



Department of
Education

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE 2017

> SCHOOL STUDENT VISA HOLDERS



TAFE International Western Australia manages the placement and fee collection of overseas students into public schools, in line with the Department of Education's *Enrolment Policy and Enrolment of Student from Overseas Schedule*.



**International
Western Australia**

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Perth and Western Australia

We are delighted that you are considering Western Australia as a possible study destination for your children's school studies.

It's a big decision to choose to study overseas and your children's study experience is not just about the school you choose, but the location and lifestyle on offer.

Perth is the capital of Western Australia and is one of Australia's most dynamic and prosperous cities. It offers a great mix of city life and cultural experiences, as well as clear blue skies, white sandy beaches and beautiful parklands and gardens.

Western Australia is in the same time-zone as many Asian regions and is a direct flight away from a number of capital cities in Asia, Africa, and the Gulf States. This is important if you plan to return home during study breaks or if you have family who wish to visit you while you are studying.

The climate in the south of Western Australia, including Perth, is a beautiful Mediterranean style with warm to hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

About TAFE International Western Australia

TAFE International Western Australia (TIWA) is the unit within the Western Australian Department of Training and Workforce Development that manages the placement and fee collection of overseas students into public schools, in line with the Department of Education's *Enrolment Policy and Enrolment of Students from Overseas Schedule*.

Contact details

Department of Training & Workforce Development (DTWD) - Customer Service Centre
TAFE International Western Australia

 GPO Building, Level 7, 3 Forrest Place Perth WA 6000

 +61 8 9218 2100

 schoolsinternational.wa.edu.au

 study.tiwa@dtwd.wa.gov.au



Public education - discover a world of opportunities

As a State Government agency, the Department of Education has more than 800 public schools across Western Australia – from bustling city and regional centres to some of the most remote parts of the state.

Public schools are co-educational - catering for both boys and girls. Children turning four years of age by the end of June may start Kindergarten. Compulsory schooling begins in Pre-primary for children turning five years of age by the end of June. Compulsory schooling ends in Year 12.

They provide high-quality education, helping children and young people reach their potential whatever their abilities, wherever they live and whatever their backgrounds.

Each school - like each community - is distinctive. Parents and communities play a key role in creating a unique ethos for their school and help shape the school's directions. The Principal also plays a vital role by leading the school and selecting the best teachers and support staff.

Many public schools are approved to accept international students. Students experience a system that is designed for the needs of Australians but which also proudly supports a truly international education.

From the youngest learners through to the most senior school students, public schools allow children and young people to discover a world of opportunities.

Approved schools

Schools approved by the Department to accept overseas students are listed on the TIWA website at: schoolsinternational.wa.edu.au/approved-schools

School preference

When considering your school preferences please note the following:

- > Your residential address does not guarantee your children a place at your local school.
- > A school must have an appropriate educational programs and sufficient classroom accommodation.
- > The enrolment of overseas fee-paying students is at the discretion of the school Principal.
- > Due to high demand for places in Western Australian public schools, your first preference of school may not be possible.
- > Overseas fee-paying students are not eligible to enrol in Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance Programs.

TAFE International Western Australia reserves the right to offer students an alternative school if the preferred school is not available at the time of payment.



Primary school

In Western Australia, students on their own student visa can apply to study at a primary school from Year 1 to Year 6. Classes are generally organised into year groups.

Years 1 to 6

Primary school teachers are trained to inspire, motivate and build confidence in students. They work closely with parents to ensure each child thrives at school. Teachers keep parents updated on their children's progress both informally and formally through school reporting processes.

In primary school, students have the same teacher for most of the day. Some schools may also have specialist teachers for subjects such as music, art, physical education and languages other than English.

Class sizes are generally between 25 to 32 children, depending on the type of school and its location. Classes may also consist of split year levels, with students from different year levels in the same class.

Facilities in Primary Schools

Primary schools are designed and built to provide students with safe, stimulating learning environments.

The design of schools takes into account the needs of each year group and phases of learning. In some schools, designs have been changed to meet special needs and enable more flexible arrangement of classes and activities.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 2 often have large purpose designed spaces equipped with their own toilets, sinks and sheltered play areas. Older students may have activity areas close to their classrooms. Many schools have purpose designed music and art rooms and large undercover areas for assemblies and school performances.

Curriculum

Students are taught across the learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education and Languages. The Australian Curriculum is progressively being implemented.

The Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment sets out the knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes that all students from Kindergarten to Year 10 are expected to acquire. It also includes the curriculum, guiding principles for teaching, learning and assessment and support for teachers in their assessment and reporting of student achievement.

More information on the Australian Curriculum is available on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) website at k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/



Secondary school

In Western Australia public secondary school runs from Year 7 to 12. Students start Year 7, the first year of secondary school, in the year they are 12 years old by 30 June and finish Year 12 in the year they turn 18 years old.

International students who are 18 years old after the 30 June 2014 can apply to study at Canning College. More information is available at www.canningcollege.wa.edu.au

Years 7 to 10

Lower secondary school education continues to build on learning in primary school. Students study across the learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education and Languages.

Years 11 and 12

The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) is awarded to secondary school students who satisfy prescribed requirements. Generally, students will complete two years of senior secondary study to achieve the WACE. Students can study a mixture of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), vocational education and training (VET) programs and endorsed programs. Not all schools offer the entire range of general and VET courses.

The WACE is recognised by:

- > **Universities** – for entry into undergraduate programs
- > **Industry** – for entry into the workforce
- > **Training providers** – for entry into practically oriented training programs which prepare people for work.

To achieve a WACE for 2016 and beyond, students will be required to:

- > demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and a minimum standard of numeracy based on the skills regarded as essential for individuals to meet the demands of everyday life and work in a knowledge-based economy.
- > complete a minimum of 20 unit or equivalents,
 - > a minimum of 10 Year 12 units or equivalent
 - > two completed Year 11 English units and one pair of completed Year 12 English units
 - > one pair of Year 12 course units from each of List A (arts/English/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology)
- > complete four or more Year 12 ATAR courses or complete a Certificate II or higher.

For a comprehensive outline of the WACE and the courses available, visit the SCSA website scsa.wa.edu.au

International students seeking to undertake the WACE examination pathway must consult with school administration and enrolment staff prior to commencement.



Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) - university entrance score

The ATAR is a number that indicates a student's position in relation to all other Western Australian students of Year 12 school leaving age. It takes into account the number of students with a Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA) as well as the number of students of Year 12 school leaving age in the population of Western Australia.

The ATAR results allow the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) to compare students across Australia for public university places. The ATAR is recognised internationally.

To find out more about the ATAR refer to the visit the TISC website and click on 'About ATAR': www.tisc.edu.au

Facilities in secondary schools

Secondary schools are built to international standards and are set in landscaped grounds with high-quality buildings and facilities which ensure students are able to study in safe, inclusive and welcoming environments.

Many secondary schools have specialist facilities such as art, music, performing and creative arts areas, science laboratories, libraries and sports facilities. They also have canteens/student cafeterias, air conditioning and undercover areas.

Independent public schools

Some public schools have greater autonomy over staffing, budgets and operations – they are known as Independent Public Schools.

These schools, in collaboration with their school communities set their own strategic directions, have authority for day to day decision making and are in an ideal position to make decisions that best cater for their students. Although they are called Independent Public Schools, these schools remain part of the public school system and continue to work within policy, legislation and industrial agreements.

Pastoral care

The pastoral care provided by teachers ensures students are given a feeling of belonging, support to develop a positive self image and help to manage the successes and disappointments in their life.

Effective pastoral care in public schools is underpinned by a positive school environment where:

- > teacher-student relationships are based on trust and mutual respect
- > each student's physical, social, intellectual and emotional development is promoted
- > there are strong partnerships between the school, parents and community.



Reporting on student achievement

Student achievement and progress are monitored and reported throughout the school year.

Parents receive a formal report on their children's progress twice a year, at the end of each semester. This report includes details of academic achievement.

Teachers also update parents about their children's progress at parent-teacher interviews by contacting them directly or communicating via student diaries.

The National Assessment Program (NAPLAN)

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an assessment of all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia. All Western Australian public schools are required to conduct the NAPLAN tests that assess reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The test scores help teachers to identify students' strengths and areas where they may require extra help. They also provide a snapshot of student achievement in comparison to all students in the same year level across Australia. Parents can use individual test results to discuss their children's achievements and progress with teachers.

Quality accreditation

Legal and regulatory compliance

TIWA acts under the Australian Government's Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) legislation and is registered under the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) cricos.education.gov.au, CRICOS provider code: 01723A.

ESOS Act and national code

The Australian Government wants international students in Australia to have safe, enjoyable and quality study experiences. Australian laws promote high-quality education and consumer protection for overseas students. These laws are known as the ESOS (Education Services for Overseas Students) framework and they include the ESOS Act and the National Code.

Australian Education International provides information about ESOS and your rights as an international student in Australia. This information can be found at aei.gov.au

English language requirements and programs

As of 1 December 2014, to meet English language requirements, international (student visa) applicants from Vietnam, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong and Taiwan must complete at least one of the following:

> minimum results in an approved English language test listed below:

| Test | Years 7-10 | Years 11-12 |
|--|--|--|
| AEAS www.aeas.com.au/?page_id=4111 | Students individually assessed by report | Students individually assessed by report |
| LSTEP Eiken http://stepeiken.org | Pre-2 | IELTS 5.5 to 6.0 and above |
| IELTS (Academic) http://www.ielts.org | 5.0 (no band lower than 4.5) | 5.5 (no band lower than 5.0) |
| TOEFL iBT http://www.ets.org/toefl | 35 | 46 |

> a minimum 12 months Intensive English program in a Western Australian public school. International students may start Years 8, 9 and 10 during the year following the completion of their English language program (this could be mid-year). Students wishing to enter Year 11 must complete their English language programs before the start of the Year 11 academic year.

Specialist provision programs or support

Additional fees apply for students with disability or requiring English language support.

Students with disability

Students with disability may require specialist disability provision or support to participate in education. An additional fee may apply for placement in a mainstream school or in a specialist disability provision.

Student eligibility for placement in specialist disability provision is determined on a case by case basis by the Department of Education prior to placement.

Total costs for the overseas tuition fee and specialist support fee may be as high as \$25,000 per year.

Students with English as an additional language

Intensive English Centre (IEC)

An additional fee of \$3,000 a year applies for placement in an Intensive English Centre (IEC)

Intensive English Centres (IECs) provide a specialist 12 month English language program to eligible Stage 1 students who are in the early stages of English language acquisition - primarily those who are newly arrived in Western Australia. IECs have continuous enrolments and exit students into mainstream schooling at the end of each term (primary) or the end of each semester (secondary).

Information about primary and secondary IECs is available at det.wa.edu.au/curriculum-support/eald/detcms/school-support-programs/english-as-an-additional-language-or-dialect/binary-files/list-of-intensive-english-centres.en

Students with English as an Additional Language or Dialect (EAL/D)

An additional fee of \$1,500 a year applies for EAL/D specialist support

EAL/D specialist support is provided at selected schools for students who have either moved from an Intensive English Centre to mainstream schooling or students who require specialist English language support to access the curriculum.



Accommodation

Western Australian public schools do not offer residential accommodation to students.

Local guardians

Students under 18 years old are required to have local guardians. If a student intends to live with a relative in Perth, the relative can nominate to the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Immigration) to be the guardian.

Australian Homestay Network

If the student does not nominate a relative, then TIWA requires the student to live in homestay accommodation organised by Australian Homestay Network (AHN).

Homestay is when students live with an Australian family. AHN is the accommodation provider in Western Australia. For more information about AHN visit homestaynetwork.org

An AHN Homestay student is provided with:

- > a clean fully furnished room
- > a supportive family environment in which to live
- > meals (see below options)
- > utilities (however, overseas telephone calls and internet usage can be negotiated)
- > AHN 24/7 professional telephone support
- > AHN Contents Insurance for students and hosts (as per AHN Insurance Policy)
- > Airport pickup can be arranged at a cost of \$120 to take the student directly to their homestay.

Costs associated with homestay

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Placement Fee | \$240.00 |
| Airport Transfer (mandatory for minors) | \$120.00 (Perth metropolitan area) |
| Full Service Homestay (3 meals per day) | \$300.00 a week |

Please note: Homestay accommodation is only available in the metropolitan area. Regional placements will only be considered where a parent nominated homestay can be arranged.



Important dates

Western Australian public school term dates

Dates for primary and secondary students in public schools in Western Australia (all dates are inclusive).

| | 2016* | 2017** | 2018 |
|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Term 1 | 1 February – 8 April | 1 February – 7 April | 31 January – 13 April |
| Term 2 | 26 April – 1 July | 24 April – 30 June | 30 April – 29 June |
| Term 3 | 18 July – 23 September | 17 July – 22 September | 16 July – 21 September |
| Term 4 | 10 October – 15 December | 9 October – 14 December | 8 October – 13 December |

* Gazetted term dates, however they do not include school development (pupil free days). Schools will schedule three days where students do not attend.

** Preliminary dates only, still to be confirmed.

2017 Tuart College Intakes

| | |
|---|---|
| Western Australian University Foundation Program (WAUFP)-Fast Track | 24 and 26 May (Orientation) 29 May (Course Start) 1 December (Course End) |
| The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) program | 30 January (Course Start) 24 November (Course End) |

2017 tuition fees

| Years 1 to 6 | Years 7 to 10 | Years 11 and 12 | Western Australian University Foundation Program (WAUFP & WACE) |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| \$13,730 a year | \$16,280 a year | \$17,880 a year | \$23,115 |

Overseas student health cover is approximately A\$530 per year.

All tuition fees are reviewed annually. If tuition fees are increased you will be required to pay the new fees as they are introduced. Fees for additional services for specialist language and support programs are paid to TIWA.

Other costs

The following fees and expenses are not included in the tuition fee and are paid directly to the school.

- > school books (Years 7 to 12)
- > contributions, charges and fees
- > excursions, incursions and school camps
- > school uniform
- > sports uniform
- > transport to and from school
- > School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) fees
- > leasing or purchasing of computers
- > stationery
- > personal items
- > optional charges for activities such as golf, hockey, school ball, buying a leaver's jumper

Application Procedure



Find a course



Check entry requirements



Submit an application



Accept your offer and pay



Apply for your student visa



Receive your visa and come to Australia to start your studies



In some countries you may find it helpful or convenient to seek the assistance of one of our education agents. They are available to assist you with your application and visa. Please go to schoolsinternational.wa.edu.au/agents for details of your nearest agent.

1. Choose a school

Select at least four schools from the approved schools list on TIWA's website schoolsinternational.wa.edu.au/approved-schools

Due to a high demand for places in Western Australian public schools, your first preference may not be possible.

At this time you need to detail your welfare arrangements and state if children will be living with a parent, using Homestay or staying with a Department of Immigration and Border Protection approved blood relative.



2. Prepare your documents

Prepare the documents which must be submitted with the application. Please make sure you include:

- > Previous education results and transcripts (latest copies in English)
- > A copy of the child's passport.

3. Apply online

For the quickest response and turnaround, apply online at schoolsinternational.wa.edu.au

Please ensure you identify at least four schools otherwise your application will not be accepted.

4. Accept your offer and pay

Successful applicants receive a Letter of Offer and information on how to accept. You may receive a conditional offer if your application is incomplete. The offer details enrolment information (school, year of enrolment, commencement date and tuition fees).

Acceptance and welfare

To accept the offer sign and return the acceptance letter, make the payment indicated in the schedule of fees and meet any conditions listed in the Letter of Offer.

Confirmation of Enrolment

Once your welfare arrangements have been accepted by TIWA and payment made, you will be issued with a Confirmation of Enrolment. This confirms a place in a public school and is needed to complete a student visa application. When you receive the Confirmation of Enrolment you will receive the school details. You are required to make an appointment with the school to complete the enrolment.

A condition of enrolment is that you give authority for your personal information to be provided to the Australian Government (Commonwealth) and state agencies, overseas student health cover providers, the Department of Training and Workforce Development, and Department of Education.

5. Apply for a student visa

Students can use an education agent to assist with making the visa application or apply directly to the nearest Australian High Commission.

6. Make travel arrangements

Ensure all travel arrangements are finalised to arrive at least a few days before your course starts. Please note, you will only be able to arrive from the date listed on your welfare letter. Please make sure all visa and travel arrangements are made well in advance.

TIWA reserves the right to offer students a different school if capacity at the preferred school is no longer available at time of payment.

More information can be found on the web
schoolsinternational.wa.edu.au

Level 7, 3 Forrest Place, Perth WA 6000

Telephone: +61 8 9218 2100

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