

GUIDE TO RENEWING YOUR STUDENT VISA

This guide assists international students in relation to what to do if they will not complete their course before expiry of their Student Visa.

1. Can I renew my student visa?

You are actually not able to renew a visa, as it has a set expiry date. However, you may be able to apply for a new student visa, as described below.

2. In what circumstances may I apply for a new student visa?

If you have a valid reason for not being able to complete your course in time, you may be eligible to apply for a new student visa. A valid reason may include:

- a) Your current visa is set to expire before you can complete your study because you have failed subjects, or had a deferral or suspension.
- b) You have commenced a new course.
- c) Your first visa was cancelled administratively by the Department of Home Affairs, without prevention of you applying for a new one.

3. If I need to apply for a new student visa, when should I apply?

You should apply no earlier than 4 months before your current student visa expires. However, leave as much time within that as possible, to allow for possible processing delays.

4. What if I breached the terms of my existing student visa?

If you breached the terms and conditions of your existing student visa, you should seek the advice of a registered migration agent or lawyer. Equinim College is not a registered migration agent and cannot provide advice in this area.

5. What documents do I need to have ready?

You need to show extension of your Overseas Student Health Cover (“**OSHC**”) to cover the full duration of your course, and you also need to obtain a new Confirmation of Enrolment (“**CoE**”) from Equinim College.

6. How do I extend my OSHC?

Contact your insurer (where your OSHC is held) and let them know you need to extend the period of cover. They will provide you with the relevant form you need to complete for this purpose, and advise you of their process.

7. How do I request a new CoE?

Before you apply for a new visa, make sure to check your CoE end date. This is the original Confirmation of Enrolment you received from Equinim College when you enrolled. Your CoE contains your start date and expected end date of your

course. If the end date does not provide sufficient time for you to complete your course, please contact the Student Services Team to request a new CoE.

8. How do I apply for a new student visa?

Go to the Department of Home Affairs website to apply:

<https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/tools/immiaccount>

After creating your ImmiAccount, you can choose to “Start and manage and application”. See also information on “After you apply”.

9. What if I am applying from outside Australia?

If you do not hold a current visa and you are overseas, you will have to wait until the Australian Government issues your student visa before you return to Australia. You should plan for this and take into account potential processing delays, given the current pandemic.

10. Can I apply from within Australia?

Yes you can apply for your new student visa from within Australia. You will be allowed to stay in Australia for as long as it takes for the Australian Government to process your new student visa application.

11. Does my existing visa authorise me to apply for a new student visa?

You must check that you do not have any conditions on your existing student visa that say, “No further stay”. If you have this condition, you are not allowed to apply for a further visa after your current one expires.

12. What if my existing visa expires while the Government is still processing my new visa application?

If this is the case, the Australian Government will provide you with a Bridging Visa, which will only become active when your existing student visa expires. The Bridging Visa will then cover you while the new visa application is being processed.

13. What if I need to leave Australia while my application is being processed?

If you are applying from within Australia, and you need to leave Australia for any reason while your new visa application is being processed, you will need to apply for another type of Bridging Visa to authorise your exit and re-entry. The Department of Home Affairs can give you more information.

14. What if I need to contact the Department of Home Affairs?

If you have a query for the Department of Home Affairs, you can contact them via this webpage: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-and-support/contact-us>

15. Ongoing support

Throughout your course, we are here to support you in every way we can to enjoy your studies in Australia. Contact us at any time – we love hearing from you.

T: 1800 338 883

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W: www.equinimcollege.com