Australian Government
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

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TEQSA consultation on transnational education reporting and ESOS renewal application periods

August 2026

TEQSA

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Consultation #1: Transnational education reporting

Why we are seeking your feedback

On 4 December 2025, the *Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011* (the TEQSA Act) was amended to introduce new requirements for registered higher education providers (providers) engaged in the delivery of transnational higher education (TNE).

These new requirements include that providers delivering Australian higher education courses offshore must, by 31 October 2026, submit a report annually to TEQSA on their offshore delivery activities. Under the amendments, TEQSA may create a legislative instrument to specify the information required in the report and the manner in which it is reported.

The purpose of this consultation is to allow current and future providers of offshore higher education to offer input into TEQSA's proposed reporting requirements, which are outlined below.

Background

The delivery of high-quality TNE is an integral part of the Australian higher education sector. As Australia's national higher education regulator, TEQSA ensures that providers delivering offshore courses of study meets the requirements of the TEQSA Act and the *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021* (Threshold Standards).

With the significant growth in TNE, and the development of new markets and models, the Australian Government has introduced legislative changes that seek to provide TEQSA with the information needed to ensure that registered Australian providers continue to meet and uphold their legislative requirements relating to offshore delivery.

The *Education Legislation Amendment (Integrity and Other Measures) Act 2025* (ELA Act) amends the TEQSA Act so that providers seeking to engage in offshore delivery of higher education will be required to:

- receive authorisation from TEQSA to provide Australian courses of study offshore
- notify TEQSA of any new or changed offshore course provision arrangements
- provide an annual information report to TEQSA regarding courses of study delivered offshore.

Since these changes were made, TEQSA has worked to assist existing and future providers of offshore courses to meet these new requirements.

On 5 December 2025, TEQSA wrote to all providers to enable the ELA Act's transitional arrangements for providers already delivering courses offshore to have their authorisation confirmed, In that letter, TEQSA also outlined procedures for providers seeking to apply for authorisation to deliver offshore courses.

On 1 January 2026, TEQSA published detailed guidance for the sector on the authorisation application process and the new notification requirements for providers of offshore courses.

TEQSA has also worked closely with representatives from the sector on the form and content of the reporting requirements. During 2026, TEQSA has carried out several rounds of preliminary consultation on draft reporting requirements with a group of sector leaders who have extensive experience in offshore course delivery. This initial engagement phase was carried out to maximise alignment with the sector ahead of the current whole-of-sector consultation. The draft reporting requirements below reflect this initial engagement.

Proposed reporting requirements for offshore course delivery

TEQSA's approach

In specifying the information required to meet the new reporting requirements, TEQSA aims to encourage and strengthen providers' existing self-assurance practices for identifying, mitigating and managing risks to quality and integrity in the provision of offshore education.

In accordance with TEQSA's legislated regulatory principles of necessity, risk, and proportionality, TEQSA will adopt a tiered approach to the reporting requirements.

For the first year of reporting, the information requirements aim to capture core facts concerning offshore courses of study. In later years, TEQSA will refine the information requirements as needed according to legislative changes, the maturity of provider self-assurance practices, and emerging risks and the risk-focus areas identified in TEQSA's regulatory strategy and risk frameworks.

TEQSA is also conscious of minimising duplication in reporting. The proposed information requirements are based on TEQSA's analysis of the availability, currency and comprehensiveness of existing sources of information. Moving forward, TEQSA will continue to work with other agencies to support data consistency and reduce duplication where feasible.

Which types of offshore courses of study must be reported?

Under section 44H of the TEQSA Act, a provider authorised to deliver offshore must provide TEQSA with information about each Australian course of study delivered offshore during the most recently completed academic year for the course of study.

Under section 44A, offshore provided Australian courses of study include any Australian course of study – whether a single course of study or a combined (or double) course – that is provided at offshore premises, except for:

- courses of study involving a formal exchange program (no longer than one year in duration) or research programs undertaken overseas where the student receives credit towards their Australian course of study
- courses of study exempted via a Ministerial legislative instrument (currently, none).

Proposed reporting requirements

TEQSA's proposed reporting requirements, for each 'offshore provided Australian course of study' outlined above, are:

For each 'offshore provided Australian course of study'

(1). The name of the course of study.

(2). The Australian Qualifications Framework level of the course of study.

(3). Whether the course of study leads to an award from any institution other than the provider.

(4). The location(s) (the country and city) of the offshore premises of the course of study.

For each 'offshore provided Australian course of study' at each offshore location

(5). Whether the course of study is wholly provided 'face-to-face' at the offshore premises, or whether the course of study involves a component of online delivery.

(6). The start and end dates of the academic year in which the course of study is delivered.

(7). The total student enrolment figure for the academic year by headcount.

(8). The overall duration of the course of study.

(9). The duration of the component of the course of study delivered offshore.

(10). Whether the course of study is provided solely by the provider, provided jointly by the provider and another entity (or entities), or provided entirely by another entity (or entities).

(11). If the course of study is provided solely or jointly by another entity or entities, the name(s) of the entity or entities.

For each offshore location at which an 'offshore provided Australian course of study' is provided

(12). Whether premises at the location are solely owned by the provider, jointly owned with another entity (or entities), or entirely owned by another entity (or entities)

(13). If the premises at the location are jointly or entirely owned by another entity or entities, the name(s) of the entity or entities.

Proposed manner of reporting

In the first year of reporting, providers will be asked to submit their reporting information through an Excel spreadsheet provided by TEQSA. In later years, this manner of reporting may be modified.

When must providers report and for which period?

Section 44H of the TEQSA Act provides that:

"authorised offshore providers must, by 31 October of each calendar year, prepare and give to TEQSA a report that contains information about each offshore provided Australian course of study provided by the provider (including wholly or partly by another entity) during the most recently completed academic year for the course of study."

TEQSA will understand 'the most recently completed academic year for the course of study' to refer to the last academic calendar year ending before October 31 in which the offshore provided Australian course of study is delivered.

Consultation question

Respondents are invited to comment on the following question.

- Do any of the information requirements present any particular challenges for providers to answer? If so, which ones and why?

Additional feedback is also welcome.

How to make a submission

Submissions can be made by emailing written responses to the consultation question to tne@teqsa.gov.au, by Friday 14 August 2026.

Respondents are asked to submit their responses under the email subject line "Consultation #1: Transnational education reporting".

Responses may be published by TEQSA unless respondents request that their submission, or parts of it, not be published.

What happens next?

After consultations close, TEQSA will consider all feedback received and, when the legislative instrument is made, will notify all registered higher education providers when the legislative instrument is made.

TEQSA expects the legislative instrument to be made by late August 2026.

Around the same time, TEQSA will release the spreadsheet for providers to submit their annual reporting data.

Authorised providers of offshore provided Australian courses of study will then be expected to submit their first round of annual reporting by 31 October 2026.

Consultation #2: ESOS registration renewal application period

Why we are seeking your feedback

Section 10D(4) of the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act) allows TEQSA to determine, by legislative instrument, the period within which applications to TEQSA under Section 10D for renewal of registration must be made.

The *Education Services for Overseas Students (TEQSA Registration Renewal Application Period) Determination 2016* (the Determination) currently provides that applications must be made 90 days prior to the expiry of the registration, or within a shorter period agreed by TEQSA.

Consultation question

The Determination is due to sunset in April 2027. TEQSA considers that the Determination continues to remain appropriate. Respondents are invited to comment on the following question.

- Is TEQSA's proposal to remake the Determination without substantive amendment acceptable or should further changes be made to its content?

How to make a submission

Submissions can be made by providing written responses by Friday 14 August 2026 to tne@teqsa.gov.au.

Respondents are asked to submit their responses under the email subject line "Consultation #2: ESOS registration renewal application period".

Responses may be published by TEQSA unless respondents request that their submission, or parts of it, not be published.