



Department of
Education

GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT GUIDE

> SCHOOL STUDENT VISA HOLDERS



On behalf of the Department of Education, TAFE International Western Australia (TIWA) manages the placement; fee collection; and welfare of international students. All offers are made in accordance with the Department of Education's *Enrolment of Overseas Students Schedule*.



**International
Western Australia**




The school is very different to the school I came from in China. I have made many friends from within and outside of the school. I feel happy to study in this school with my new friends. We go bowling and I have learnt to play netball which I never played in China. I have a fantastic homestay and have lived there for over two years. They are Australian and very nice and kind. I love them! I like Australia because it is a beautiful environment with a good education.

EVA | CHINA | SECONDARY SCHOOL



Disclaimer:

Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this document is correct at the time of printing, however changes may have been made since that date. The most up-to-date and accurate information is provided on the website at [tafeinternational.wa.edu.au](https://www.tafeinternational.wa.edu.au) 

TAFE International Western Australia reserves the right to alter any date, fee, admission requirement or other arrangement without prior notice.

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Perth and Western Australia

We are delighted that you are considering Western Australia as a possible study destination for your children's school studies.

It's a big decision to choose to study overseas and your children's study experience is not just about the school you choose, but the location and lifestyle on offer.

Perth is the capital of Western Australia and is one of Australia's most dynamic and prosperous cities. It offers a great mix of city life and cultural experiences, as well as clear blue skies, white sandy beaches and beautiful parklands and gardens.

Western Australia is in the same time-zone as many Asian regions and is a direct flight away from a number of capital cities in Asia, Africa, and the Gulf States. This is important if you plan to return home during study breaks or if you have family who wish to visit you while you are studying.

The climate in the south of Western Australia, including Perth, is a beautiful Mediterranean style with warm to hot, dry summers and mild, wet winters.

About TAFE International Western Australia

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Public education - discover a world of opportunities

As a State Government agency, the Department of Education has more than 800 public schools across Western Australia – from bustling city and regional centres to some of the most remote parts of the state.

Public schools are co-educational - catering for both boys and girls. Children turning four years of age by the end of June may start Kindergarten. Compulsory schooling begins in pre-primary for children turning five years of age by the end of June. Compulsory schooling ends in Year 12.

Public schools provide high-quality education, helping children and young people reach their potential whatever their abilities, wherever they live and whatever their backgrounds.

Each school - like each community - is distinctive. Parents and communities play a key role in creating a unique ethos for their school and help shape the school's directions. The Principal also plays a vital role by leading the school and selecting the best teachers and support staff.

Many public schools are approved to accept international students. Students experience a system that is designed for the needs of Australians but which also proudly supports a truly international education.

From the youngest learners through to the most senior school students, public schools allow children and young people to discover a world of opportunities.

Approved schools

Schools approved by the Department to accept overseas students are listed on the TIWA website at: tafeinternational.wa.edu.au/available 

School preference

When considering your school preferences please note the following:

- > Your residential address does not guarantee your children a place at your local school.
- > A school must have an appropriate educational programs and sufficient classroom accommodation.
- > The enrolment of overseas fee-paying students is at the discretion of the school Principal.
- > Due to high demand for places in Western Australian public schools, your first preference of school may not be available.
- > Overseas fee-paying students are not eligible to enrol in Gifted and Talented Secondary Selective Entrance Programs.

TAFE International Western Australia reserves the right to offer students an alternative school if the preferred school is not available at the time of payment.



Primary school

In Western Australia, students on their own student visa can apply to study at a primary school from the age of 6 years. Classes are generally organised into year groups.

Years Pre-primary to 6

Primary school teachers are trained to inspire, motivate and build confidence in students. They work closely with parents to ensure each child thrives at school. Teachers keep parents updated on their children's progress both informally and formally through school reporting processes.

In primary school, students have the same teacher for most of the day. Some schools may also have specialist teachers for subjects such as music, art, physical education and languages other than English.

Class sizes are generally between 25 to 32 children, depending on the type of school and its location. Classes may also consist of split year levels, with students from different year levels in the same class.

Facilities in Primary Schools

Primary schools are designed and built to provide students with safe, stimulating learning environments.


The design of schools takes into account the needs of each year group and phases of learning. In some schools, designs have been changed to meet special needs and enable more flexible arrangement of classes and activities.

Students from Kindergarten to Year 2 often have large purpose designed spaces equipped with their own toilets, sinks and sheltered play areas. Older students may have activity areas close to their classrooms. Many schools have purpose designed music and art rooms and large undercover areas for assemblies and school performances.

Curriculum

Students are taught across the learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education and Languages. The Australian Curriculum is progressively being implemented.

The Western Australian Curriculum and Assessment sets out the knowledge, understandings, skills, values and attitudes that all students from Kindergarten to Year 10 are expected to acquire. It also includes the curriculum, guiding principles for teaching, learning and assessment and support for teachers in their assessment and reporting of student achievement.

More information on the Australian Curriculum is available on the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) website at k10outline.scsa.wa.edu.au/ 



Secondary school

In Western Australia public secondary school runs from Year 7 to 12. Students start Year 7, the first year of secondary school, in the year they turn 12 years old by 30 June in most instances.

Years 7 to 10

Lower secondary school education continues to build on learning in primary school. Students study across the learning areas of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education and Languages.

Years 11 and 12

The Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) is awarded to secondary school students who satisfy prescribed requirements. Generally, students will complete two years of senior secondary study to achieve the WACE. Students can study a mixture of the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR), vocational education and training (VET) programs and endorsed programs. Not all schools offer the entire range of general and VET courses.

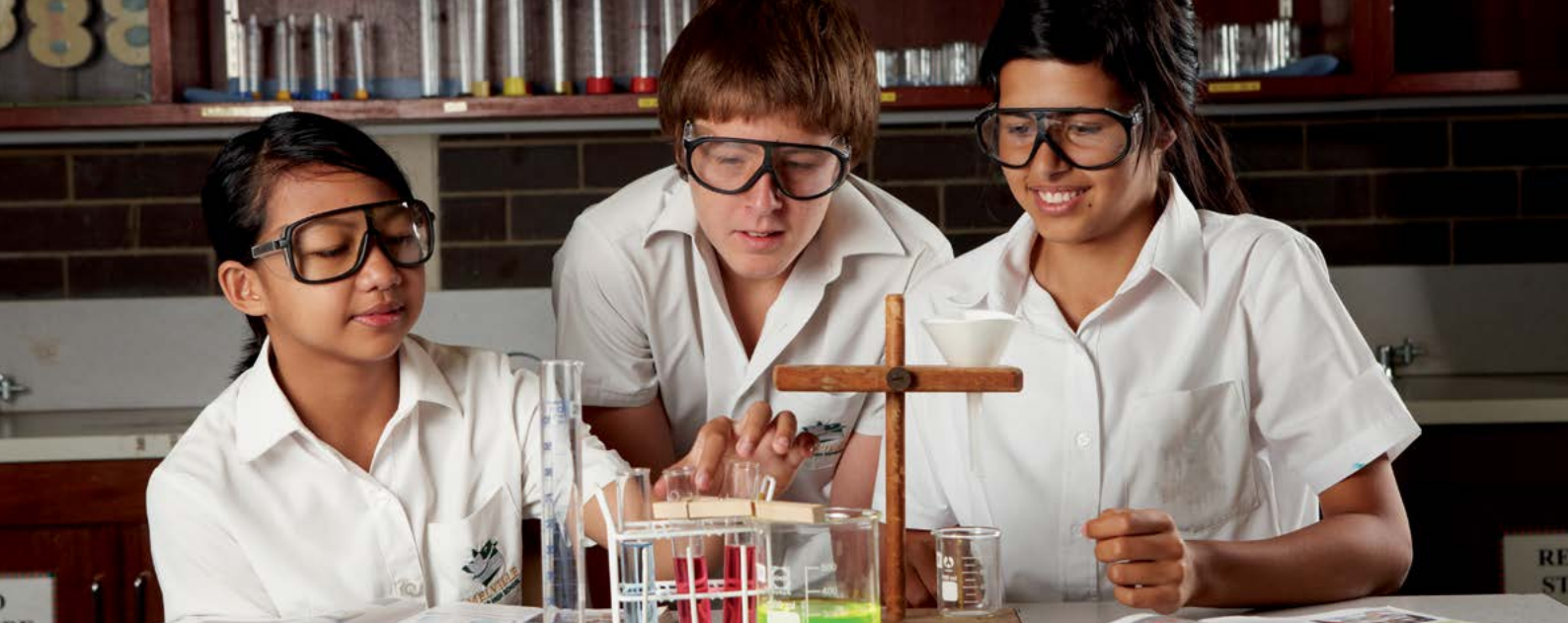
The WACE is recognised by:

- > **Universities** – for entry into undergraduate programs
- > **Industry** – for entry into the workforce
- > **Training providers** – for entry into practically oriented training programs which prepare people for work.

To achieve a WACE, students will be required to:

- > demonstrate a minimum standard of literacy and a minimum standard of numeracy based on the skills regarded as essential for individuals to meet the demands of everyday life and work in a knowledge-based economy; students can demonstrate they meet these standards by passing the Online Literacy and Numberacy Assessment (OLNA) in Year 10, 11, or 12 or through prequalification through the Year 9 NAPLAN.
- > complete a minimum of 20 units or equivalents,
 - > a minimum of 10 Year 12 units or equivalent; and
 - > two completed Year 11 English units and one pair of completed Year 12 English units
 - > one pair of Year 12 course units from each of List A (arts/English/languages/social sciences) and List B (mathematics/science/technology)
- > complete four or more Year 12 ATAR courses or complete a Certificate II or higher.

For a comprehensive outline of the WACE and the courses available, visit the SCSA website [scsa.wa.edu.au](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au) 



Secondary school (cont.)

Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) - university entrance score

The ATAR is a number that indicates a student's position in relation to all other Western Australian students of Year 12 school leaving age. It takes into account the number of students with a Tertiary Entrance Aggregate (TEA) as well as the number of students of Year 12 school leaving age in the population of Western Australia.

The ATAR results allow the Tertiary Institutions Service Centre (TISC) to compare students across Australia for public university places. The ATAR is recognised internationally.

To find out more about the ATAR refer to the visit the TISC website and click on 'About ATAR': www.tisc.edu.au 

Facilities in secondary schools

Secondary schools are built to international standards and are set in landscaped grounds with high-quality buildings and facilities which ensure students are able to study in safe, inclusive and welcoming environments.

Many secondary schools have specialist facilities such as art, music, performing and creative arts areas, science laboratories, libraries and sports facilities. They also have canteens/student cafeterias, air conditioning and undercover areas.

Independent public schools

Some public schools have greater autonomy over staffing, budgets and operations. They are known as Independent Public Schools.

These schools, in collaboration with their school communities set their own strategic directions, have authority for day to day decision making and are in an ideal position to make decisions that best cater for their students. Although they are called Independent Public Schools, these schools remain part of the public school system and continue to work within policy, legislation and industrial agreements.

Pastoral care

The pastoral care provided by teachers ensures students are given a feeling of belonging, support to develop a positive self image and help to manage the successes and disappointments in their life.

Effective pastoral care in public schools is underpinned by a positive school environment where:

- > teacher-student relationships are based on trust and mutual respect;
- > each student's physical, social, intellectual and emotional development is promoted; and
- > there are strong partnerships between the school, parents and community.



Reporting on student achievement

Student achievement and progress are monitored and reported throughout the school year.

Parents receive a formal report on their children's progress twice a year, at the end of each semester. This report includes details of academic achievement.

Teachers also update parents about their children's progress at parent-teacher interviews by contacting them directly or communicating via student diaries.


The National Assessment Program (NAPLAN)

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an assessment of all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia. All Western Australian public schools are required to conduct the NAPLAN tests that assess reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy.

The test scores help teachers to identify students' strengths and areas where they may require extra help. They also provide a snapshot of student achievement in comparison to all students in the same year level across Australia. Parents can use individual test results to discuss their children's achievements and progress with teachers.


Quality accreditation

Legal and regulatory compliance

TIWA acts under the Australian Government's Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) legislation and is registered under the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) cricos.education.gov.au  CRICOS provider code: 01723A.

ESOS Act and national code

The Australian Government wants international students in Australia to have safe, enjoyable and quality study experiences. Australian laws promote high-quality education and consumer protection for overseas students. These laws are known as the ESOS (Education Services for Overseas Students) framework and they include the ESOS Act and the National Code.

Australian Education International provides information about ESOS and your rights as an international student in Australia. This information can be found at internationaleducation.gov.au .



English language requirements and programs

The success of any study program in Australia depends on international students having sound English skills.

Intensive English Centres (IEC)

Additional tuition fees of \$3,000 a year apply.

IEC Intensive English Centres (IECs) provide an integrated 12 month English language program to eligible Stage 1 students who are in the early stages of English language acquisition - primarily those who are newly arrived in Western Australia. IECs have continuous enrolments and exit students into mainstream schooling at the end of each term (primary) or the end of each semester (secondary).

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Additional tuition fees of \$1,500 a year apply.

ESL specialist support is provided at selected schools for students who have either moved from Intensive English Centres to mainstream schooling or students who require English language support to access the curriculum.

Testing

English testing results and Academic reports will be considered when determining the IEC requirement of each applicant. AEAS, STEP Eiken, IELTS and TOEFL iBT test scores will only form part of the overall assessment.

Further testing of applicants will be undertaken by the school on arrival which may alter the assessment made at application.

Specialist support

Additional fees apply for students with disability or requiring English language support.

Students with disability

Students with disability may require specialist disability provision or support to participate in education. An additional fee may apply for placement in a mainstream school or in a specialist disability provision.

Student eligibility for placement in specialist disability provision is determined on a case by case basis by the Department of Education prior to placement.

Total costs for the overseas tuition fee and specialist support fee may be as high as \$25,000 per year.



Accommodation

Western Australian public schools do not offer residential accommodation to students.

Local guardians

Students under 18 years old are required to have local guardians. If a student intends to live with a relative in Perth, the relative can nominate to the Department of Home Affairs homeaffairs.gov.au to be the guardian.

Australian Homestay Network

If the student does not nominate a relative, then TIWA requires the student to live in homestay accommodation organised by Australian Homestay Network (AHN).

Homestay is when students live with an Australian family. AHN is the accommodation provider in Western Australia. For more information about AHN visit homestaynetwork.org

An AHN Homestay student is provided with:

- > a clean fully furnished room
- > a supportive family environment in which to live
- > meals (see below options)
- > utilities (however, overseas telephone calls and internet usage can be negotiated)
- > AHN 24/7 professional telephone support
- > AHN Contents Insurance for students and hosts (as per AHN Insurance Policy)

Costs associated with homestay

Placement fee	\$350.00*
Airport transfer (mandatory for minors)	\$170.00* (Perth metropolitan area)
Homestay fee (3 meals per day, private room)	\$440.00* a week

*Indicative fees (subject to change)

Please note: Homestay accommodation is only available in the metropolitan area. Regional placements will only be considered where a parent nominated homestay can be arranged.



Important dates

Western Australian public school term dates

Dates for primary and secondary students in public schools in Western Australia (all dates are inclusive).

	2026*	2027**
Term 1	2 February - 2 April	1 February - 9 April
Term 2	20 April - 3 July	26 April - 2 July
Term 3	20 July - 25 September	19 July - 24 September
Term 4	12 October - 17 December	11 October - 16 December

* Gazetted term dates, however they do not include school development (pupil free days). Schools will schedule three days where students do not attend.

** Preliminary dates only, still to be confirmed.



Tuition fees

Years Pre-primary to 6	Years 7 to 10	Years 11 and 12
\$14,575 a year	\$17,286 a year	\$18,980 a year

Overseas student health cover is approximately A\$760 per year.

All tuition fees are reviewed annually. If tuition fees are increased you will be required to pay the new fees as they are introduced. Fees for additional services for specialist language and support programs are paid to TIWA.

Other costs

The following fees and expenses are not included in the tuition fee and are paid directly to the school.

- > overseas student health cover is approximately A\$760 per year (subject to change)
- > school books (Years 7 to 12)
- > contributions, charges and fees
- > excursions, incursions and school camps
- > school uniform
- > sports uniform
- > transport to and from school
- > School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA) fees
- > leasing or purchasing of computers
- > stationery
- > personal items
- > optional charges for activities such as golf, hockey, school ball, buying a leaver's jumper



Application Procedure



Choose a school



Prepare your documents



Submit an application



Accept your offer and pay



Apply for your student visa



Receive your visa and come to Australia to start your studies



In some countries you may find it helpful or convenient to seek the assistance of one of our education agents. They are available to assist you with your application and visa. Please go to tafeinternational.wa.edu.au/agents for details of your nearest agent.

1. Choose a school

Select at least four schools from the approved schools list on TIWA's website tafeinternational.wa.gov.au/available

Due to a high demand for places in Western Australian public schools, your first preference may not be available.

At this time you need to detail your welfare arrangements and state if children will be living with a parent, using Homestay or staying with a Department of Home Affairs approved blood relative.

2. Prepare your documents

Prepare the documents which must be submitted with the application. Please make sure you include:

- > Previous education results and transcripts (latest copies in English).
- > A copy of the child's passport.

3. Apply online

For the quickest response and turnaround, apply online at tafeinternational.wa.edu.au



4. Accept your offer and pay

Successful applicants receive a Letter of Offer and information on how to accept. You may receive a conditional offer if your application is incomplete. The offer details enrolment information (school, year of enrolment, commencement date and tuition fees).

Acceptance and welfare

To accept the offer, sign and return the acceptance letter, make the payment indicated in the schedule of fees and meet any conditions listed in the Letter of Offer.

Confirmation of Enrolment

Once your welfare arrangements have been accepted by TIWA and payment made, you will be issued with a Confirmation of Enrolment. This confirms a place in a public school and is needed to complete a student visa application. When you receive the Confirmation of Enrolment you will receive the school details. You are required to make an appointment with the school to complete the enrolment.

A condition of enrolment is that you give authority for your personal information to be provided to the Australian Government (Commonwealth) and state agencies, overseas student health cover providers, the Department of Training and Workforce Development and Department of Education.

5. Apply for a student visa

Students can use an education agent to assist with making the visa application or apply directly to the nearest Australian High Commission.

6. Make travel arrangements

Ensure all travel arrangements are finalised to arrive at least a few days before your course starts. Please note, you will only be able to arrive from the date listed on your welfare letter. Please make sure all visa and travel arrangements are made well in advance.

TIWA reserves the right to offer students a different school if capacity at the preferred school is no longer available at time of payment.

More information can be found on the web
tafeinternational.wa.edu.au

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