



Advice for Year 11 and 12 students seeking to travel to Australia

Limited exemption from travel restriction

International students in Years 11 and 12 in Australia who are currently overseas may apply for an exemption to COVID-19 travel restrictions. An exemption may be approved on a case by case basis if the Australian Border Force Commissioner is satisfied the student (and guardian, where applicable) meets requirements agreed with state and territory health and education authorities. This is an extension to the previous exemption which only applied to Chinese nationals.

Only students enrolled in states or territories who have elected to participate in the exemption scheme and who have been granted authority to travel from the Australian Border Force will be allowed entry to Australia. This authority must be granted *prior to* booking or commencing travel to Australia.

Students and their guardians (where applicable) **should not begin** their travel back to Australia, including booking travel, until they have confirmation of an exemption being granted by the Australian Border Force Commissioner that states they have authority to travel.

Who is eligible?

Students (and where applicable an accompanying guardian who already holds a guardian visa) must meet the following criteria:

- be a current international student visa holder
- be enrolled in an eligible year 11 or 12 course at an Australian school;
- not currently be unwell;
- be willing and able to meet quarantine requirements set out by state or territory health authorities.

The same conditions will apply to any accompanying guardian listed on the student's visa.

Implementation

Should they wish to, state and territory governments will be able to seek exemptions to COVID-19 travel restrictions for year 11 and 12 school students. The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment is actively communicating with the state and territory education departments on the specific application process for each state and territory. Nationally, the following process will apply:

1. The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, in conjunction with states and territories, confirms the students are enrolled in year 11 or 12.
2. Each state and territory health agency provides assurance the student's (and guardian's if necessary) self-isolation arrangements meet all health requirements within their jurisdiction.
3. The Australian Border Force and the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs confirm the student (and their guardian if necessary) have valid and existing visas and border checks have been completed.
4. The Australian Border Force considers each individual meets the criteria for exemption and advises the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment and Department of Health.
5. The Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment, will inform their state and territory counterparts of the outcome of the application for exemption.
6. State and territory education agencies will inform schools who will then inform students of exemptions or otherwise, as well as state and territory health authorities.
7. Applications for travel exemptions can be made through the Travel Exemption Portal (<https://travel-exemptions.homeaffairs.gov.au/tep>) on the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs website, with endorsement from the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment attached.
8. The Australian Border Force will provide uplift authority for exempt travellers, based on the travel information provided.
9. The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment will conduct health/biosecurity screening of all students and guardians at the border.
10. Students and guardians complete 14 days quarantine in line with state or territory requirements (immediately after arrival in Australia).

If students or guardians breach health regulations, their visa may be subject to cancellation.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I apply? Where is the application form?

Year 11 and 12 students who consider themselves eligible to apply for an exemption to travel restrictions should contact their school in the first instance.

Schools will work with State and Territory education authorities to determine students' eligibility before providing students' details to the Australian Government.

Students and schools should not apply directly to the Australian Border Force or Australian Government Department of Education, Skills, and Employment. All exemptions for year 11 and 12 international

students must be made through the state or territory government and must have support of the relevant state or territory health authority and education department.

Can students be accompanied by a guardian?

The exemption may be granted to an eligible student's guardian who already holds a valid guardian visa and meets the other criteria set out above.

What if a student is not contacted by their school?

Students who may be eligible for exemption and who have not been contacted by their school should approach their school directly.

Why is this exemption only available to Year 11 and 12 students (and not all international students)?

Year 11 and 12 students have strict school attendance requirements under state and territory regulations, which if not met could prevent them from being eligible to receive their senior secondary qualification. Further delay in their arrival would jeopardise their ability to meet course requirements and, for Year 12s, to complete their schooling this year.

The limited exemption from the travel restriction for Year 11 and 12 students has been developed in consultation with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

As Year 11 and 12 student cohorts are relatively small when compared with the larger international student cohort and spread out geographically within Australia, public health protections can be adequately maintained whilst allowing their entry.

How long will it take for an exemption?

This will depend on how long it takes to verify a student's eligibility. Decisions to exempt international students are at the discretion of the Australian Border Force Commissioner and will be treated on a case-by-case basis, informed by advice from state and territory health and education agencies. In the first instance, you should discuss options with your education provider.

More information?

Further information about health arrangements is available on the Australian Government Department of Health [website](#).

If you have questions about your visa, you should check your ImmiAccount. If you still have questions, refer to the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs [website](#).

If you are concerned about enrolment, fees or other issues related to your studies, contact your education provider. If your education provider cannot assist, please visit the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment [website](#) at or contact international.students@dese.gov.au. You can also call +61 1300 981 621 from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.