

International Student Fee Refund Procedure

Version 6 – Approved 30 July 2025

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Purpose

This procedure describes how a commencing international student can be considered for a refund of tuition fees paid for a course and Overseas Student Health Cover including:

- a) eligibility for a refund
- b) how to apply for a refund
- c) how applications are assessed
- d) how refunds are paid
- e) how a student can ask for review of a decision in relation to a refund.

Applicable governance instruments

Instrument	Section	Principles
<i>Student Fees Policy</i>	1 Student Fees 3 Refund of fees and remission of debt	1.1-1.3 3.1-3.2
<i>National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students, 2018 (Cth)</i>	Standard 2: Recruitment of a student Standard 3: Written Agreement	N/A
<i>Education Services for Overseas Students (Calculation of Refund) Instrument 2024</i>	N/A	N/A

Procedure

1. Background

The University's *International Student Fee Refund Procedure* provides a student centric, contemporary, and transparent approach to meeting the special needs of our commencing international students who have paid tuition fees for a course and/or Overseas Student Health Cover but do not commence their study. The University requires international students to pay a deposit at the time they accept their course offer. The amount payable is outlined in their Letter of Offer and consists of the following:

- Deposit towards their first study period.
- Overseas Student Health Cover for the length of their student visa (if the student uses the University's preferred provider).

Any outstanding tuition fees for the initial and subsequent study periods are to be paid by the due date in accordance with the University's [Key Dates](#).

The objectives of this procedure are to ensure that:

- International students are provided with clear and accessible information regarding the University's refund process.
- Students' requests for refunds are acknowledged and assessed in a timely, fair and equitable manner, and consistent with relevant Federal legislation.
- The University aims to achieve the best possible outcome for students.

2. Refundable Fee Types

2.1. This procedure applies to refunds of the following fee types:

- a) tuition fees pre-paid before course commencement or in credit
- b) tuition fees paid where the University is unable to deliver the course
- c) Overseas Student Health Cover where:
 - i. the University is arranging cover on the student's behalf through its preferred health fund provider; and
 - ii. the student has not arrived onshore in Australia.

2.2. Students who have:

- a) arranged their own Overseas Student Health Cover; or
 - b) arrived onshore in Australia
- will need to apply for a refund of Overseas Student Health Cover directly through the health fund provider.

2.3. Where an application fee is charged by the University, this fee is non-refundable.

3. Eligibility for a Refund

3.1. An international student will be eligible for a tuition refund if the University is unable to deliver their course, including where the course:

- a) does not commence on the agreed start date or at the agreed location as outlined in the Letter of Offer; or
- b) ceases to be offered at any time after the commencement date but before the completion date; or

- c) is not provided in full due to conditions imposed on the course by the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS); or
- d) has been cancelled or suspended and the student has not withdrawn or accepted a place in another course beforehand.

The Student Services team will notify the student as soon as possible that the course cannot be delivered and offer the student the following options:

- i. to transfer their unspent tuition fees to an alternative course at no additional cost; or
- ii. a 100% refund of their unspent tuition fees and a release letter (to enable them to undertake study with another provider).

3.2. If a student has had an application of remission approved they will be eligible for a refund. See the *Remission of Student Debt Procedure* for further information on how continuing international students can apply for remission.

3.3. In all other cases, to be considered for a refund, a student must:

- a) be a commencing international student (i.e. an international student who is yet to complete 50 credit points of study (Pass or Fail); and
 - i. be approved for course withdrawal and/or transfer to another institution/provider (see section 4.4); or
 - ii. have had their Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) cancelled by the University; or
- b) be a continuing international student (i.e. an international student who has completed 50 credit points of study) who has funds in credit.

4. Applying for a Refund

4.1. Where a student is eligible for a refund under sections 3.1 or 3.3, the student is required to submit a 'Request for Refund' application. The application should be submitted as soon as possible, because depending on the circumstances, the refundable amount can decrease over time (see section 5.5).

4.2. The 'Request for Refund' application is available in the Student Portal. For the application to be considered finalised, the student must:

- a) meet the eligibility outlined in sections 3.1 or 3.3.
- b) in their application, outline the reasons for requesting the refund which might include:
 - i. the student intends not to commence their course, withdraws from their course, or does not receive a visa.
 - ii. the student does not meet the Genuine Student (GS) requirement (due to their potential circumstances in Australia, value of the course to their future, their immigration history, the intention of their parent, legal guardian or spouse if they are a minor, or any other relevant matters).
 - iii. the student did not commence their course or progress in a course due to compassionate or compelling circumstances.
- c) include all relevant supporting documentation that the student would like considered, and that supports the reason/s for requesting a refund. This might include Department of Home Affairs advice, medical documentation, death certificate, bank statement. See Schedule B.
- d) provide bank account details and supporting evidence to verify the account provided (see section 6).

- e) declare that the application and any supporting documents are truthful and genuine.
- 4.3. Applications must be submitted by the student requesting the refund and must be emailed from the student's university email address (preferred) or an email address registered with the University (e.g. the email address the student used on the application for admission). Applications for refund may also be submitted by the student's agent however the Fees Team must verify that the email address is associated with the agency and the student's admission record.
- 4.4. If the student is withdrawing from their course or transferring to another university or provider, they must also complete a 'Request for Course Withdrawal Form' or a 'Request for Release Form'. See the *International Student Request Transfer Procedure* for further information. The outcome of this application must be finalised first before the refund can be considered.
- 4.5. If the student is still overseas and their health cover was arranged by the University, the student should include a request for refund of their health cover in their Fee Refund application. Otherwise, a refund for this will need to be requested directly from their health cover provider.
- 4.6. The refund assessment process will start when the Fees Team receives a finalised 'Request for Refund' application (see section 4.2).

5. Assessment of Refunds

- 5.1. Applications for refunds are ordinarily assessed by the Fees Team. Applications must be assessed in a timely manner (normally within 28 calendar days upon receipt of a complete application). This timeframe may be affected by University closure over the Christmas/New Year period. If the assessment of an application takes longer than 28 calendar days, the Fees Team will advise the student and keep them informed of the status of their application.
- 5.2. When assessing the application, the Fees Team may ask the student to provide additional supporting evidence (for example a medical certificate) which may result in the assessment time frame being longer than 28 days. A student can also provide further documentation while their application is being assessed.
- 5.3. The following general principles apply to the assessment of all refunds:
 - a) For packaged offers (e.g. English Language Course + degree course), each course of the package is considered as a separate course for refund purposes and will be assessed accordingly.
 - b) A 'course' for the English Language Centre (ELC) means the total study period as outlined in the Letter of Offer.
 - c) Any pre-paid tuition amount paid over the required deposit outlined in the Letter of Offer (i.e. overpayment) will be refunded in full, minus any applicable fees (see section 6.6).
 - d) Students who are unable to commence their studies in their first study period may be eligible to defer their place to the next available course intake. If a deferral is granted, all paid tuition fees will be transferred to the new study period.
 - e) If a student has multiple course offers (i.e. deferred offers), a refund will be assessed against the last accepted course offer.
 - f) Students who change their international visa sub-class will be considered a withdrawal for refund purposes.
 - g) A 100% refund minus any applicable fees (see section 6.6) will be given in the following circumstances:
 - i. students who have not arrived in Australia applying for a refund of Overseas Student Health Cover; or
 - ii. the University is unable to deliver a student's course; or

iii. continuing students applying for a refund of tuition fees paid in credit.

h) No refund will be given in the following circumstances:

- i. where the information or documentation provided by the student or their agent cannot be independently verified, or the student is considered to be non-genuine based on the provision of fraudulent or misleading documentation or evidence; or
- ii. where the funds received have involved fraud and/or resulted in a chargeback; or
- iii. where a visa is denied or cancelled on grounds of fraud; or
- iv. where a CoE is withdrawn on grounds of fraud; or
- v. where a request for release/transfer to another provider is refused; or
- vi. where the student withdraws from the course after the census date; or
- vii. where the student is excluded due to academic misconduct; or
- viii. where the student's CoE or student visa is cancelled due to non-compliance; or
- ix. where no Fee Refund Request Form or an incomplete refund application is received.

5.4. Refund for quota courses (i.e. courses that have a limited number of places available such as Medicine will also be assessed in accordance with the student's Letter of Offer which will also detail the terms and conditions relating the funds, including that the deposit might be non-refundable.

5.5. The refundable pre-paid tuition fee amount depends on why the refund is requested and when the request is submitted (see Schedule A) and is calculated as follows:

a) Visa related – If the student withdraws prior to or does not commence on the agreed start date due to their student visa application being refused and documentary evidence from the Department of Home Affairs is provided:

Eligible students who submit a Request for Refund will be entitled to a full refund of any pre-paid tuition fees, less a cancellation charge of 5% or \$500 whichever is lesser. A bank fee may also apply (see section 6.6).

b) Visa related – If the student is unable to commence on the agreed start date due to their student visa not being granted in time, provides documentary evidence stating that their visa application was submitted at least 28 days prior to the agreed start date prior and has subsequently withdrawn their application from the Department of Home Affairs:

Eligible students who submit a Request for Refund will be entitled to a full refund of any pre-paid tuition fees, less a cancellation charge of \$500. A bank fee may also apply (see section 6.6).

c) Unable to meet conditions/GS requirement – If the student is unable to meet the conditions as set out in their Letter of Offer or does not meet the GS requirement post acceptance:

Eligible students who submit a Request for Refund at any stage during the first study period will be entitled to a full refund of any pre-paid tuition fees, less a cancellation charge of \$500. A bank fee may also apply (see section 6.6).

d) Change of mind – If the student withdraws from their course due to reasons other than those listed above:

- i. Eligible students who submit a Request for Refund before the first day of their first study period will be entitled to a refund of any pre-paid tuition fees, less a cancellation charge of \$1000. A bank fee may also apply (see section 6.6).

- ii. Eligible students who submit a Request for Refund on or after the first day of their first study period but before or on the census date of their first study period will be entitled to a 50% refund of any pre-paid tuition fees. A cancellation charge of 50% will apply. A bank fee may also apply (see section 6.6).
- iii. Eligible students who submit a Request for Refund after the census date of their first study period will receive no refund of any pre-paid tuition fees.
- e) Deferral – If the student is granted a deferral to the next available intake of their course, but then withdraws:**
 - i. deferred study period will be entitled to a 50% refund of any pre-paid tuition fees. A bank fee may also apply (see section 6.6).
 - ii. Eligible students who submit a Request for Refund after the census date of the deferred study period will receive no refund of any pre-paid tuition fees.
- f) Special Circumstances – If the student did not commence their course or progress in a course due to ‘compassionate or compelling circumstances’:**
 - i. The University may approve a Request for Refund at any stage during their first study period if the student can demonstrate that compassionate or compelling circumstances beyond the student’s control impacted on their ability to commence or progress in a course. The amount refunded will normally be 100% of any pre-paid tuition fees, less a cancellation charge of \$1000. A bank fee may also apply (see section 6.6).

Examples of compassionate/compelling circumstances include, but are not limited to:

- ii. serious illness, injury or death of the student;
- iii. serious illness or death of an immediate family member;
- iv. severe and unexpected financial hardship that has impacted the student’s ability to pay their tuition fees;
- v. major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country of the student and is likely to impact the student’s ability to commence or continue their studies.

Circumstances within the control of the student or circumstances that have not directly impacted on the student’s capacity to commence their course or progress in a course will not be considered as compassionate or compelling circumstances, for example:

- vi. failure of a student to understand or seek clarification of university requirements as specified in its policies, processes and rules (for example, if a student misreads the University’s [Key Dates](#) page or information outlined in their Letter of Offer);
- vii. any delay by the student in checking correspondence sent by the University;
- viii. conflicts of priorities which are to be expected in the normal course of the student’s study, for example unable to commence/continue study due to family or work commitments;
- ix. events that could have been prevented, for example failing to submit a Request for Refund by the due date.

- 5.6. Once the application has been assessed, the Fees Team will notify the student in writing of the refund decision. This will include the following:
 - a) the outcome and reason; and
 - b) the amount to be refunded, if applicable; and
 - c) the timeframe for the funds to be returned, if applicable; and
 - d) the process for a review (if the student is dissatisfied with the decision) (see section 7).

6. Payment of Refund

- 6.1. The University's Finance Team will refund to the source account that was used to pay the tuition fees or health cover. In the event that the source account does not belong to the student, or the fees cannot be returned to the source account, the refund may be paid to the student's bank account upon verification (see 6.2)
- 6.2. The account is verified by the Fees Team prior to payment of the refund. The Fees Team will request the student or agent to provide documentation showing payment of the deposit.
- 6.3. The Fees Team may suspend or cancel the payment of a refund if the account details cannot be verified.
- 6.4. In the event that the student is deceased, the personal legal representative of the Deceased Estate must apply for any payments which are to be refunded. The administrators must supply details about who the refund is payable to. The University reserves the right to request official documentation to support any such claims.
- 6.5. Refunds paid into overseas bank accounts will be converted from Australian dollars into the currency of the country where the bank account is held. If the local currency is not available, the amount will be converted into US dollars. Foreign currency exchange rates are outside of the University's control. These are highly variable and fluctuate frequently. There are different buying and selling rates, as well as interbank rates, all of which are available online. These rates are reported as daily averages and provide an approximation of the exchange rate at any given moment. Historical exchange rates found online may not be comparable to the specific rate that was available when a refund payment is processed.
- 6.6. Refunds paid into an overseas bank account will attract a bank fee. This will be deducted from the refund amount. A student's overseas financial institution may also charge other amounts, including but not limited to, currency conversion fees.

7. Review of Refund Decision

- 7.1. If a student is dissatisfied with the decision in relation to their refund, the student can request a review by the Student Fees Team on the following ground:
 - a) that there has been a procedural or administrative error in reaching the decision on the refund (for example the final refund figure has been miscalculated, or there has been an error in assessing the refund).
- 7.2. To request review, the student will need to email U.Connect@utas.edu.au within 28 calendar days from the date the refund decision was sent:
 - a) explaining the grounds for review; and
 - b) providing evidence in support.
- 7.3. Requests for review will only be considered if a student can provide new or additional supporting documentation (outside of what was originally provided). The Fees Team may also ask the student to provide additional documentation or evidence.
- 7.4. The Fees Team will promptly review the refund decision and notify the student in writing of the outcome and reason (normally within 28 days of the request). If the review of a refund decision takes longer than 28 days, the Fees Team will advise the student and keep them informed of the status of their review.
- 7.5. If the student's request for review is successful, the notification will include:
 - a) the amount to be refunded; and
 - b) the timeframe for the funds to be returned.

- 7.6. If the request for review is unsuccessful, the student will be advised that they can request review by an external body, such as [National Student Ombudsman](#) or [Ombudsman Tasmania](#).

Related procedures

International Student Tuition Fee Procedure

International Student Transfer Request Procedure

Remission of Student Debt Procedure

Versions

Currency of procedures is confirmed annually. For the details of when this procedure was last confirmed as current, visit the [version history page](#).

Version	Action	Approved by	Business Owner	Approval Date
1	Approved	Chief Marketing Officer	Executive Director, Student Operations	21 December 2020
2	Approved	Vice-President, Strategy, Marketing and Finance	Director Student Systems and Administration	30 March 2022
3	Approved	Vice-President, Strategy, Marketing and Finance	Executive Director, Student Services Manager, Student Administration	30 March 2023
4	Approved	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Services & Operations	Executive Director, Student Services Manager, Student Administration	28 March 2024
5	Approved	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Services & Operations	Executive Director, Student Services Manager, Student Administration	27 March 2025
6	Approved	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Services & Operations	Executive Director, Student Services Manager, Student Administration	30 July 2025

Schedule A – Pre-Paid Tuition Fee Refund Eligibility Table

Time of Withdrawal	Circumstances								
	1 st Study Period								
	Student ²								University
	Student Visa Refusal ¹	Student Visa not granted on time ⁴	Unable to meet conditions Does not meet GS requirement	Change of Mind	Circumstances involving fraud Non-compliance with visa conditions Misconduct	Release/Provider transfer Refusal	Granted a deferral to a future study period but then withdraws from course	Special Circumstances ⁴	Any circumstances where the University is at fault
Before first day of first study period ¹	100% less 5% or \$500 cancellation fee, whichever is lesser	100% less \$500 cancellation fee	100% less \$500 cancellation fee	100% less \$1,000 cancellation fee	0%	0%	50%	May apply	100%
On or after first day of first study period, but before or on census date	100% less 5% or \$500 cancellation fee, whichever is lesser	100% less \$500 cancellation fee	100% less \$500 cancellation fee	50%	0%	0%	50%	May apply	100%
After census date	100% less 5% or \$500 cancellation fee, whichever is lesser	100% less \$500 cancellation fee	100% less \$500 cancellation fee	0%	0%	0%	0%	May apply for Remission	100%
	From 2 nd Period of study ³								
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

1. Non-quota courses only. If the course has quota limit, please refer to the Letter of Offer.
2. Full or partial refunds due to student related circumstances may also incur a bank fee which will be deducted from the final amount to be refunded.
3. Refer to *Remission of Student Debt Procedure*.
4. Supporting evidence required.

Version 5 – Approved 27 March 2025

Definitions and acronyms can be found at: <https://www.utas.edu.au/policy/policy-definitions>Related policy and procedures can be found at: <https://www.utas.edu.au/policy>

Schedule B – Compassionate or Compelling Circumstances Table

	<i>Circumstances</i>	<i>Supporting documentation required¹</i>
a	Serious illness, injury or death of the student	Medical certificate or death certificate
b	Serious illness or death of an immediate family member (parent or sibling)	Medical certificate or death certificate, and evidence to prove student's relationship to the family member
c	Severe and unexpected financial hardship that has impacted the student's ability to pay their tuition fees	Bank statement and letter from authorised officer at student's financial institution
d	Major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country of the student and is likely to impact the student's ability to commence or continue their studies	Personal statement from student only, noting that such major events would be identified from news or social media

¹ The University reserves the right to request additional supporting documentation (for example death certificate with a QR code) to ensure a fair and transparent assessment.