

## Frequently Asked Question –

### Delivering VET Sector Courses in CRICOS-registered Schools

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Depending on the choice of subjects a student elects to complete while working towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) credit points may be awarded which contribute towards VET qualifications such as a Certificate II, III or IV. When **embedded** within an overseas student's QCE studies, these VET courses are viewed as a 'bonus qualification' on top of the Year 11-12 outcome

#### ***Do embedded VET courses need to be separately registered on CRICOS?***

VET courses delivered to overseas students as a part of their regular timetabled studies at school do not require a separate CRICOS registration. This is because such courses are incorporated into the student's QCE studies for which they were issued a CoE, and they do not meet the minimum attendance requirement specified in Part C of the National Code.

#### ***Who can deliver embedded VET courses to overseas students?***

VET qualifications embedded in a QCE can be offered to overseas students by:

- The CRICOS-registered school itself (if it holds its own RTO registration for that course); or
- A separate *Registered Training Organisation (RTO)*. In this case, course delivery may take place at the school itself, or off-campus at the RTO's facility. An RTO offering a course under this type of arrangement is not required to hold its own CRICOS registration.

However:

- The school must declare the details of the arrangement to the Queensland State Regulator i.e. *International Quality (Schools) Unit*. This notification can be provided by email and include details such as the RTO's name and registration number, name of the course, location where the course will be delivered, travel arrangements for overseas students if the course is to be delivered off campus.
- The school must communicate to overseas parents and students in its marketing and enrolment materials that it has a course delivery arrangement with the RTO.
- The school, as the holder of CRICOS registration, is responsible for the actions of the RTO and must ensure that the provider delivers its education services to overseas students in accordance with compliance requirements set out under the ESOS Act and the standards of the National Code 2007. For example:

- ✓ Standard 1 – any promotional or enrolment materials (including application forms) created by the RTO in relation to course delivery at the school must carry the school’s legal entity name and CRICOS code.
- ✓ Standard 2 – all required course information must be provided to overseas students *prior* to accepting enrolment in the course
- ✓ Standard 8 – overseas student complaints and appeals processes apply, where relevant.
- ✓ Standard 10 - course progress must be monitored with formal intervention being offered, as required. The student’s progress in the course and overall compliance with the student visa requirement is considered in accordance with the provider’s course progress definition.
- ✓ Standard 11 - attendance must be monitored with absences contributing to the student’s overall attendance count for the semester.

The RTO registration for embedded AQTF qualifications of this nature is managed by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) under a delegation from the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). The qualifications are therefore subject to a QCAA AQTF audit.

***What if the VET course being delivered by the school is not embedded in the student’s QCE studies?***

Some schools are also RTOs with approval to offer stand-alone higher level AQTF qualifications. The courses are not associated with the QCE.

Stand-alone VET courses are registered separately on CRICOS and must meet the criteria for registration within the National Code. Schools offering these courses develop separate CRICOS policies and procedures associated with the AQTF qualifications. ASQA is the regulator responsible for the each course’s registration on CRICOS and for checking the compliance of any policies and procedures against the National Code. Such schools therefore become dual-sector CRICOS providers - regulated by both the State (for the school courses) and ASQA (for the stand-alone VET courses).

***Can an overseas student study a stand-alone VET course with an RTO that isn’t CRICOS-registered?***

Some overseas students in Year 11-12 at school express interest in enrolling in a stand-alone VET course with a registered training organisation to obtain an AQF qualification. In this type of scenario, the student’s senior secondary studies are referred to as the ‘primary’ course for which a CoE has been issued and the AQF award course is recognised as the student’s ‘secondary’ course.

A full-fee paying overseas student who seeks to undertake a secondary course of study which results in a full AQF qualification being issued, must enrol in a CRICOS-registered course offered by a CRICOS registered RTO. The student’s participation in the secondary course must not interfere with the overseas student’s enrolment in the primary course of study.

***What about recreational courses or units of competency?***

There are no enrolment restrictions on full-fee paying overseas students seeking to participate in recreational courses such as yoga, cookery or art classes.

Full fee paying overseas students may also enrol with a non-CRICOS registered provider for a course that is:

- non-award (i.e. not leading to an AQF qualification as the student's final outcome)
- only offering individual units of competency which, upon completion of the course, allow the student to obtain a *Statement of Attainment* (as opposed to a full AQF qualification). Examples may include first aid courses, lifesaving courses
- under 12 weeks duration

***Can an overseas student enrol in another course of study once they've finished their Year 11-12 course at school?***

*If Year 11-12 is the student's final course of study in Australia:* If time remains on the student's visa once the primary course of study has been completed, the student may enrol in another course. The provider offering the additional course during the time remaining on the student's existing visa need not be CRICOS registered. DIPB will usually issue student visas with an end date falling no more than 12 weeks after primary course's completion. Such courses, if sought by an overseas student, will therefore by default be most likely under the 3 month duration required for CRICOS registration.

*If the student holds a CoE and visa for continuing studies in Australia:* After completion of Year 11 and 12, a full-fee paying overseas student may enrol in a course with a non-registered CRICOS provider in between CoEs, so long as the chosen course is under 12 weeks duration.

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For further information please contact the International Quality (Schools) Unit either via email at [cricosreg@det.qld.gov.au](mailto:cricosreg@det.qld.gov.au) or telephone on (07) 3513 6748