
SCHOOL POLICY:	ENROLMENT OF TEMPORARY VISA HOLDERS - CHARGING POLICY
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RELATED POLICIES:	International Fee Paying Students – Policy and Operating Guidelines International Secondary Student Exchange Programs – Policy and Operating Guidelines Short Term Education Programs for International Students and Adults Migration Act 1958 (Cwlth), section 30 (2) ACT Education Act 2004 Commonwealth Programs for Schools Quadrennial Administrative Guidelines 1997 to 2000

1. PURPOSE

This policy provides advice about the circumstances in which certain categories of students, who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents, are required to pay for their education in ACT primary and high schools and secondary colleges.

It also outlines procedures to be followed in enrolling temporary residents into our schools.

2. CONTEXT

From 1 January 1990 it became Australian government policy that all new international students should pay the full cost of their education and that the Australian community should not be called upon to make a direct financial contribution.

Within this framework, and incorporating advice received from the ACT Treasury about the financial impact of educating temporary visa holders in ACT government schools, the ACT Department of Education and Training (ACTDET), under this policy, charges a fee for temporary residents studying in our schools who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents. In certain circumstances the Department may exempt temporary residents from the payment of such fees.

3. DEFINITIONS

Residents of Australia are either citizens, permanent residents or temporary residents.

Holders of temporary visas are permitted to stay in Australia for purposes including business, study, family matters and medical reasons. The parents of all students

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holding temporary visas are liable to pay the international student fee. However specific sub-classes of temporary visas (see 4.2) may be exempt from fee payment. These include:

- programs exempted by the Commonwealth or ACTDET
- exchanges where reciprocity is involved
- arrangements involving humanitarian issues.

3.1 The major categories of temporary visas are:

- temporary resident visas
- student visas
- visitor visas
- bridging visas.

3.2 For the purposes of this policy “student” refers to all temporary visa classes enrolled in ACT government schools not just holders of student visas.

3.3 Students on visitor visas can be enrolled in ACT government schools for a maximum period of 12 weeks.

4. POLICY STATEMENT

4.1 Non-Australian citizens may enrol in ACT government schools, subject to certain conditions. They must hold a valid visa and must meet the specific travel, entry and residency conditions set by the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA). Enrolment is only for the period of the visa.

4.2 All holders of temporary visas are required to pay the international student fee **except:**

- dependants of diplomats
- dependants of Australian government (eg AusAID) scholarship holders
- dependants of Australian university (eg ANU, UC) scholarship holders
- dependants of ANU-supported visitors and/or students
- dependants of officers involved in government-to-government exchanges
- dependants of “specialist” officers recruited by ACT government
- exchange students
- refugees.

4.3 In situations where temporary resident visa holders have a sponsor in Australia it is expected that the sponsor will meet the costs for the education of dependants.

5. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

5.1 To implement this policy all new students seeking enrolment in ACT government schools are required to produce documentary evidence of identity and residency status.

5.2 For school enrolment purposes non-Australian citizens include those who cannot show evidence such as an Australian birth certificate or statutory

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declaration of birth in Australia, Australian passport or Australian migration status (indicated on his/her visa).

- 5.3 Categories of students who are liable to pay the international student fee and those which are exempt will vary over time depending on changes to visa classes and conditions. Schools should seek clarification from the International Education Unit (IEU) of the fee-paying status of any non-Australian citizen before enrolment.
- 5.4 The IEU will inform schools of any requirement for fee payment and will collect the required fee. Schools must not enrol temporary residents until they have been notified by the IEU to do so.
- 5.5 Temporary residents have access to priority enrolment area schools on the same basis as Australian citizens.
- 5.6 Students on temporary visas who enrol in Kindergarten after attending an ACT Department of Education and Training pre-school are required to pay the international student fee.

6. APPEAL PROCEDURES

- 6.1 A request for review, in writing, must be lodged with the Executive Director, Education and Training. The appeal should include reasons for requesting a review and provide any relevant supporting documentation.
- 6.2 The Executive Director will consider the request and aim to provide a response within 28 days of receipt of the request for a review.
- 6.3 In the meantime students will not be enrolled in ACT government schools until the international student fee has been paid. Tuition fees must be paid to the International Education Unit, ACT Department of Education and Training.
- 6.4 If the review is successful the full tuition fee paid will be refunded to the payee and students already enrolled in a school will retain their school place.
- 6.5 If the review is successful students not attending school can be enrolled on the same basis as Australian citizens except that they are not entitled to free bus transport to Introductory English Centres.