

Frequently Asked Questions –

Obligations for the provision of ESL Support

Question:

I am enquiring about the amount of ESL support for full-fee paying (non-migrant/resident) International students to be provided in independent schools in Years 7 to 12.

Is it an hourly rate, and how is it monitored?

Is it based on English language levels?

Does an external body enforce this or is it up to the school?

Answer:

ESOS legislation (including *The National Code 2007*) does not prescribe an amount of ESL support for full fee paying international students in any year level.

To be compliant with Standard 2.1(a) and 2.2 of the National Code, providers must:

- Communicate to parents and students (prior to enrolment) the school's minimum English language requirements for a course, and
- Have a documented procedure to assess a student's English language ability for that course before they are enrolled. There must be evidence that the procedure is actually implemented (this would normally take place during the 'application phase').

Schools therefore have the autonomy to set their own English language benchmarks and will assess student suitability for a course according to their own procedure. Evidence of English language ability might come in the form of formal test results, recent school report cards, interviews (by phone or in person), or some other form of evidence considered acceptable by the school.

Where students don't meet the school's prescribed English language entry requirements, schools might:

- Refuse the application

- Make enrolment 'conditional' upon the student showing evidence in the future that he/she has achieved the English language requirement before the course is due to commence. In such cases, the school might recommend the student enrol in a suitable English preparation course with a CRICOS registered provider, or, suggest that the student arrange this while still offshore.
- Confirm the enrolment, but specify the condition in the written agreement that additional English language tuition is required (either at the school or privately) and that this expense is to be met by the parent.

Where an international student has been assessed as having met the school's English language requirement, but the school subsequently finds that additional English language support is needed, the cost of such support (whether in class or outside school hours) will be at the school's own expense - *unless* the written agreement specifies that such an expense is to be paid for by the parent.

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