



Alpha Beta College Australia

International Student Handbook

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RTO Code 045195

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Introduction

Alpha Beta College Australia Pty Ltd, is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO), ID Number 45195, which meets administrative, delivery, staffing, facility, marketing, financial, quality assurance and assessment standards regulated by the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA).

ABCA is listed on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) which is a register of Australian education providers that recruit, enrol and teach overseas students. (CRICOS number 03975J). Registration on CRICOS allows providers to offer courses to overseas students studying in Australia on student visas.

ABCA is responsible for the quality of the training and assessment you will receive in compliance with Standards for RTOs 2015, and for the issuance of the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) certification documentation. The Standards set out the requirements that an organisation must meet in order to be an RTO and ensure the integrity of nationally recognised training provided by registered training organisations.

ABCA offers the following training programs to students:

- BSB50120 Diploma of Business
- BSB50420 Diploma of Leadership and Management
- BSB50320 Diploma of Human Resource Management
- CHC52021 Diploma of Community Services
- SIT60322 Advanced Diploma of Hospitality Management
- SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality
- CHC33021 Certificate III in Individual Support
- CHC43121 Certificate IV in Disability Support
- CPP20218 Certificate II in Security Operations

Who are we?

ABCA provides nationally endorsed certificate level qualifications. Our training provides each student with the opportunity to learn and experience the practical skills and knowledge required to work effectively in various business settings.

Why Study at ABCA?

- A culture of learning that respects openness, inclusiveness and collegiality
- ABCA is committed to equity, ethics, innovation and excellence

ABCA will ensure that students are provided with all the information required by prospective students to allow them to make informed decisions about their training and assessment and to enter a training pathway that is the right fit for their career goals.

ABCA strives to:

- Achieve service excellence in vocational education for students so as to make them jobready for industry

This handbook

This information booklet is designed to provide you with information about the services provided by ABCA and its approach to providing you a safe, fair and supported environment to participate in training and assessment. See the Student Resources page on the website for full versions of the policies and procedures and various forms.

This booklet does not provide you with specific information about a particular course offered by ABCA. This information is contained in the Course Brochure supplied separately.

Introduction to Australian Vocational Education and Training

What is VET?

Australia's Vocational Education and Training (VET) system is based on nationally endorsed industry training packages which identify specific skills and knowledge applied in the workplace. Students' undertaking a VET qualification must demonstrate the skills and knowledge identified in a training package and be assessed as 'competent' in the selected units of competency to be eligible for the award of the qualification.

National recognition

The qualifications and Statements of Attainment issued by ABCA must be automatically recognised by all Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) across Australia. In turn, ABCA recognises the qualifications issued by RTOs in all other States and Territories. This allows people to move around Australia from different employers being confident that their qualification will be equally recognised.

What is competency-based training?

Competency based training is training that develops the required knowledge and skills to the standard of performance required in the workplace. It embodies the ability to transfer and apply skills and knowledge to new situations and environments. Competency is achieved by being assessed against requirements of the unit of competency. Your assessor will make a judgment of your competency after reviewing all the different types of assessment evidence you provide.

Training Packages

Training Packages represent the national industry benchmarks for Vocational Education and Training. Training packages set out the competency to be achieved but do not state how the training should be delivered. This means that students may complete their qualification in different ways between various training organisations. The training package also specifies the relevant qualification rules including the compulsory core units are included in a course and the elective units which are available.

Delivery of Training

Students will receive all the training for which they have enrolled. To be awarded a qualification, all assignments and assessments must be completed to a satisfactory level and submitted in accordance with instructions and within timeframes prescribed. Students are advised of the specific requirements to receive a qualification in their area of study as part of enrolment and when training delivery commences.

Results and certificates

On completing the training program with ABCA, you will receive a nationally recognised qualification. The qualification is recognised within the [Australian Qualifications Framework](#). Qualifications are formatted to a uniform standard to ensure they are valid documents and will be instantly recognised throughout Australia. A qualification issued by ABCA will be accompanied by a transcript which will detail the units of competency issued within the qualification.

Where a student does not complete the entire course requirements, they may be entitled to receive a Statement of Attainment. A Statement of Attainment is issued by a Registered Training Organisation when an individual has completed one or more accredited units. A Statement of Attainment can be used as a basis for recognition of your current competence with other Registered Training Organisations within Australia.

A statement of results will be available to you upon request throughout your training. This will provide you information on your progress.

Australia Country Education Profile

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training promotes mobility through qualifications recognition. The Australia Country Education Profile provides comprehensive information about education in Australia to improve understanding of the Australian education system and Australian qualifications.

To support mobility, the department engages domestically and globally on qualifications recognition policy and encourages improved recognition practices. It also engages in international policy dialogue on the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF).

Other departmental information and services to support recognition include:

Country Education Profiles—an online recognition tool providing guidance on the comparability

- of overseas qualifications to qualifications on the AQF, lists of recognised institutions and information about education systems for 126 countries
- professional development for recognition authorities
- providing qualifications recognition policy advice to Australian educational institutions, professional assessing authorities and state and territory governments
- assessments of overseas postsecondary qualifications for individuals for general purposes.

For more information see www.internationaleducation.gov.au

Registration and Orientation

Registration and orientation is the essential first step for ABCA students to ensure they clearly understand their visa conditions to study in Australia, requirements for a successful educational experience, including maintaining course progress and attendance requirements.

On the first day at ABCA students attend registration and orientation and cover the following topics:

- Registration to complete the required forms
- Welcome session including meeting key staff
- Overview of life in Australia and where to find assistance
- Employment rights and responsibilities – Fair Work Ombudsman
- Your safety
- Academic and general administrative matters
- Students rights and responsibilities
- Policies and requirements for satisfactory progress
- Unique Student Identifier (USI)
- Student visa conditions overview
- Complaints and appeals procedures
- Emergency contact details and critical incident policy and procedure

- Maintaining current contact information
- Campus tour
- General tour of the area for newly arrived students from overseas

Students who do not commence on the published start date and commence by the default date will be registered and undergo individual orientation.

Education Services for Overseas Students Framework

Australia provides rigorous protection for international students through the [Education Services for Overseas Students \(ESOS\) legislation](#), which requires institutions that provide education to international students, to meet nationally consistent standards in education delivery, facilities and services. Breaches of the Act are treated seriously, and the penalties can be significant.

All institutions wanting to deliver courses to international students in Australia must be registered with the [Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students \(CRICOS\)](#) and meet special registration conditions.

The National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2017L01182> provides nationally consistent standards for the conduct of registered providers and the registration of their courses.

The standards set out specifications and procedures to ensure that registered providers of education and training courses can clearly understand and comply with their obligations under the National Code.

Tuition Fee Protection

ABCA is required to apply the Student Tuition Protection Service (TPS) through the Commonwealth managed fund known as Overseas Student Assurance Fund (OSTF). The Fund was established to protect the interests of overseas students on student visas or intending overseas students, who are studying or about to study in Australia.

Information that explains your rights as a student studying in Australia under the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 can be found on the Study in Australia website: <http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/global/australian-education/education-system/esos-act>

PRISMS

The Provider Registration and International Students Management System (PRISMS) is a secure computer system that is the information source for CRICOS.

Education institutions and their courses are listed on PRISMS, as is each student studying in Australia on a student visa. That is because this system interfaces with the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) data.

Through PRISMS education institutions notify DHA of each student's enrolment in a course. This should occur before the student applies for a student visa to study in Australia. The enrolment information generates an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment (eCoE) as evidence of enrolment in a registered, full-time course. This eCoE is a key requirement for DHA to issue a student visa.

Education providers also use PRISMS to notify DHA of students who may have breached the terms of their student visa.

PRISMS has reduced visa fraud and ensured education institutions keep track of the students in their care.

Student rights

The ESOS framework protects student rights, including:

- The right to receive, before enrolling, current and accurate information about the courses, fees, modes of study and other information from a provider and the provider's agent
- The requirement to sign a written agreement with the provider before or as fees are paid, setting out the services to be provided, fees payable and information about refunds of course money. A copy of the written agreement will be kept by the student and ABCA.
- The right to get the education paid for. The ESOS framework includes consumer protection that will allow students to be placed in another course if the provider is unable to teach the course.
- The right to know:
 - How to use the provider's student support services.
 - Who the contact officer is for overseas students.

- How to apply for course credit.
- How to apply for enrolment deferment, enrolment suspension or cancellation.
- The provider's requirements for satisfactory progress in the courses of study.
- How to use the provider's complaints and appeals process.

The student responsibilities include:

- Satisfy the student visa condition.
- Maintain Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the period of the stay.
- Meet the terms of the written agreement with ABCA.
- Inform the provider of any change of address.
- Maintain satisfactory course progress.

The Unique Student Identifier

If you're studying nationally recognised training in Australia, you will be required to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). Your USI links to an online account that contains all your training records and results (transcript) that you have completed from 1 January 2015 onwards.

When applying for a job or enrolling in further study, you will often need to provide your training records and results (transcript). One of the main benefits of the USI is the ability to provide students with easy access to their training records and results (transcript) throughout their life. You can access your USI account online from your computer, tablet or smart phone anytime.

It's free and easy to create your own USI and will only take a few minutes of your time. Alternatively, we can create your USI on your behalf. To do this we will need some additional identification information from you such as your driver's license number and/or passport. Our enrolment process will clarify what you need to know.

There are several unique circumstances where a person may be exempt from requiring a USI. These do not apply to the vast majority of learners in Australia. The USI Exemption Table is available from the USI website which explains these circumstances [Click Here](#). Individuals who have a genuine personal objection to being assigned a USI can apply for an exemption to the Student Identifiers Registrar. Individuals who have been exempted must show the original of

this notice to their training organisation. Training organisations will not need to collect a USI in order to issue a VET qualification or statement of attainment to exempt individuals. If the student later wants a USI the training completed under exemption cannot be added to their USI account retrospectively.

Further details can be accessed at www.usi.gov.au

Conditions of your visa

All international students applying to enter a training program being offered by ABCA must:

- Be over the age of 18
- Demonstrate good command of written and spoken English
- Have completed an equivalent secondary schooling level of a High School Certificate or can demonstrate suitable work or life experience
- Meet the following Student Visa 500 subclass requirements – [Click Here](#):
 - Be a Genuine Student – [Click Here](#)
 - Meet English language test score requirements – [Click Here](#)
 - Demonstrate financial capacity – [Click Here](#)
 - Hold Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) – [Click Here](#)
 - Meet the health requirements – [Click Here](#)
 - Be of good character – [Click Here](#)

Under the simplified student visa framework arrangements introduced in July 2016 streamlined evidentiary requirements apply and the student visa applicant may be able to satisfy the Department of Home Affairs of their financial capacity and English language proficiency by declaration only. This is dependent on the level of risk rating of each student visa application which is determined by taking into account the risk rating allocated to the country from where the student originates combined with the risk rating allocated to ABCA as a provider on the CRICOS register. The easiest way to determine the evidence required to satisfy the visa requirements is for the prospective overseas student to utilise the Document Checklist Tool provided with the Student Visa (subclass 500) requirements page [Click Here](#).

All students, regardless of the financial capacity and English language proficiency will continue

to have to meet all other core visa criteria, such as the Genuine Temporary Entrant requirement and health and character criteria.

Permission to Work Arrangements

If you have been granted your student visa, you may receive permission to work with your visa grant. This will also apply to any family member travelling with you on your student visa. You are not allowed to work until your course has started and you can work up to 48 hours a fortnightly while your course is in session (not counting any work undertaken as a registered component of your course of study). However, you can work unlimited hours during scheduled course breaks. Your family members are not allowed to work until you begin the scheduled course.

Family members are allowed to work up to 48 hours fortnightly after your course has commenced.

Further information about student visa conditions can be found at the Department of Home Affairs: Student Visa 500 subclass Eligibility – [Click Here](#)

Fair Work Ombudsman

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO), is an [independent statutory agency](#) of the [Government of Australia](#) that serves as the central point of contact for free advice and information on the Australian national workplace relations system. The Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman also investigates workplace complaints and enforces compliance with national workplace laws.

The Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman offers employers and employees free information and advice on pay, conditions, and workplace rights and obligations under the national workplace relations system.

The Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman operates the Fair Work Infoline for workplace relations queries on 13 13 94.

Complaints about work

Those in the national workplace relations system can make a complaint to FWO regarding underpayment of wages, conditions (such as annual leave), workplace rights and discrimination in the workplace.

The Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman will make a decision about the best course of action to resolve the complaint. FWO might decide:

- that the matter is outside of their jurisdiction and refer the person somewhere else

- that there hasn't been a breach of Commonwealth workplace laws
- that mediation is the best way to resolve the issues
- to conduct a formal investigation
- to conduct an audit.

An investigation looks at employment records and documents to find out the facts of a workplace complaint and to decide if relevant parties have complied with Commonwealth workplace laws.

Course Delivery and Assessment

Delivery of Courses

Students are required to undertake 20 hours' study per week during terms. ABCA courses are structured to ensure the delivery and assessment process is both rigorous and relevant. ABCA adopts a Course Progress Policy and whilst poor attendance is not reported, attendance is monitored as a component of unsatisfactory academic progress. Students are provided with textbooks and workbooks and access to a library. Any student undertaking a unit of competency on-line or by distance, will have their progress and attendance monitored digitally via on-line platforms including Zoom and Catapult. Training staff will also be able to give you support on-line via both platforms in person via video or via messaging. At the end of each term progress and attendance reports will be run to identify if there are any evident areas for concern.

Course Progress Policy

Under the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 of the ESOS Act 2000, international students are required to maintain satisfactory course progress in order to successfully complete their program within the duration specified in the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) letter. An education provider can only extend the expected duration of study in limited circumstances, through issuing a new CoE letter.

ABCA has established arrangements to monitor the progress of each student. Monitoring course progress occurs on two levels. These are:

- **Assessing satisfactory course progress.** This is the process of formally assessing each student's progress at the end of each compulsory study period.
- **Identifying students at risk of not meeting course progress requirements.** This is the process of continually monitoring each student's completion of assigned assessment

tasks within a compulsory study period.

An intervention strategy is an individual student plan developed by the Director of Education aimed at improving the academic progress and attendance of a student. Intervention strategies may include additional learning support, make-up classes, counselling, training to develop study habits or adjustment to study program. ABCA will do everything it can to assist students who want to learn and progress.

If the intervention strategies do not result in any improvement, ABCA will notify the student in writing of its intention to make a report to the Department of Education and of their right to access the complaints and appeals processes within 20 days. This report may result in the cancellation of the student visa by the Department of Home Affairs.

Assessment Requirements

Students are assessed in a variety of ways. The selection of appropriate assessment(s) instruments is guided by the requirements of the Unit of Competency.

Written Exercises

- Written exercises may be open or closed book exercises, which may involve multiple choice questions, short answer questions, case studies, and reports.

Case Study/Written Report

- Case studies and reports require the student to analyse, problem solve and apply their learning from the course to the situation described. They require the student to demonstrate appropriate levels of research and understanding.

Presentations /Role Plays

- Assessment tasks may involve group work and presentations of information as a method of assessing teamwork and communication skills.

Portfolio

- A Portfolio usually contains a number of documents, gathered over a period of time, displaying evidence of the ability to perform a number of practical skills or tasks.

Assessment Submission

Students will receive an assessment summary at the beginning of each module. The assessment summary contains all the required information to ensure that students can achieve competence. One of these details is the **due date** for each assessment. Students **MUST** submit

all assessments by the due date. Any assessment NOT submitted by the due date will be deemed 'not competent' and recorded as a missed assessment.

Missed Assessment

In cases where a student has not submitted an assessment, the Director of Education and Trainer will meet with the student to decide on the appropriate intervention strategy to ensure successful academic progress. The Director of Education will consider the:

- The student's history in submitting assessments
- Attendance record
- Compassionate or compelling circumstances

Students may be required to pay the published missed assessment fee prior to undergoing the assessment. Students may access ABCA complaints and appeals process if they are not satisfied with the outcome.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

ABCA has in place systems to offer Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to assess an individual's formal, non-formal and informal learning to determine the extent to which that individual has achieved the required learning outcomes, competency outcomes, or standards for entry to, and/or partial or total completion of, a VET qualification.

ABCA ensures that assessment undertaken for Recognition of Prior Learning:

- Meets the requirements of the relevant training package
- Is conducted in accordance with the principles of assessment and rules of evidence
- Meets workplace and, where relevant, regulatory requirements; and
- is systematically validated

Students may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning either before commencement or as soon as studies commence. For international students, an approved RPL will mean early completion of their qualification and the reduced duration will be reported on PRISMS.

ABCA provides the student with a 'Confirming Outcome of Credit Application' letter. The students must sign this letter to indicate agreement with the outcomes of

Recognition of Prior Learning applications and a copy is to be kept on the students file.

National Recognition (Credit Transfer)

National recognition is the recognition of learning achieved through formal education and training. Under the VET Quality Framework, qualifications and statements of attainment issued by any RTO are to be accepted and recognised by all other RTOs. National recognition allows a student to be awarded a unit of competency based on successful completion of the unit, which has been previously awarded.

Evidence requirements for national recognition

An applicant will be required to present his or her statement of attainment or qualification for examination by ABCA. These documents will provide the detail of what units of competence the applicant has been previously issued. Applicants must provide satisfactory evidence that the statement of attainment or qualification is theirs and that it has been issued by an Australian RTO. Statements of attainment or qualifications should be in the correct format as outlined in the Australian Qualifications Framework Implementation Handbook. The applicant is required to submit copies only which are certified as a true copy of the original by a Justice of the Peace (or equivalent).

National recognition guidelines

The following guidelines are to be followed in relation to national recognition:

- Students may not apply for national recognition for units of competence or qualification which are not included in ABCA's scope of registration.
- Students are encouraged to apply before commencing a training program. This will reduce unnecessary training and guide the student down a more efficient path to competence.
- The student does not incur any fees for national recognition.
- National recognition may only be awarded for whole units of competence. Where a mapping guide identifies a partial credit, this will not be considered for credit transfer and applicants will be advised to seek recognition.

National recognition is only applicable when the units of competency being claimed are issued by an Australian RTO and they are nationally endorsed within the National Skills Framework.

ABCA provides the student with a 'Confirming Outcome of Credit Application' letter. The students must sign this letter to indicate agreement with the outcomes of applications and a copy is to be kept on the students' file.

Assessment Outcomes

The evidence students submit will be assessed and they will be given written and verbal feedback. Each individual assessment task will be marked as either Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory. A mark of Competent or Not Competent will be given for the whole unit. If the student is assessed as Not Competent, they will be given some suggestions for improvement and asked to resubmit their material and/or redo their assessment.

If the student doesn't agree with the assessment result or thinks that the assessment process is not valid, or disagrees with the decision once it is made, or believe that they have been treated unfairly, they can appeal.

Full details of the Appeals process are contained in this Student Handbook.

Re-assessment

Participants will be allowed two (2) further attempts at an assessment for which the outcome is Not Satisfactory, within the timeframe of a unit of competency. No additional fees will be charged.

Participants who require re-assessment beyond the delivery timeframe of a unit or due date of an assessment, unless it is due to medical reasons, will be given the opportunity to request an additional time to resubmit and in this time they can request a mentoring/coaching session if required. After that they will be charged a re-assessment fee.

Reassessments are organized by the Student Services Department and a cost will be incurred per assessment task. Should you be unable to fulfil the unit of competency requirements following a re-assessment, you will be required to repeat the unit of competency in line with the RTO's policy. Student Services will advise of the cost of repeating a unit of competency and the cost for re-assessment. Repeating a unit of competency is subject to timetable availability.

Issuing Qualifications and Statements of Attainment

ABCA will issue all Australian Qualification Framework certification documentation (Qualifications or Statements of Attainment) to a student within 30 calendar days of the student being assessed as meeting the requirements of the training product if the training program in which the student is enrolled is complete. Please note however that ABCA is not obliged to issue a certificate to a completed student if:

- All agreed fees the student owes to ABCA have not been paid.
- The student has not provided a valid Unique Student Identifier.

Students should be aware that a:

- **Qualification** is the result of a student achieving the units of competency for a qualification outcome as specified in an endorsed training package or an accredited course. A qualification is a formal certification that a student has achieved learning outcomes as described in the AQF. Technically within the AQF a qualification is comprised of a testamur and a record of results. A testamur is the actual official certification document that confirms that a qualification has been awarded to an individual.
- **Statement of Attainment** is issued when the student has achieved one or more units of competency as a result of completing a course which included units of competency only or where the student achieved one or more units of competency as part of an enrolment in a qualification-based course but the student did not achieve all of the units of competency to receive the full qualification.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Information, ideas etc. quoted or paraphrased from another source, must be acknowledged with “quotation marks” around the relevant words/ sentences or ideas and cited at the end of the document. Sources of information, ideas etc. must be provided in alphabetical order by author’s surname (including author’s full name, name of document/ book/ internet etc. and year and place of publishing) or may be included in brackets in the text.

Students who assist others to have access to their assignment material will be deemed as equally guilty of plagiarism.

Policy Guidelines

Deferring, Suspending or Cancelling a Course

Under the requirements of the ESOS Act and National Code of Practice, international students enrolled at ABCA are not permitted to defer commencement of their studies, or suspend their studies, except:

- on the grounds of illness evidenced by a doctor’s certificate stating that student is unable to attend classes
- compelling or compassionate circumstances beyond the control of the student

ABCA may suspend or cancel a student's enrolment on the basis of misbehaviour, the student's failure to pay their fees, or breach of course progress requirements. The RTO will inform the student of its intent to suspend or cancel their enrolment and advise of them of their right to appeal the decision through its internal appeals process. The suspension or cancellation of a student's enrolment cannot take effect until the internal appeals process is completed.

Deferment, suspension and cancellation may affect a student's visa and ABCA must report on PRISMS as required under Section 19 ESOS Act 2000, where the enrolment is deferred, temporarily suspended or cancelled. If a student defers or suspends their studies on any other grounds, ABCA must report the student to DHA via PRISMS, as not complying with visa conditions.

Process for Transferring to Another Provider

Under the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 of the ESOS Act 2000, international students are restricted from transferring between education providers prior to completing six months of their principal course of study, unless they are given a release from their RTO or can demonstrate exceptional circumstances. ABCA will only consider giving a release to a student who has a valid enrolment offer from another registered education provider. Students must also complete an Application to Transfer between Registered Providers form. If granted, a release will be issued at no cost to the student.

All requests for a transfer are recorded on PRISMS by ABCA including the reasons for refusal of release.

Where a release is not granted, the student will be advised in writing providing the reasons for refusal. The student may access the RTO's complaints and appeals process within 20 working days if they want a review of the decision

Applications for transfer from ABCA will be assessed and replied to within 5 working days.

Students applying to transfer to another provider must use the following process:

- The student must go to reception to fill in the Termination Request Form
- Students must complete all sections in particular the reason and circumstances for the transfer to another provider with documentary evidence
- Students who have NOT completed six months of their principal course MUST NOT provide a

Confirmation of Enrolment from another provider as evidence.

- The student must then make an appointment to meet with the Training Manager to discuss the transfer request
- The RTO Academic Manager will discuss the circumstances that constitute reasonable grounds for refusal or acceptance of the student's request including when a transfer may be considered detrimental to the student.
- Assessing and replying to the student transfer request will be completed within 5 business/working days unless insufficient evidence has been submitted with the application.
- In straightforward requests, students will be provided with an immediate signature from the RTO Academic Manager during the interview either accepting or rejecting the transfer and termination letter request.
- In cases where other evidence needs to be provided and considered, all requirements will be noted in eSkilled SMS with required future actions.
- In all cases, students who have not had their termination request approved may access ABCA's complaints and appeals process within 20 days. Evidence will be retained on the student file.

Extension of Student Study

ABCA will only extend the duration of a student's study where it is clear that the student will not complete the course within the expected duration as specified on the students CoE as a result of:

- Compassionate or compelling circumstances (e.g.: illness, where a valid medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes or where ABCA has not been able to offer a pre-requisite unit of competency)
- ABCA is implementing the intervention strategy for at risk students not meeting satisfactory course progress
- ABCA approved deferment or suspension of studies granted under the National Code of Practice

Where there is a variation in a student's enrolment load which affects the student's expected duration of study in accordance with Standard 8.16, ABCA records this variation and the

reasons on the student file and eSkilled SMS. ABCA will then report the student via PRISMS and/or issue a new CoE when a student can only account for the variation(s) by extending the expected duration of study.

The student is advised to contact Department of Home Affairs to seek advice on any potential impacts on their visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.

Except in circumstances specified as valid grounds for extension to duration as noted above, the expected duration of study at ABCA specified in the student CoE will not exceed the CRICOS registered course duration.

Reduction of Student Study

Where a student applied for and was granted credit through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) after orientation/commencement, the length of the CoE will be reduced via PRISMS.

Where a student course completes early, ABCA will notify this early course completion to DET via PRISMS.

Holidays and Leave

ABCA has timetabled in suitable holidays for students undertaking courses so students are not permitted to have additional holidays. ABCA closes on all official Federal and state Public Holidays.

Special Leave

Students may apply for special leave under specified compassionate or compelling circumstances. Compassionate or compelling circumstances are generally those beyond the control of the student and which are likely to have an impact upon the student's course progress or wellbeing and could include, but are not limited to:

- serious illness or injury, where a medical certificate states that the student will be unable to attend classes;
- death or illness of close family members such as parents or grandparents (doctor's or death certificate should be provided);
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in the international student's home country requiring emergency travel and this has impacted, or will impact, on the student's studies;
- a traumatic experience which could include:

- Involvement in, or witnessing of a serious accident; or
- witnessing or being the victim of a serious crime,

this has impacted on the student (these cases should be supported by police or psychologist's reports);

Students are required to provide compelling documentary evidence to support their request and are advised of the circumstances and consequences regarding suspension of study as a result of special leave. The maximum time allowed for a deferment or voluntary suspension of study for special leave is 20 weeks, not including holidays.

Leave Application Procedure

Where students require special leave, Leave Application Forms are available from reception and the website and must be completed with supporting documentation attached to set an appointment with the RTO Academic Manager. Depending upon the degree of urgency the leave application will be processed as follows:

- Serious matters will be processed immediately
- Minor matters worthy of approval will be processed within 5 business/working days

Sick leave

Students who are absent due to medical reasons MUST provide a medical certificate from a registered doctor. Where illness is for an extended period of time the student must notify ABCA as soon as practicable.

In all cases where a student is absent with or without approval or seeks retrospective approval for an absence, ABCA records the period as absent and retains a copy of the medical certificate on the student file and includes notes in the student learner management system.

Students must keep the original medical certificate(s) to provide to DHA if required. ABCA maintains copies of medical certificates in the student file.

Payment of Tuition Fees

Students must pay their tuition fee payments by the due date in order to be registered for a class. If a student has not paid their fees they are deemed to be non-financial. Non-financial students

may be subject to the following:

- Students will not be registered/allocated to a class while non-financial
- Student must pay published late fees

Disclosure of Information

Information about students will not be provided to any other third party without the prior written consent of the student with the exception of relevant government departments, when the information will be provided with or without the consent of the student. A copy of information shared with a third party will be kept on the student's file.

Information about a student from the student

- Students have access to all information kept on their file based upon written request
- Email requests from students for documents will not be processed. Students must write a formal letter with their signature for verification then the information/ documents will be processed
- Information about a student from a third party
- Information requests about students from a third party will be denied unless there is written consent from the student
- Information about students will not be provided to any other third party without the prior written consent of the student with the exception of government departments, when the information will be provided with or without the consent of the student.

In all cases, conditions of the Privacy Act 1988, Australian Privacy Principles (APPs), will be followed and adhered to by staff members and students at ABCA.

ABCA is required by the National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 to securely retain your personal details for a period of 30 years from the date your enrolment has completed. The purpose of this is to enable your participation in accredited training to be recorded for future reference and to allow you to obtain a record of your outcome if required.

In some cases, we are required by law to make student information available to Government agencies such as the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research or the Australian Skills Quality Authority. In all other cases ABCA will seek the written permission of the student

for such disclosure. ABCA will not disclose your information to any person or organisation unless we have written instructions from you to do so. If you require your records to be accessed by a person, you need to authorise this access otherwise this access will be denied.

You have the right to access information that ABCA is retaining that relates to you. Further instructions are provided on how to access records within the section titled “Access to your records”.

If you have concerns about how ABCA is managing your personal information, we encourage you to inform our staff and discuss your concerns. You are also encouraged to make a complaint directly to us using our internal complaint handling arrangements outlined in this handbook.

Under the Privacy Act 1988 (Privacy Act) you also have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC) about the handling of your personal information. You can find more information about making a privacy complaint at the website of the OAIC located at: <https://www.oaic.gov.au/individuals/how-do-i-make-a-privacy-complaint>

Discrimination and Harassment

Discrimination and harassment involve a more powerful person or group oppressing a less powerful person or group, often on the grounds of ‘difference’. These differences can be related to culture, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, sexual orientation, ability or disability, religion, body size and physical appearance, age, marital status or economic status.

Harassment is unwelcome conduct that humiliates, offends or intimidates people. Harassment is bullying conduct that is neither appropriate nor relevant. This includes words as well as acts, pictures and images and creating a hostile or threatening atmosphere. The effect is to make a person feel insulted, offended, intimidated and unable to work effectively or, ultimately safely.

Examples of bullying behaviour include excessive criticism, publicly insulting or shaming an individual and making threats.

ABCA ensures that any reported cases of discrimination, harassment or bullying are handled in a confidential sensitive manner to protect the integrity and rights of any participants. In cases where the allegation is proven with concrete evidence, the student or staff member risk termination.

Complaints and Appeals

ABCA is committed to providing a fair complaints and appeals process. ABCA recognises that a complaint and an appeal are different and therefore require a different process for responding to each.

What is a complaint?

A complaint is generally negative feedback about services, other students or staff which has not been resolved locally. A complaint may be received by ABCA in any form and does not need to be formally documented by the complainant in order to be acted on. Complaints may be made by any person but are generally made by students.

The complaint may be about the student's dealings with ABCA, the RTO's education agents or any related party it has an arrangement with to deliver the overseas student's course or related services.

What is an appeal?

An appeal is an application by a student for reconsideration of an unfavourable decision or finding during training and/or assessment. An appeal must be made in writing and specify the particulars of the decision or finding in dispute. Appeals must be lodged within 28 days of the decision or finding is informed to the student.

Early resolution of complaints and appeals

In all cases, issues that arise during training and assessment that are the source of frustration or are in dispute should be resolved at the time they occur between the persons involved.

Complaint and appeals handling

ABCA undertakes to apply the following principles to its complaints and appeals handling:

- A written record of all complaints and appeals is to be kept by ABCA including all details of lodgement, response and resolution.
- A complainant or person lodging an appeal is to be provided an opportunity to formally present his or her case at no cost.
- Each complainant or person lodging an appeal may be accompanied and/or assisted by a support person at any relevant meeting.

- The handling of a complaint or appeal is to commence within 10 working days of the lodgement of the complaint or appeal and all reasonable measures are taken to finalise the process as soon as practicable.
- The complainant or person lodging an appeal is to be provided a written statement of the outcome, including details of the reasons for the outcome.
- ABCA shall maintain the enrolment of the complainant or person lodging an appeal during the complaint or appeals process.
- Decisions or outcomes of the complaint or appeals process that find in the favour of the student shall be implemented immediately.
- Complaints and appeals are to be handled in the strictest of confidence. No ABCA representative is to disclose information to any person without the permission of ABCA Chief Executive Officer. A decision to release information to third parties can only be made after the complainant has given permission for this to occur.
- Complaints and appeals are to be considered on the basis of procedural fairness and lead to opportunities for improvement through a report to the CEO.

ABCA considers that it would be extremely unlikely that complaints and appeals are not able to be resolved quickly within ABCA's internal structures.

Complaints Handling Procedure

Matters that cannot be resolved at the time they occur should be referred to ABCA Chief Executive Officer for review. The following procedure is to be followed when a complaint form is received:

- A Complaints and Appeals Form is received by ABCA and is to be immediately recorded into ABCA Complaints and Appeals Register.
- Complaints which are received in other forms such as phone or email are to be detailed on a Complaints and Appeals Form by the person receiving the complaint and then recorded in the Complaints and Appeals Register.
- The Complaints and Appeals Form is to be forwarded to the Chief Executive Officer who is to review the matter and make recommendation as to how to respond to the matter. The Chief Executive Officer may choose to consult with others within ABCA or relevant agencies external to ABCA in determining their recommendation.

- The Chief Executive Officer may choose to make inquiries about the matter or may task another person to research the matter against relevant policy.
- The Chief Executive Officer is to finalise his response to the complainant and provide the complainant a response as soon as possible but no later than 10 working days from when the complaint is received.
- The Chief Executive Officer is to communicate the response to the complainant personally either during a meeting or via the telephone. Complaint responses are not to be provided to the complainant via any third-party or via electronic communication such as e-mail. The Chief Executive Officer is to seek feedback from the complainant about their level of satisfaction with the complaint outcome. And advise the complainant of their options if they are not completely satisfied with the outcome.
- Complaints must be resolved to a final outcome within sixty (60) calendar days of the complaint being initially received. Where the ABCA Chief Executive Officer considers that more than 60 calendar days are required to process and finalise the complaint, the CEO must inform the complainant in writing, including reasons why more than 60 calendar days are required. As a benchmark, ABCA should attempt to resolve complaints as soon as possible. A timeframe to resolve a complaint within thirty (30) calendar days is considered acceptable and in the best interest of ABCA and the complainant. A complainant should also be provided with regular updates to inform them of the progress of the complaint handling. Updates should be provided to the complainant at a minimum of two (2) weekly intervals.
- If the complainant is not satisfied with the outcome of the complaint handling, the Chief Executive Officer may arrange for the complaint to be considered by an appropriate independent third-party or the student may refer the complaint to the Overseas Students Ombudsman at <https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=oco-complaint-form> phone:1300 362 072
- In addition, ACPET has suggested Resolution Institute, the national association of dispute resolvers, as an appropriate third party. Head Office details as follows:
 - Address: Level 1, 13 Bridge Street Sydney NSW
 - Phone: (+61 2) 9251 3366
 - Free call: 1800 651 650

- Email: infoaus@resolution.institute
- Website: <https://www.resolution.institute>
- Staff are to provide assistance to students during the complaint handling process.
- The response to the complainant must include information that demonstrates that the matter was thoroughly reviewed and what actions and outcomes have been identified as a result of the complaint.

Appeals Handling Procedure

Applications by students for reconsideration of an unfavourable decision or finding are to be treated with the highest importance. An appeal must be made in writing and specify the particulars of the decision or finding in dispute. Appeals must be lodged within 28 days of when the decision or finding is communicated to the student. The following procedure is to be followed when an application for appeal is received:

- A student appealing an assessment decision is to be referred immediately to the Chief Executive Officer. The Chief Executive Officer is to arrange for a re-assessment of the student as soon as possible. The student is also to be offered the opportunity to undertake additional training before this re-assessment. The reassessment is to be conducted by a different assessor than conducted the initial assessment. The student may be offered up to 3 re-assessments.
- If after the reassessment, the student remains not competent and is dissatisfied with the assessment outcome, the student is to meet with the Chief Executive Officer and the RTO Academic Manager to discuss the assessment process and the assessment outcome.
- If after consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, the student remains unsatisfied with the assessment process, the student is to be provided the Complaints and Appeals Form and the matter is to be dealt with in accordance with the complaint handling procedure.
- If the student is seeking a refund of their tuition fees based on an unfavourable outcome, this may be considered by the Chief Executive Officer on its merits. If the Chief Executive Officer does not approve a refund and considers that ABCA has dealt with the matter appropriately and has provided the student all reasonable opportunity to demonstrate their competence, the student is to be advised of the opportunity to refer the matter to Office of Fair Trading.

- The Management Team is to inform the applicant of the improvement actions identified.
- The Complaints and Appeals Register is to be kept up to date at all times to accurately reflect how the matter was responded to and the duration from the date the appeal was received to the date the appeal was resolved.

Critical Incidents

ABCA is committed to maintaining a safe and supportive environment for staff and students. This policy underpins our approach to respond to critical incidents that may occur and impact on the people both studying and working at ABCA. We are particularly mindful of our responsibility to support our students from overseas who do not have access to a normal support network.

A Critical Incident: is any sudden or progressive development (event) that requires immediate attention and decisive action to prevent / minimise any negative impact on the health and welfare of one or more individuals. Critical incidents may include (but are not limited to) events such as:

- Death/suicide;
- Serious accident or injury;
- Death or serious illness of a student's family or friends overseas (in their homeland);
- Removing an individual's liberty under duress, threats of violence, assault, rape/sexual assault, aggravated burglary, biological or chemical weapons found/ present;
- Fire, bomb, explosion, gas/chemical hazards, discharge of firearms;
- Threat of widespread infection or contamination;
- Civil unrest;
- Serious damage to essential facilities and or extreme disruption to operations at ABCA; and
- Information which has the potential to negatively affect the reputation of ABCA in the media and/or wider community.

Staff Responsibility

In the first instance, the designated officer is any member of the staff who is witness to /or receives the information which triggers the critical incident.

If possible, the CEO is to be immediately called to the situation to assume control. In all cases the procedure below is to be followed:

Critical Incident Procedure

1. The Designated Officer is to assess the situation and consider any apparent risks to their own safety and those present.
2. Where the Designated Officer considers a critical incident involving threat to life or/ and triggering an emergency situation is occurring the Designated Officer is to contact Emergency Services by dialling 000 immediately and being put through to the appropriate service. See Accompanying contact numbers.
3. Provided there is no threat to personal safety in doing so, the Designated Officer is to take steps to minimise further damage or injury. This may involve organising willing bystanders to provide support.
4. The RTO Academic Manager or most senior staff member available is to assume responsibility for assessing the incident and forming a Critical Incident Team if deemed necessary.
5. As soon as practical the RTO Academic Manager or the most senior staff member available is to prepare a Critical Incident Initial Report outlining details re: the type of incident, the exact location and details of any person or persons who might be injured, or in distress and in need of counselling or at risk. Where persons affected include current students, a copy of the Student Written Agreement should accompany the report.
6. The RTO Academic Manager and Critical Incident Team/ other staff members, will review the situation, set priorities, allocate tasks/responsibilities and coordinate an immediate response including communications (to staff, students, families of those involved, helpers, and the media).
7. Where a staff member has assumed management of the critical incident, this person will consult with and/or take instruction from the RTO Academic Manager as necessary.
8. The Critical Incident Team will organise ongoing response/follow up (including staff briefing, counselling, review and reporting) as part of the process.
9. The Critical Incident Team will organise a de-briefing session to evaluate response procedures and make recommendations for ongoing actions if required.
10. The Critical Incident Team will produce a final report and make recommendations about handling any future critical incidents. Revision of this procedure may be part of that report.

Tasks and Responsibilities

The RTO Academic Manager or most senior staff member available will:

1. Head the Critical Incident Team;
2. Liaise with emergency services;
3. Liaise with Diplomatic Post/Embassy/Consulate;
4. Provide notification of critical incident to most Senior Staff Member;
5. Liaise with immediate family members or guardians if appropriate;
6. Convene Critical Incident Team;
7. Formulate and execute critical incident plan; and
8. Organise debriefing, counselling and follow-up.

Informing the Police

The police must investigate all sudden unexpected death. Police actions include:

- Reporting the death to the Coroner;
- Notifying Next of Kin;
- Obtaining official identification of the deceased (this must be done by a person who has known the individual for at least the past year); and
- Conducting investigations (interviewing witnesses or others involved).

Notifying Next of Kin

Once death/injury has been confirmed, the initial contact with next of kin / significant others needs to be considered carefully. The following questions may be helpful:

- What is the appropriate manner of contact?
- What were the circumstances of the tragedy?

Ongoing support

Maintain contact with those who may need ongoing support, often at times and in locations outside of the normal class routine. The following should be considered:

- Consideration should be given to personal contact with victims and those affected by the incident outside of normal hours. Family and friends are a priority. The Critical Incident

Team will assess those affected by the incident and make referrals for counselling and/or advice to agencies outside of those normally used.

- Appropriate cultural responses may be put in place, interpreters may be provided, and overseas authorities, such as embassies and legations, notified.
- Where appropriate, staff and students may need to be directed to seek professional counselling. Counselling of staff and students will be a priority for incidents where trauma may be experienced. Special Leave will be considered where necessary.
- There may be a need to issue a written statement to staff and students, within the guidelines of the Privacy Act 1988 and Australian Privacy Principles to inform them of the incident.
- There may be a need to identify others who may be affected by the incident to provide reassurance and minimise distress.

It is important to return to normality as soon as possible. The Training Manager should meet with staff at the end of the working day to debrief staff and assist in the recovery process.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

During the event of an emergency that requires the evacuation of any ABCA campus, all students should follow the instruction of their trainer and the fire safety warden. At all times, the class **MUST** stay together to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the staff and students.

Once students have evacuated the building, they must proceed to the designated area so that the attendance sheets can be checked to ensure that all students have left the building. Students must stay with their trainer till the building is safe to re-enter or they have been dismissed.

Emergency exits are signposted with diagrams located in classrooms, hallways and other areas that indicate the appropriate exit to use and the meeting place. These procedures may be updated from time to time.

ABCA agrees to abide by the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 to protect the health, safety and welfare of staff and students through the provision of safe learning environments and equipment.

Emergency Procedure is as follows:

- Fire alarm sounds and the class prepare to evacuate immediately
- Students must line up ready and not waste time collecting belongings
- Floor warden (with red or yellow hard hat) will give the signal to the trainer to evacuate with the class clearly pointing out the evacuation pathway
- Trainer and students proceed to the designated assembly area using the fire stairs only (no lifts to be used in fire emergencies)
- Attendance will be taken at the assembly area to ensure that all students and staff are present and no one left on campus
- Wait in the assembly area to receive further instructions and do not leave until told to do so by the Chief Warden.

Student Support Services & Resources

ABCA students are provided with academic and non- academic support to adjust to study and life in Australia, to achieve their learning goals and to achieve satisfactory progress towards meeting the learning outcomes of their chosen course of study.

Student Resources

ABCA provides students with access to a range of learning resources which contain a variety of additional materials to support the students learning experience.

Student counselling

It is important that students have access to a range of support mechanisms during their study. If students require assistance or counselling related to study or personal difficulties, they should speak initially with their trainer or to the Student Services Officer.

The Student Support Officer can suggest access to specialised support for those who may need further external help. All discussions regarding this are in the strictest of confidence.

General administrative matters

Change of Address or Contact Details

Students **must** notify ABCA of changes to their contact details, address, email address (if any), mobile phone number (if any) within 5 business/working days as maintaining current student contact details are a condition of an Australian student visa.

In cases where ABCA issues either the warning(s) or intention to report letter, the student is accountable for current address and contact details. Failure to provide current details may impact on student visa status particularly when the student fails to respond to RTO communication and is reported on PRISMS.

Student Card

To obtain a student card, students must go to reception to take a photo for Student Identification, which will be ready within 5 business/working days. Students must carry the ABCA student card at all times when on ABCA campus.

The ABCA student card can be used as a concession card at museums, theatres, cinemas etc. If a student loses a student card and requires a replacement, a fee will be charged as per published fees.

Termination

Students wishing to terminate their course earlier than the course completion date must complete an ABCA termination form stating the reason with attached evidence and attend an interview with the RTO Academic Manager. Attached evidence includes but is not limited to a one-way airline ticket, Letter of Offer from new provider, CoE, etc

If a student requests termination of a principle course of study within the first six months, the student must apply for a letter of release which will only be granted in accord with the conditions in the National Code of Practice. If a student fails to inform ABCA that they have terminated their studies, intervention will be initiated and failure to respond will result in reporting on PRISMS.

Extending Course Duration

Students requiring an extension of time to complete their course must make an appointment with the RTO Academic Manager. The only reasons for extension of course duration are:

- Compassionate or compelling circumstances
- Result of intervention
- Suspension of studies

ABCA is required to issue a Student Course Variation (SCV) on PRISMS and include the reason.

Student Request Forms

Students may request information from Reception. All student forms are available at reception and any required evidence will be explained by reception to ensure that students receive information and support in a timely manner.

ABCA Campus Guidelines

ABCA students must adhere to the following:

- Behave and speak to everyone at ABCA in a polite and friendly manner
- Respect all nationalities, religions, genders, etc
- Maintain valuable items securely at all times
- Respect the teaching and learning process
- Follow the published complaints and appeals processes to solve problems
- Access ABCA complaints and appeals process with a positive attitude
- Contribute to the positive learning environment
- Treat ABCA equipment and facilities with respect
- Maintain personal hygiene
- Contribute to the safe learning environment
- Refrain from smoking on campus

ABCA will contact relevant government authorities if a student brings any of the following to the ABCA campus:

- Drugs
- Alcohol
- Weaponry
- Pornography

Students who bring any of the above to ABCA campus will be reported to authorities, immediately and terminated for disciplinary reasons and reported on PRISMS with the intention that the student visa will be cancelled by Australian Immigration.

ABCA Classroom Guidelines

During theory and practical classes students will:

- Turn off mobile phones
- Develop group and cooperation skills in the learning process
- Maintain a positive attitude when learning becomes difficult
- Participate in all activities
- Follow the trainer's instructions
- Respect the right of all classmates to learn
- Respect the right of the trainer to train and assess
- Request the trainer's permission if it is essential to leave the classroom
- Submit formative and summative assessments on time

Student Feedback

Students will complete the following at the end of each study period:

- Learner Quality Indicator
- ABCA Student Feedback

Students are requested to answer these feedback forms honestly to assist ABCA to undertake continuous improvement of training, assessment, facilities, services, etc. This feedback is welcome and treated as a valuable opportunity to ensure student views are formally addressed and acknowledged for action.

If a student identifies an improvement that can be made at ABCA, this information can be provided directly to the trainer or Training Manager at any time.

Course Requirements and Payments

- Prospective students must provide evidence of educational entry requirements and 5.5 IELTS or equivalent (where applicable) to commence the course
- Students must complete a minimum of 6 months of their principal course of study as stated in their agreement before applying to transfer to another provider
- If the student has nominated an authorised agent, ABCA will honour that agent until the completion of the enrolled course
- Students must pay the enrolment application fee, first tuition instalment and resource fees in full prior to commencement
- Students must pay the full tuition fee instalment for each 10 weeks' delivery in advance
- In the case where instalment payments are indicated as the preferred option ABCA will invoice for subsequent payments which are payable two weeks before commencement of the 10-week delivery period or defined as the next term
- Note that there is a late fee charged per day for late payments. The fee for this is listed in the Fees and Charges document in Student Resources page on the website
- Non-financial students will not be included on the class attendance sheet until outstanding fees have been paid
- Student's enrolment can be cancelled due to unsatisfactory academic progress, academic misconduct or non-academic misconduct.

Terms and Conditions

After the applicant is offered a place in a course and signs ABCA Letter of Offer and International Student Acceptance Agreement a binding contract is made between the student and ABCA. The contract is governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of New South Wales.

Students will not be permitted to commence or continue their course until all fees or charges are paid. All fees are payable two weeks before course commencement however to be eligible for acceptance into a course payment should be made when returning the signed International Student Acceptance Form to ABCA. Students have the option to pay more than 50% of their fees upfront if they wish.

Provision has been made to protect payments received in advance by students as stated under the conditions of Tuition Protection Service. All course fees are deposited into ABCA Student Fees Account. When the student commences their course, ABCA will draw down these funds from the designated account.

In the case where a student has accepted and paid fees for a conditional offer for a place in a ABCA course, evidence of a student's English level to meet the requirements of that course must be provided in advance of the course start date otherwise ABCA reserves the right to defer the students start date until the next available course intake.

Refund and Cancellation

All requests for refund of fees must be made in writing using the Refund Request Form which may be obtained from ABCA Reception or from the website. The form must be signed by the student. Details of the cancellation fee and refund and how it is calculated is available in the Student Resources Section of the website.

ABCA enrolment and accommodation placement fees are non-refundable in all circumstances

In the case where a student enrolls through a registered ABCA agent a refund will be paid to this agent.

If the visa application is rejected, tuition fees are refunded in full. ABCA requires official confirmation from the local Australian Embassy or Consulate that the student is unable to obtain a visa.

ABCA refunds are not transferable to another person.

No refunds will be made for classes missed due to exams, excursions, internships or other obligations that fall outside the normal schedule of classes.

In the case of student suspension or expulsion there will be no refund of fees.

ABCA reserves the right to cancel a course if intake numbers are insufficient. In the unlikely event that ABCA is unable to deliver a student's course in full, a refund will be offered for all the unused course money paid to date. The refund will be paid to the student within 2 weeks of the day on which the course ceased being provided. Alternatively, enrolment may be offered in a different course by ABCA.

In the unlikely event that ABCA is unable to provide a refund or place a student in an alternative course, (provider default) ABCA will notify this default to the Tuition Protection Service (TPS) Director. The TPS Director will then allocate the student a period within which they are able to choose an alternative course from the options provided.

ABCA reserves the right to change its fees and conditions in accordance with changes in the current economic and/or legal conditions and to alter course timetables and class locations within reason at any time without notice.

Changes of tuition fees will not apply to students who have paid and or have already commenced their course. If a student believes that these changes are unreasonable, they have the right to access ABCA's complaints and appeals processes and to also take further action under Australia's consumer protection laws.

ABCA reserves the right to deny a student access to ABCA's premises and to withdraw its other services if their conduct disrupts the normal operation of the RTO. ABCA's complaints resolution processes do not circumscribe the student's right to pursue other legal remedies.

Refund payments will be made in Australian Dollars (AUD). All refunds agreed to by ABCA will be made within four weeks of receiving ABCA Student Request for a Refund Form.

The written agreement, and the right to make complaints and seek appeals of decisions and action under various processes, does not affect the rights of the student to take action under the Australian Consumer Law if the Australian Consumer Law applies.

Overseas Students Ombudsman:

GPO Box 442, Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Tel: 1300 362 072 (in Australia), +61 2 6276 0111 (outside Australia)

Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

Web: www.ombudsman.gov.au

Statutory Cooling Off Period

The Standards for Registered Training Organisations require ABCA to inform persons considering enrolment of their right to a statutory cooling off period. A statutory cooling off period (which is 10 days) is a period of time provided to a consumer to allow them to withdraw from a consumer agreement, where that agreement was established through unsolicited marketing or sales tactics. These include tactic such as door-to-door sales and telemarketing. A statutory cooling off period allows a consumer to withdraw from a sales agreement within 10 days of having received a sale contract without penalty.

It must be noted that ABCA do not engage in unsolicited marketing or sales tactics and therefore a statutory cooling off period is not applicable to our students who have enrolled into a program. For refund option in other circumstances, students must refer to the refund policy

Change of Session

Students will not be permitted to change their session after week one when the classes have been allocated unless there is sufficient evidence to support the change. Student employment does NOT constitute a valid reason for change of session as the conditions of the student visa to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress is the first priority.

Legislative and Regulatory Responsibilities

ABCA is required to operate in accordance with the laws of Australia. This means we comply with the requirements of legislative and regulatory requirements. The following legislation is a list of the Acts that ABCA has recognised for which it has compliance responsibilities.

During your day-to-day work and when participating in training, you will need to be aware of the relevant legislation (Acts of Parliament) that may impact on you. While ABCA has an obligation to meet certain requirements of these Acts, you also should make yourself fully aware of the legislation that affects you.

Copies of State and Federal legislation can be found on the Internet at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/ (State) and www.comlaw.gov.au (Federal).

Following is a summary of the legislation that will generally apply to your day-to-day work and training.

Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act 2011

The main object of this Act is to provide for a balanced and nationally consistent framework to

secure the health and safety of workers and workplaces by protecting workers and other persons against harm to their health, safety and welfare through the elimination or minimisation of risks arising from work or from particular types of substances or plant.

The WHS Act covers most workers in Australia who are protected by nationally uniform work health and safety laws. This includes employees, contractors, sub-contractors, outworkers, trainees, work experience students, volunteers and employers who perform work.

The WHS Act also provides protection for the general public so that their health and safety is not placed at risk by work activities.

Duties of other persons at the workplace (section 29). Any person at a workplace, including customers and visitors, must take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions or omissions. They must also cooperate with any actions taken by the person conducting business or undertaking to comply with the WHS Act and WHS Regulation.

Privacy Act 1988

An organisation must not collect personal information unless the information is necessary for one or more of its functions or activities.

An organisation must not use or disclose personal information about an individual for a purpose (the secondary purpose) other than the primary purpose of collection unless:

- (a) both of the following apply:
 - (i) the secondary purpose is related to the primary purpose of collection and, if the personal information is sensitive information, directly related to the primary purpose of collection;
 - (ii) the individual would reasonably expect the organisation to use or disclose the information for the secondary purpose; or
- (b) the individual has consented to the use or disclosure.

Anti-Discrimination Act 1991

The main purpose of the Act is to promote equality of opportunity for everyone by protecting them from unfair discrimination in certain areas of activity, including work, education and accommodation. Anti-Discrimination applies to a person's race, religion, colour, sex, physical and/or mental capacity.

Disability Discrimination Act 1992

A person discriminates against another person on the grounds of a disability if, because of the person's disability, they treat or propose to treat the person with a disability less favourably than, in circumstances that are the same or are not materially different, they treat or would treat a person without the disability.

Circumstances in which a person treats or would treat another person with a disability are not materially different because of the fact that different accommodation or services may be required by the person with a disability.

Sex Discrimination Act 1984

The purposes of the Act are to

1. to eliminate, so far as is possible, discrimination against persons on the ground of sex, marital status, pregnancy or potential pregnancy in the areas of work, accommodation, education, the provision of goods, facilities and services, the disposal of land, the activities of clubs and the administration of Commonwealth laws and programs; and
2. to eliminate, so far as possible, discrimination involving dismissal of employees on the ground of family responsibilities; and
3. to eliminate, so far as is possible, discrimination involving sexual harassment in the workplace, in educational institutions and in other areas of public activity; and
4. to promote recognition and acceptance within the community of the principle of the equality of men and women.

Copyright Act 1968

Copyright is a type of property that is founded on a person's creative skill and labour. It is designed to prevent the unauthorised use by others of a work, that is, the original form in which an idea or information has been expressed by the creator.

Copyright is not a tangible thing. It is made up of a bundle of exclusive economic rights to do certain acts with an original work or other copyright subject-matter. These rights include the right to copy, publish, communicate (e.g. broadcast, make available online) and publicly perform the copyright material.

There is no general exception that allows a work to be reproduced without infringing copyright. Where a part of a work is copied, the issue is whether a substantial part of that work has been

reproduced and thus an infringement has occurred.

However, there is a 10% rule which applies in relation to fair dealing copying for the purposes of research or study. A reasonable portion of a work may be copied for that purpose, and a reasonable portion is deemed to be 10% of a book of more than 10 pages or 10% of the words of a work in electronic form.

Industrial Relations Act 1999

The main objectives of this Act are to provide a framework for industrial relations that supports economic prosperity and social justice by:

- Providing for rights and responsibilities that ensure economic advancement and social justice for all employees and employers;
- Ensuring equal remuneration for men and women employees for work of equal or comparable value;
- Ensuring wages and employment conditions provide fair standards in relation to living standards prevailing in the community;
- Promoting and facilitating job growth, skills acquisition and vocational training through apprenticeships, traineeships and labour market programs.

Fair Work Act 2009

The main objectives of this Act are to provide a balanced framework for cooperative and productive workplace relations that promotes national economic prosperity and social inclusion for all Australians by:

- Providing workplace relations laws that are fair to working Australians, are flexible for businesses, promote productivity and economic growth for Australia's future economic prosperity and take into account Australia's international labour obligations;
- Ensuring a guaranteed safety net of fair, relevant and enforceable minimum terms and conditions through the National Employment Standards, modern awards and national minimum wage orders;
- Enabling fairness and representation at work and the prevention of discrimination by recognising the right to freedom of association and the right to be represented, protecting against unfair treatment and discrimination, providing accessible and effective procedures to

resolve complaints and disputes and providing effective compliance mechanisms.

You can find more information about your workplace rights for all visa holders working in Australia at the following link: [Click Here](#)

Life in Australia

Overseas Student Health Cover

Student visa holders are required to obtain Overseas Student Health Cover to cover their stay in Australia as a student. Health cover cards and membership numbers are sent to ABCA from the OSHC providers and students can collect them from Reception.

Once the health cover card or membership number has been issued, students can claim money back on a visit to a doctor or hospital in Australia. To claim, students must take the receipt of payment to the nearest Health care provider (Medibank or BUPA) office.

Students must make an appointment with the Student Services Support Officer if there are any problems with OSHC.

Cost of Living

From 1 February 2024, the 12-month living cost is calculated as

- student/guardian – AUD 21,041
- partner/spouse – AUD 7,100
- child – AUD 3,040.

If your children are travelling with you as dependants on your student visa, you will have to pay fees for them to go to any Australian school (regardless of whether the school is state or private). School fees vary according to the age of your children and the state or territory that you live in, expect fees of around A\$4,000 to A\$17,000 per year, per child.

On a student visa, students are permitted to work up to 40 hours per fortnight during study periods. During non-study periods such as timetabled breaks, students may work additional hours. Student working rights are intended to add to student income rather than be the main supporting factor.

To work, students need a Tax File Number (TFN). To apply for a TFN students can undertake any of the following:

Online Application:

- Go to www.ato.gov.au and apply online
- Go to 'For Individuals' and click 'Apply for a Tax File Number'
- Go to applying for a TFN and click 'Online individual tax file number registration (Nat4157)'
- Go to 'Apply for Tax File Number'
- See average cost price guide below:
- Scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'next'
- Follow the instructions until you are finished
- Appointment: Call 13 2861 to make an appointment

Visit: visit the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) 100 Market Street Centrepont Tower, Sydney

NB: International students will need a passport number and an Australian address.

Item	Community General	Homestay /Boarding
Rent and Utilities	\$165 - \$440	\$255 - \$275
Electricity, Gas and Water	\$20 - \$50	Included
Food	\$80 - \$280	Included
Entertainment	\$30 - \$100	\$30 - \$100
Phone	\$5 - \$10	\$5 - \$10
Parking and Transport	\$15 - \$55	\$20 - \$40
Weekly Total cost	\$334 - \$884	\$310 - \$425
Semester Total cost	\$4,410 - \$13,090	\$4,340 - \$5,950

Schooling for dependants

In Australia children must attend school from five years of age until the completion of Year 10. Young people that have completed Year 10 must participate in full-time education, training or employment, (at least 25 hours per week) or a combination of these activities until they reach 17 years of age.

If you have school age dependents you will need to make arrangements for your children to enter school in Australia. Students from countries around the world enrol in New South Wales government, independent and private schools every year. NSW government schools are recognised for their excellent quality education programs.

You can choose from a wide range of schools close to where you will be living. The New South Wales government provide:

- An excellent, world-class standard of education from the largest education provider in Australia
- The opportunity to study alongside Australian students in a friendly, safe, multicultural environment
- A wide range of subjects, sporting and creative arts programs, leadership programs
- Professional, university trained teachers
- An environment that encourages students to express themselves, develop independent learning skills and to interact in the classroom and in the community
- Intensive English Language support for students of non-English speaking background

To assist you to locate a school suitable for your needs, the following web-links will provide a wealth of information about schooling options:

Public Schools:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/going-to-a-public-school>

International Student Program:

<https://www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/study-options/study-programs/international-student-program>

Further information about living in Australia is available at the Department of Immigration and Border Protection: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/meeting-our-requirements/australian-values>

The Department also published The *Life in Australia* book. This publication is filled with helpful information and is recommended reading. The booklet is available online at: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/support-subsite/files/life-in-australia/lia_english_full.pdf

It is recommended that you view the booklet on a computer as it contains links to many websites that provide additional information.

Your safety

ABCA has a responsibility to meet its duty of care to staff, students and visitors by providing facilities and a safe and healthy learning environment in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

Living away from home in Australia and in a different environment can sometimes cause problems that may affect your personal safety and wellbeing.

The following are some of those situations that may cause problems and some advice on how to avoid them.

Unsafe locations

World-wide, every city has some areas that may not be so safe. In your home city, you probably know of these areas and know how to avoid them. Sydney is the same. If you are not familiar with the areas in which you need to be careful of you can check with a trainer or Senior Trainer.

Drugs and alcohol

In Australia, alcohol is readily available and legal for those over 18 years of age. Other substances such as marijuana, ecstasy, cocaine, etc are not allowed by Australian law and you run the risk of legal and visa problems as well as health issues if you become involved in their use / dealing.

On campus

Building Alarms OR other Emergencies

In the Event of Fire – dial “000”

Alert other occupants and evacuate Do not use the elevator, use the stairs.

A First Aid kit is located at reception

In the Evening

Catch taxis and travel in groups.

Report any troubled incidences to us if they occur to or from ABCA. Be careful of your personal belongings. Do not leave them unattended. Notify your homestay family if you are not coming home or staying out late. Do not consume alcohol in public places.

Do not drink and drive. If drinking, nominate a designated driver.

Ring 000 if you require assistance from the Police, Ambulance or Fire Brigade

Banking

To open a bank account in Australia or get an ATM card with a PIN (Personal Identification Number) international students must have:

- ABCA Certificate of Enrolment (apply at reception)
- Passport
- Driver’s license, credit card or bill (if you have been in Australia longer than 4 weeks)
- To get money sent from overseas, the easiest way is via direct transfer over the internet

Banking hours:

Monday to Thursday 9:30am to 4:00pm

Friday 9:30am to 5:00pm

Doctors

Students should make an appointment to see a doctor if they are sick and request a doctor’s certificate to account for the absence. On return to ABCA, provide reception with a copy of the medical certificate and retain the original. Medical certificates are not used to adjust attendance and the time will be recorded as absent.

Dentists

Reception can provide a list of nearby dentists in an emergency situation.

Hospitals

Students can go directly to a hospital if the situation is urgent and it is after hours. However, there may be long waiting periods.

Transport

Bus Train Ferry Information Line

PH: 131 500 www.131500.com.au



An **OPAL Card** is for use on buses, trains and ferries. It's free to get, the student just has to top up the credit for travelling. The opal card can be ordered online, at newsagents or at the train station. There are also free bus timetables available. For **all** Sydney Trains and Ferries you need to get an Opal card from a rail station or order online: <https://www.opal.com.au/ordercard/?execution=e1s1>

Useful Contacts & Information

The following is a list of some important phone numbers that students may find useful:

Emergency - Police / Ambulance /Fire	000
Department of Home Affairs (queries related to visas)	131 881
Medibank (OHSC)	134 148
BUPA (OSHC)	1800 888 942

<p>Legal Aid NSW helps people with their legal problems <u>Help over the phone</u></p> <p>Call <u>Law Access NSW</u> to get started</p> <p><u>Find information</u></p> <p><u>Factsheets and resources</u> are available to help you with your problem</p> <p><u>Get advice from a lawyer</u></p> <p>Free face-to-face <u>advice</u> provided on most legal issues</p> <p><u>Help at court</u></p> <p><u>Lawyers are available to assist you</u> at many courts and tribunals across NSW</p>	1300 888 529
Lifeline Crisis Support	13 11 14
Beyond Blue – anxiety and depression	1300 22 4636
Clarence Town Medical Centre, 40 Grey Street, Clarence Town, NSW	(02) 4996 4003
Westmead Hospital	02 8890 5555
Public Transport Information Line	131 500

Lifeline Counselling Service (telephone counselling)	131 114
Translating and Interpreting Service (24 hours)	131 450
Taxis Combined	133 300

Consulates: To find a country's consulate address and details:

- Internet: <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/Pages/foreign-embassies-and-consulates-in-australia.aspx>
- Yellow Pages under 'Consulates and Legations'

What to do in Sydney

Students can experience many activities including but not limited to music, art, opera, sport or outdoor activities, students will find something to suit their interests. For information on what to do and what's happening in and around Sydney refer to the following:

Daily Newspapers

Sydney Morning Herald: Metro guide every Friday www.smh.com.au

The Daily Telegraph: "7 Days" every Thursday

Free publications

Beat Magazine - Music, concerts etc.

Sydney: The Official Guide – Tourist information booklet

Can be found outside newsagents, in music/video stores & tourist information centres etc

Websites

- www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/whats_on.asp
- www.timeout.com/sydney www.whatsonwhen.com

Ticketek

For tickets to upcoming sporting matches, shows, musicals, concerts & other major events
Ph: 9266 4800

Website: www.ticketek.com.au/

Cinema

On Tuesday nights most movies are half price and cinema details can be found in the newspaper's entertainment section or on the cinema's website:

Hoyts: www.hoyts.com.au

Village: www.village.com.au

Greater Union www.greaterunion.com.au

Halftix

201 Sussex Street, City - specialises in discount ticketing

Website: www.halftix.com.au Ph: 9279 0855

Sightseeing

The following is a list of some of the most popular sightseeing destinations in Sydney

Sydney Opera House	www.sydneyoperahouse.com.au
The Rocks	www.therocks.com.au
Darling Harbour	www.darlingharbour.com
Chinatown	www.chinatown.com.au

Art Gallery of NSW	www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au
Queen Victoria Building	www.qvb.com.au
Sydney Aquarium	www.sydneyaquarium.com.au
Bondi Beach	www.gobondi.com
Taronga Zoo	www.zoo.nsw.gov.au

Homestay

Homestay accommodation provides students with an opportunity to experience life with a typical Australian family and develop English language communication skills. Students must follow a few simple rules:

- Arrive home before the usual dinnertime of your host family. Politely inform your host family if you will not be home for dinner
- Ask if you can help with dinner to actively participate in the host family life
- Ask permission before using the washing machine, phone, television, computer etc.
- Pay your host for any phone calls and do not use the phone for longer than 5 minutes
- Keep your bedroom clean
- Ask the host family whether they wash/iron your clothes or you wash/iron your own clothes
- Do not use the bathroom for more than 15 minutes
- Clean the bathroom after use
- Use your own toiletries and buy your own washing powder
- Ask permission before you invite friends to the host family's home
- Friends are not allowed to stay late at night

- Communicate in English as much as possible
- Be polite to your Homestay family
- Turn the television and lights off at night
- Lock the doors when you leave and return home

Homestay is not a hotel. The Homestay host is not a servant but a person who is offering you a bedroom and facilities in their home and the opportunity to experience Australian family life.

Homestay Cancellation Policy

If a student chooses to terminate their Homestay, 2 weeks' notice is required, or 2 weeks' cancellation fee is charged. Homestay terms finish on the Saturday at the end of ABCA term.

Alternative Accommodation

ABCA has a list of alternative accommodation available for students. Please advise Student Services if you require assistance with alternative accommodation.

Extension Placement Fee

Students must pay an extension placement fee if an accommodation booking is extended in the same Homestay location. The fee is 25% of the original accommodation placement fee.

Second Placement Fee

Students must pay a second placement fee if a second accommodation booking is requested. The fee is 50% of the original accommodation placement fee. A second fee applies if:

- Students want to extend their booking and the same accommodation is not available
- Students choose to change accommodation and request ABCA to find other accommodation

ABCA Services and Facilities Reception

At reception students can:

- Pay tuition fees
- Request information about enrolment & attendance

- Book and pay for social activities
- Send scanned documents
- Pick up parcels
- Collect student card
- Request information

Social Activities

ABCA organises regular social activities by studentservices team:

- Full day excursions
- Weekend trips out of Sydney
- Sport activities

Student Engagement Area

Student room includes:

- Computers
- Library resources
- Notice boards (jobs, accommodation, social activities, etc.)
- Wireless internet access
- Breakout areas and kitchen
- Light snacks, refreshments and hot/cold water.