

Welcome to our new factsheet. The content of this factsheet is based on questions and comments we've received through engagement with our Educational Advisors over the past few weeks. It includes commentary on current topics in the Australian international education industry as well as updates on Navitas English processes and changes. We hope you find it useful.

## **NEW Questions and thoughts**

### **What documents are needed for Navitas English to review for a change from a tourist visa to a student visa onshore?**

If you have an applicant in this category, ensure that you provide a copy of the Genuine Student (GS) statement that the applicant needs to submit to DHA as part of their student visa application to us. Clearly address why the applicant did not apply for a student visa in the first instance. It is also important to evidence all the GS factors. For example, if in the GS statement, the applicant notes that they will gain better employment prospects after studying English in Australia, they may evidence this by showing an employment letter for their current employer with an increased salary for the new English skill or providing remuneration comparison for those with and without English aptitude.

You must evidence the applicant's financial capacity, irrespective of whether they are asked by DHA, to show the applicant's well-positioned economic circumstance in their home country. It is crucial to convince DHA that the tourist visa is not used to enter Australia and their subsequent student visa application is not to prolong their stay in Australia.

### **Can a student who holds a current eCOE with another provider transfer to study at Navitas English?**

If the applicant is transferring within the first six months of their principal course studies, a release from their principal provider is required before they can transfer to Navitas English. It is also important for the applicant to clearly read their principal provider's terms and conditions on transferring to another provider and cancelling their course. The applicant should also check with DHA to ensure that their student visa is not affected by the transfer to another provider.

In addition to submitting a completed application form and the relevant supporting documents, we also require the applicant to provide us with a reason on why they would like to transfer to us and the certificate from the current education provider for our records.

Allow at least 2 weeks between the last day of their studies with the principal provider and commencing studies with us for the cancellation and release to be completed. It can be a stressful time for applicants who are 'in limbo' as each education provider has their own set of policies and procedures. The 2-week leeway will allow the applicant to fully engage with Navitas English from orientation until the end of their studies with us, without the added stress.

It is important to understand that even if the applicant has paid their fees to Navitas English, we will only allow them to commence class when we are able to issue an e-COE. If the principal provider does not confirm the release, we will not be able to proceed further with their enrolment and will initiate a refund of their fees.

### **What type of profile of student may/will require additional documentation and/or Genuine Student Requirements (GSR) screening?**

Navitas English conduct GSR screening on all offshore applicants from assessment level 3 countries. We reserve the right to undertake GSR screening on applicants whose profiles pose weaknesses in meeting the GSR. Some of the examples of those weak GSR profiles are lengthy gaps in studies or employment or both, prior visa refusal or entry refusal history, mature aged applicant that require financial sponsorship for their studies in Australia, or applicants who are citizens of a country but residing in another.

For onshore applicants who are extending their student visa onshore, follow the same guidelines as applicants who are switching from a tourist visa to a student visa onshore – provide Navitas English with the GS statement and evidence all the GS factors, we also ask for applicants to supply us with the certificate of completion from their last provider. It is crucial to ensure that the student visa extension is genuinely showing progression with a clear educational and career pathway.

## When I look at the Educational Agreement, I see recruitment territory listed, what does this mean?

In the agreement, territories are listed for the areas you can recruit from. For example, if you have a territory of Australia, you can recruit any student onshore regardless of their citizenship. If you have a region of Spain and no other territory, you are only able to recruit students from Spain.

## Existing Questions and Commentary

### What is the purpose for the new Genuine Student Requirements (GSR)?

The purpose of GSR is to clarify the assessment of a student's intention to genuinely study in Australia and to remove the confusion about whether the student can express a desire to migrate to Australia.

The [GSR](#) focuses on the assessment of the student's genuine intention to study in Australia, having regard to a number of factors, including the applicant's circumstances, evidence of course progression, immigration history, compliance with visa conditions and other relevant matters. To be granted a student visa, all applicants must demonstrate they satisfy the genuine student criterion or the genuine student dependent criterion.

### What's the impact of GSR?

It is too early to say what the impact may be but needless to say, these changes in addition to policy changes recently announced may result in a very cautious approach from a student application perspective.

### What's needed when making a student visa application?

Clear and transparent information must be provided that is truthful. Vague statements may/will detract from the application. Supporting [documentation](#) is vital and providing these ensures a robust overview of the students current and future scenario.

**ALWAYS** provide [financials](#) to support the capacity of the students living and study costs **even if not required**. Clearly, these are expected due to commentary I have reviewed in multiple Australian visa refusal letters. Each application needs to be the best application submitted the first time. Too frequently, I have noticed **additional information being provided post a student visa refusal which may have been available to support the initial application**.

### Why it's critical to ensure the students application with Navitas English is correct and complete first time?

By completing to application form correctly and in full the first time, and every time, the Letter of Offer is only hours from being issued. Attention to course and intake dates with supporting documentation is key. If you've supplied incorrect detail at the application stage, the application will need to be resubmitted. Review the [video](#) for additional information or the [factsheet](#).

### What is the impact of changing from a tourist visa to a student visa onshore?

The 'no further stay' provision is not new however, there is some concern that where an applicant holds a visitor/tourist visa they may be using their current visa as a way of gaining entry to Australia to then apply for a student visa to prolong their stay, which is not the intention of the visa system. This is one of the reasons why this is a focus.

Yes, we are still accepting students who gained entry to Australia on a tourist visa. Careful consideration is undertaken to ensure that the [duration](#) of study is limited to the rights of the tourist visa issued. Post the enrolment stage an eCOE is not provided.

### How will Navitas English adapt to changes and visa refusal increases?

All student applications from an assessment level three countries will undergo GSR assessment with immediate effect.

For agents representing an assessment level three country that have been exempt from GTE, there is no change (at this stage).

Whilst concerns have been raised about some assessment level two countries and the spike in visa rejections, no further changes will be applied at this stage, but we reserve the right to ask targeted questions for specific applications, including supporting materials.

In many respects, this a business-as-usual approach so send the completed application for and documents to Navitas English admissions team and should they deem that the applicant needs to undergo GSR assessment, a Conditional Offer Letter will be issued, along with Navitas English GSR Form and agent declaration form. The GSR form would amalgamate the GS statement required by DHA

for all student visa applications and other assessment factors that Navitas English review on. The agent declaration form confirms that you have done the relevant vetting process on your side.

Our GSR assessment will take 3-5 business days upon receipt of all documents. When we are satisfied that the applicant's profile is of low risk, our team will issue a full Offer Letter so the applicant can take necessary steps to accept the offer.

We will continue to monitor all visa refusals and work with each agent to understand the reasons and what learnings can be made. This review process is critical, especially where a student wishes to reapply, as we must have the confidence that the secondary application has solid merits.

## What are the future changes Navitas English may adopt in these uncertain times?

It is too early to say what additional measures we may elect to introduce. We all need to ensure that potential and current students are supported during this process, which is challenging and stressful. Occasionally hard decisions will be made but our focus is to ensure that each student is supported with clearly defined facts and outcomes - which is not always the case.

## How can we access Navitas English marketing material?

Access to our materials 24/7 and the agent pack is available from the website, reducing time delays in obtaining information when counselling a student. This self-serve model is working well where you can obtain an application form or know more about instalment plans, for example, without any delay.

**For more information contact us today!**

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