offer qualifications ranging from undergraduate awards (bachelor degrees, associate degrees and advanced diplomas) to postgraduate awards (graduate certificates and diplomas, masters and doctoral degrees).

The *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (TEQSA Act) which established us as an agency, calls for us to:

- register regulated entities as higher education providers and accredit their courses of study
- conduct compliance and quality assessments
- conduct re-accreditation assessments of courses developed by providers without self-accrediting authority
- provide advice and make recommendations to the Commonwealth Minister responsible for Education on matters relating to the quality and regulation of higher education providers
- cooperate with similar agencies in other countries
- collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to quality assurance practice and quality improvement in higher education.

AUSTRALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION – LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal framework which governs Australian higher education consists of:

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Act 2011 – established TEQSA as an agency and calls for regulation of higher education through a standards-based quality framework with principles relating to regulatory necessity, risk and proportionality.

- *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2015* (HES Framework) – applies to all higher education providers. Set by the Minister for Education on the advice of a panel with expertise in the delivery of higher education, they are the minimum level of achievement that a provider must meet and maintain to be registered to deliver higher education courses of study.
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- *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS Act)* – applies to providers offering courses to students in Australia on student visas. These include higher education courses, Foundation Programs (except those delivered by schools), and ELICOS programs delivered by higher education providers.
- *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018* (National Code 2018) – a set of nationally consistent standards that protect international students. The National Code 2018 protects and governs courses registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). Only CRICOS courses can be offered to international students studying in Australia on a student visa.

For further information on TEQSA and its work:

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

THE COMMONWEALTH REGISTER OF INSTITUTIONS AND COURSES FOR OVERSEAS STUDENTS (CRICOS)

WHAT IS CRICOS?

The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) is an official Australian Government website which lists all Australian education providers that offer courses to students studying in Australia on student visas. CRICOS also lists the courses registered for delivery to international students offered by each provider.

For more information visit [the CRICOS website](#).

What are TEQSA's responsibilities in regard to CRICOS?

Under the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act), TEQSA has responsibility for:

- higher education providers registered under the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (TEQSA Act)
- English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS) delivered by, or in entry arrangement with, registered higher education providers
- providers of Foundation Programs (except in schools).

To become registered to deliver courses to overseas students (which TEQSA is responsible for), providers must apply to us for CRICOS registration. The application must include the courses and locations in its scope of registration. CRICOS registered providers can only offer courses to overseas students who have an Australian student visa.

For more information on the ESOS Act and associated legal framework visit [our ESOS Act page](#).

Who can apply for inclusion on CRICOS?

Only registered higher education providers can apply to TEQSA for inclusion on CRICOS. This registration period cannot exceed seven years.
