

Sent: 15 February 2024

Dear DCSP/ASEAN scholars,

For those of you with school-aged children who will be coming to Australia, below is some helpful information and links. Please also refer to the [Family Members](#) page of the DCSP website.

General Information

For children to attend school in Australia, your child will need to be 5 years old by the date listed below, regardless of whether they are already attending school in your home country. Please note that the eligibility (age) requirements are different in each State.

Children who do not meet the minimum age requirements for school may be eligible to enrol in a non-compulsory pre-school program provided at certain public schools and/or registered child centres. As pre-school is not compulsory there is no automatic waiver of fees for children of DCSP students attending pre-school and the fee may vary according to the service provider.

Since the placement of children in specific Year levels at school is generally determined by their age, just because your child may have completed a particular Year level in your home country or have been accelerated in their schooling at home due to their aptitude and abilities, does not guarantee that they will proceed into a higher Year level in Australia. You will probably need to meet with the Principal (or representative) once you have identified the school your children will attend (based on the location of your permanent accommodation) to determine the most appropriate Year level for your child.

You should make sure that you bring copies of all school reports with you (particularly for children in secondary school, or upper primary school), translated into English if required. You will also need to bring proof of immunisation status – more information on immunisation requirements is provided below.

Please note that it is a visa condition that appropriately aged children attend school face-to-face while in Australia. Check the Visa Grant Letter for your children for more information.

Application and enrolment

On each of the following websites, there is useful information regarding how to apply and how to enrol. In all cases, you will not be able to enrol your children in a specific school until after you have found permanent accommodation.

Most States have a two-stage process for processing the school enrolment for dependents of international students, except Victoria.

Please follow the links and read **all** the information on the websites relevant to your location very carefully; if you have more specific questions regarding the application process, you should contact the relevant government department directly (contact details are provided for each State below).

Australian Capital Territory (Canberra) - ACT Education Directorate

- [International Students - Education \(act.gov.au\)](#)
- Provide supporting documentation listed under your visa (Subclass 500 – Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector)
- Children must attend school if they turn 5 years old on or before 30 April 2024 in the Australian Capital Territory

- If your child turns five after 30 April, they can start school the first day of term 1 **the following year**.
- Phone: +61 2 6205 9178
- Email: ieu@act.gov.au

New South Wales (Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong) - Education International

- <https://www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/study-options/study-programs/temporary-residents> (also refer to the [Online Application Portal Fact Sheet](#)). Note that dependents of DCSP students do not require a Confirmation of Placement before lodging the online application with DE International.
- Children must attend school if they turn 5 years old on or before 31 July 2024 in NSW.
- Phone: 1300 300 229 (Option 1) within Australia or +61 2 9244 5555 (Option 1) outside Australia
- Email: tempvisa@det.nsw.edu.au

Queensland (Brisbane) - Education Queensland International

- <https://eqi.com.au/study-options/temporary-residents>
- Children must attend school if they turn 5 years old by 30 June 2024 in Queensland.
- Phone: 1800 943 122 within Australia or +61 7 3513 6983 outside Australia
- Email: Temporaryresidents@qed.qld.gov.au

South Australia (Adelaide) - South Australian Government Schools International Student Program

- <https://www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au/en/study-options/dependants/children-of-sa-government-endorsed-scholarship-holders/>
- Application process, links and instructions: www.internationalstudents.sa.edu.au/en/students/dependants/children-of-sa-government-endorsed-scholarship-holders/how-to-apply-endorsed-scholarship-holders/
- Children must attend school if they turn 5 years old before 1 May 2024 in South Australia
- **From 2024:** if your child turns 5 years old from 01 May to 31 October, they can attend school from **Term 3** that year.
- Phone: 08 8226 3402 within Australia or +61 8 8226 3402 outside Australia
- Email: education.isp@sa.gov.au

Victoria (Melbourne) -Victorian Government Schools International Student Program

- www.study.vic.gov.au/en/international-student-program/Pages/default.aspx
- Victoria is the only State where you can apply directly to an individual school for your children, and do not need to first submit an application to the International Student Program. This information can be verified at the following link: www.study.vic.gov.au/en/how-to-apply/Pages/default.aspx and click on 'Dependent Application'
- Children must attend school if they turn 5 years old by 30 April 2024 in Victoria
- Phone: 03 7022 1000 inside Australia
- Email: international@education.vic.gov.au (allow 2 business days for replies to email enquiries)

Tasmania – Government Education and Training International Tasmania

- <https://study.tas.gov.au/study/government-schools/temporary-resident-dependant-program#subsection>
- You will first need to complete an [Application Form](#) to receive an 'Authority to Enrol' letter. You must show this letter to the school before you can enrol your children. You can complete this form before your children arrive in Tasmania. You do not need a Confirmation of Placement of letter.
- Children must attend school if they turn 5 years old by 01 January 2024 in Tasmania. Children can attend Kindergarten from the age of 4.
- Phone (03) 6165 5727

- Email trp@geti.tas.gov.au

Finding a school

Eligibility to enrol in specific government schools (public schools) in Australia is determined by physical/geographical **zones** – i.e. where you live. This means that you will not be able to search for the most appropriate school until **after** you have found permanent accommodation. You will be able to search for schools from each of the government websites listed above. You may also wish to search for schools using the [My School website](#) (make sure you only search for government schools).

International school tuition fees

As your children are official dependents of an international student (you!) studying on a visa supported by the Department of Defence, they should be exempt from paying international tuition fees, provided that your children are enrolled in a government school (public school). Your children's visas will need to be:

- Visa Class: Student (Temporary) (Class TU)
- Visa Subclass: Student (Subclass 500)
- Sector: Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector

If you are required to pay an application fee or administration fee (depending on the State), this will be your financial responsibility. You will also need to pay for uniforms, lunches, extra-curricular activities (such as music or sports lessons) and other school events or requirements; information regarding what is required will be provided once you have enrolled your child in a school in Australia.

Please make sure that you provide the following documents with your application:

- A copy of your university **offer letter**
- A copy of the supporting letter provided by the Defence Section of the Australian Embassy/High Commission as part of your visa application
- A copy of your DCSP Reference Letter (provided to you at DITC, and also emailed to you)
- A copy of the visa grant letters for you and your child
- A copy of your child's immunisation records, in English. See separate section below for more information about which immunisations are required

As noted above, there may be no automatic waiver of tuition fees for children attending the non-compulsory pre-school program; this will vary from State to State and service provider.

Please note: if you wish to send your child to a non-government school (private school), you will be financially responsible for all fees.

Immunisations – relevant to schools and child-care

In order to be able to place children in schools or child-care, you will be required to demonstrate that they are fully immunised for their age group. A list of immunisations required is provided on the [Family Members](#) page of the DCSP Website. The full immunisation schedule applicable in Australia (according to age) is available from the [Department of Health website](#).

You will need to bring a letter from your family doctor or hospital listing the immunisations (and dates given) – if this is not available/provided in English, you will need to make arrangements for the document to be translated. You may need to have your child's proof of immunisation verified for consistency with Australia's requirements. In some cases, top-up vaccinations may be required. We recommend that you make arrangements to do this as soon as your children arrive in Australia – refer to [this section](#) of the Department of Health's website for more information and guidance.