



Student Visa Assessments - Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas Studied at a Higher Education Institution

From 1 January 2011, changes will come into effect that will impact on prospective students intending to study for a diploma or advanced diploma at a higher education institution. From this date, these prospective students can be assessed for a Higher Education (subclass 573) visa.

Prior to 1 January 2011, these prospective students were assessed for a Vocational Education and Training (VET) (subclass 572) visa, as diplomas and advanced diplomas were not specified in relation to the Higher Education (subclass 573) visa.

The legislative instrument detailing information is available on the ComLaw website.

See: www.comlaw.gov.au

Why the department has introduced this change

The reason for this change is to align migration legislation with the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) and the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS). The AQF and CRICOS specify higher education diplomas and higher education advanced diplomas as separate and distinct from VET diplomas and VET advanced diplomas.

Who will be affected?

This change will affect:

- all new student visa applications lodged on or after 1 January 2011
- prospective students who have enrolled in a diploma or advanced diploma course at a higher education institution, who have lodged a Student visa application before 1 January 2011 that is being processed on or after 1 January 2011.

This change will not affect:

- students who currently hold a VET (subclass 572) visa, and are studying a higher education diploma or advanced diploma course
- students who are currently in the middle of studying a package of courses which includes a higher education diploma or advanced diploma.

Other changes on 1 January 2011

Three course names which are obsolete will be removed from the courses specified in relation to the VET (subclass 572) visa. These are:

- certificate
- advanced certificate
- associate diploma.

Useful Information

Specific information on applying for a Student visa is available.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/students>

If you are in Australia

Telephone: 131 881.

If you are outside Australia, contact your nearest departmental office.

See: <http://www.immi.gov.au/contacts/overseas/>