

Document: Refund Policy for International Students		
Approved by: Executive Management Team	Version: 3.3	Date: June.2023

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1. Overview

WIN College fully complies with the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS Act) and its legislative framework including the Tuition Protection Service (TPS).

Under Subdivision B (Student defaults): Sections 47A, 47B, 47D and 47E of the ESOS Act, the written agreement with the student outlines the various circumstances under which a refund can be made and the amount due. In general, a refund will NOT be granted.

1.1. There is NO refund in the enrolment fee and any other fees (the amounts as set in the Offer Letter and the Education Program Agreement).

1.2. (a) The student must pay the full 12 weeks fee as set in the Offer Letter and the Education Program Agreement. The refund policy as outlined in this document shall apply.

(b) Under special circumstances, the student may request for partial pre-paid tuition fees, deposit and/or tuition fees. The amount will be reflected in the Offer Letter and the Education Program Agreement.

Note however, where the amount paid is LESS 12 week's tuition fees, a refund will not be granted or will not apply except in the case of visa refusal as outlined in this policy.

1.3. There is NO refund if the student defaults under any of the following circumstances:

- Not starting on the agreed day and location (and has not previously withdrawn);
- Breaching a condition of the student's visa;
- Cancellation or suspension of enrolment following a finding of academic misconduct or non-academic misconduct such as providing fraudulent documentation, misleading information and other similar incidents.
- The student has not completed 6 months of their principal course.

1.4. Other instances where pre-paid tuition fees, deposit and/or tuition fees paid are NOT refundable:

Pre-paid tuition fees, deposit and/or tuition fees, as outlined in the Offer Letter and the Education Program Agreement, is NOT refundable if the student or agent has provided fraudulent and/or misleading information to WIN College including, but not limited to, any of the following:

- making a fraudulent and/or material misrepresentation, or another person or agent doing so on behalf of the applicant, in applying for admission to a course. This includes submission of fraudulent documentation or misrepresentation to the Australian government agencies to obtain an offer of admission at WIN College;

- failing to disclose to WIN College a material fact or circumstance that affects WIN College's decision in admitting an applicant;
- obtaining admission on the basis of a degree, diploma or certificate obtained wholly or partly by means of fraud, academic misconduct or any form of dishonest actions;
- the terms and conditions of any written agreement between the student and WIN College are breached;
- the student who breaches their visa conditions or fails to meet course requirements.

2. Refunds

Refund applications following a request for transfer, deferral or change of mind will incur an AUD\$500.00 withdrawal fee, except in the case of visa refusal prior to the course commencement date as indicated on the Offer Letter and the Education Program Agreement.

2.1. If a student's visa is refused prior to the commencement date, WIN College will refund the pre-paid tuition fees, deposit and/or tuition fees paid minus the lesser of:

- a. 5% of the amount of course fees received by WIN College in respect of the student before the default day;
- b. \$500.

Note that if visa refusal is due to instances outlined in Section 1: Overview above, NO refund will apply.

2.2. If a student's visa is refused after course commencement, WIN College will refund the unused tuition fee.

Note that if the visa refusal is due to instances outlined in Section 1: Overview above, NO refund will apply.

- 2.3 A. In the event of a student transferring, deferring or changing their mind from a course, before commencing 6 months of their principal course, no refund will be paid.
- B. In the event of a student withdrawing from a course or study period, after completing 6 months of their principal course, and the student has paid at least 6 months' tuition fees, an application for a refund must be made in writing to WIN College. This is subject to the approval of transfer or withdrawal from the course by WIN College.

Note that this clause will only apply if the pre-paid tuition fees, deposit and/or tuition fees paid is equivalent to at least a 6 month's fee.

- a. If the notice is received by WIN College at least 28 days before the course or study period starts, WIN College will refund 80% of tuition fees paid for the course or study period.
- b. If the notice is received by WIN College prior to, but less than 28 days before the course or study period starts, WIN College will refund 50% of tuition fees paid for the course or study period.

- c. A student who requests for a deferral of course commencement and then applies for a withdrawal prior to the commencement of the revised start date will be entitled to a 30% refund of the initial tuition deposit amount, less an AUD\$500.00 withdrawal fee.
- d. If the notice is received by WIN College on or after the course or study period starting date, no refund will be made.
- e. **Student Requests Withdrawal (International Students)**
 - i. A student who has been issued a CoE for a course(s) with WIN, has not had a release request approved, and holds a visa type that does not restrict them from ongoing studies, will not be entitled to receive a refund for any initial deposit and tuition fees amount.
 - ii. A student who withdraws after the commencement date of a study period will not be entitled to any refund of tuition fees or initial deposit amounts paid in advance. (This applies even if a student's withdrawal date is before the Census Date of their first period of study).

If an exceptional circumstance exists, WIN College may consider an application for a refund on a case-by-case basis. Examples of exceptional circumstances are a prolonged medical condition requiring hospitalization or trauma requiring continued mental health evaluation by a professional counsellor, psychologists, or psychiatrist.

The course or study period (3 months) as mentioned in the above clause is advertised and accessible under the WIN College Academic Calendar website.

2.3. Approved refunds will be paid:

- a. within 4 weeks after the day of default in the case of visa refusal (or where WIN College has not entered into a written agreement with the student); or
- b. within 4 weeks from when WIN College receives a written claim from the student.

2.4. Refunds must be paid either to the student or the person specified in the agreement between WIN College and the student.

2.5. In the event of WIN College defaulting*, WIN College will advise the student in writing of the institution's default and how the institution intends to fulfil their obligations under the ESOS Act, within 14 days of the day of default, of the:

- a. total unexpended tuition fee may be refunded to the student; OR
- b. WIN College may offer an alternative (replacement) course or part of a course in accordance with subsection 46D (4). The student must advise in writing within fourteen days whether the student accepts this arrangement.

In circumstances where a default has occurred and WIN College cannot satisfy their obligations, the TPS Director will be advised. The TPS Director will then invite relevant providers to participate in a placement round.

** If a provider ceases to offer a course or courses before the student has finished the*

course, this is 'provider default' under the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000. The default date is the date where WIN College stopped providing the course. Provider defaults can include the course not starting on the agreed starting day; the course ceasing before it is completed, or the course not being provided in full to the student, and the student having not withdrawn before the default day.

3. General

The fees refund policy does not prevent students from taking further action under Australian Consumer Protection laws. Students should also avail themselves of WIN College's *Academic Grievance Handling Policy and Procedure for Students* before seeking further advice from the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

4. Publication

The WIN College Student Handbook.

5. Legal and Policy Framework

- The *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act)
- The National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (National Code 2018)
- National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011
- Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015
- Department of Education – Tuition Protection Service (TPS)