

## Welcome back to campus to all our international students.

In October 2022, the Australian Government announced changes to student visa conditions and all student visa holders are expected to return to full ESOS Compliance with the [National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018](#) by **30 June 2023**, where it is [safe and practical](#) to do so.

### When do I need to be back in Australia?

If you are an international student on a student visa you will need to be in Australia by 19 June 2023 with Trimester 2 commencing on 26 June 2023. Please check the [2023 Academic Calendar](#) available on the website.

### What does this mean for student visa holders?

International Students holding a student visa must enrol in face-to-face classes and complete no less than two thirds of their study face-to-face. Both current and commencing international students must plan to join us back on campus **before the start of Trimester 2, 2023 (26 June 2023)**.

### What does this mean for me?

Depending on your current location and situation, please see below for further information.

### I am onshore, hold a student visa and a COE.

You are required to attend face to face classes from Trimester 2, 2023 commencing on 26 June 2023. It is a requirement for all students enrolled at the College to be onshore and attend face to face classes.

### When does the 1/3 rule online calculation start, given I studied online during COVID?

From 30 June 2023, you **must** ensure at least two thirds of your remaining course is studied on campus. These rules do not apply to any study completed between March 2020 and 30 June 2023.

### I have 1 subject left – can I study online and still be in Australia?

If you have only one subject left to complete in your course it **may** be studied online, provided the subject has an online offering available.

You are however, advised to contact the [Department of Home Affairs](#) about potential impacts this may have on your student visa.

### I am offshore, hold a student visa and a CoE.

The ESOS Framework applies to all overseas students studying a course at an Australian provider who hold an Australian student visa, including those who are currently offshore (i.e. not in Australia).

If you do not plan to travel to Australia to complete your studies after 30 June 2023 your enrolment with the College may be terminated/ suspended till you enter Australia and start attending face to face classes. You are advised to contact the [Department of Home Affairs](#) about any potential impacts should you choose not to study in Australia after 30 June 2023

- Please contact us to advise us if you plan to remain offshore.

### **Being onshore, do I need to create a USI?**

A [Unique Student Identifier \(USI\)](#) is your individual education number for life. It creates an online record of any training and qualifications you've attained in Australia – you only need to create it once. If you're studying onshore since January 2023, you'll [need a USI](#) to be able to graduate and receive your testamur. **Not providing a USI may result in a sanction which will prevent you from receiving your final award.** Please visit [How Do I Get One](#) webpage for a step by step on how to create one.

### **Attendance and Course Progress Monitoring**

All students commencing their studies from Trimester 2, 2023 are advised that the College will start monitoring and reporting students for a breach of course progression (Diploma students) requirements, in line with the relevant policies. It is a condition on your student visa to ensure that you are attending all classes and meeting your course progress requirements.

Students found in breach of course progress requirements will be reported to the Department of Home Affairs, resulting in your CoE getting cancelled. This may have an impact on your student visa resulting in a cancellation.

### **I am offshore, and do not hold a student visa.**

#### **Can I complete my course overseas?**

If you are enrolled in a course at La Trobe College Australia and have no intention of applying for a student visa you **will not** be able to complete your course while overseas.

If you have the intention of applying for a student visa you **will not** be able to undertake your course overseas, and instead, you will need to return to study on campus in Australia by **30 June 2023**.

#### **I have started my course and I am currently offshore.**

You must have a valid Student Visa to study in Australia. You will need to have a valid Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) to apply for a student visa. If you need to apply for an updated CoE please submit a request with the [Student and Academic Services staff](#). The College urges you to apply for your student visa at the earliest opportunity.

#### **What happens if I don't get my visa in time?**

Please apply early for your visa to make sure you have the best possible chance to get your visa in time. If you can't make it back in time for the start of the study period, then you will need to apply for a Leave of Absence and commence your studies at a future intake.

#### **What happens if I can't return to campus by 30 June 2023? What I can I do?**

The return to ESOS compliance comes into place from **30 June 2023**. You will need to be back on campus for the start of Trimester 2 on **26 June 2023**.

If you can't make it back in time for the start of the study period, then you will need to apply for a [Deferral of Studies or Leave of Absence](#) and commence your studies at a future intake.

## All Student Visa holders

### I understand that I need to enrol in a full time load. What do I need to do if I want to change my study load?

If you are not able to enrol into a full-time study load\* you will need to apply for an approved underload based on compassionate or compelling circumstances. To request this, please contact your Academic Coordinator for further guidance. You will need to attach your compassionate or compelling evidence documents based on the table below along with your personal statement.

(\*Full-time study load is defined as enrolling in the maximum subjects available in a given Trimester as per the Academic Calendar – for further information, please contact your Academic Coordinator)

Compelling and Compelling Circumstances	Documentation Requirements
Medical, Health or Wellbeing	Medical documentation and/or reports from a registered medical practitioner that outline the nature of the circumstances and impact on the student's ability to study or travel.
Caring for close family member	Medical documentation and/or reports from a registered medical provider. Evidence of the relationship between the student and the family member in question will be required.
Financial hardship	Evidence of loss of income for the student or their immediate family, and the impact of this on the student's ability to travel to Australia and support themselves.
Inability to secure accommodation	Evidence that accommodation has been sought and applied for, but no offer of accommodation has been received. Such evidence should not be restricted to applications for university accommodation but should demonstrate a sustained effort to secure accommodation.

If you cannot complete a full-time study load, you may consider taking a [Leave of Absence](#) which can only be approved due to compassionate or compelling circumstances. Each application will be assessed on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Standard 9 – Deferring, suspending or cancelling the overseas student's enrolment.

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Got questions about returning to campus? Submit your question to the [LTCA Info Mailbox](#).