



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Welfare arrangements for students under 18

If you are applying for a student visa and you are under 18 years old, you must have adequate welfare arrangements in place for the length of the visa or until you turn 18. The welfare requirement is that all students under 18 must provide evidence of their welfare arrangements for their intended period of stay in Australia.

If an education provider approves welfare arrangements, **minor students must not travel to Australia until the welfare arrangements start.** The visa may be subject to cancellation if this condition is breached. **See:** <http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/Visa-conditions/visa-conditions-students>

If your welfare arrangements are approved by your education provider, the *minimum* period stated on the Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation and Welfare (CAAW) letter must be the period of the CoE plus seven days at the end of the CoE or until you turn 18. We recommend the provider take responsibility for your welfare at least a week before your course commences.

If you wish to travel to Australia earlier this can be considered, however, evidence of appropriate welfare arrangements must be provided to cover the intended period of travel before the visa can be granted.

For further information, **see:** <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/welfare-arrangements-under18>

Health insurance for students

You must have adequate health insurance while in Australia. This is done by obtaining Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) which provides medical and hospital insurance in Australia. If you are in Australia and do not have adequate health insurance, you are in breach of your visa conditions.

A student visa applicant must provide evidence of adequate arrangements in Australia for health insurance for themselves and any accompanying dependants during their period of intended stay in Australia in order to be granted a visa. **You must not arrive in Australia before your health insurance starts.**

A common mistake is for students to nominate the date of the commencement of their course as the start date for their OSHC, rather than the date they intend to enter Australia. If the student enters Australia before their OSHC begins, they will be in breach of visa conditions.

If you wish to travel to Australia in advance of your course commencement date this can be considered, however, evidence of OSHC covering your intended period of stay must be provided before the visa can be granted.

For further information, **see:** <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/Health-Insurance-for-Students>