

Pathway to Victoria Scholarship Program - FAQs

Can the scholarships be offered to international students that are studying ELICOS programs only?

No. Scholarships can only be offered to students who are on a packaged offer and are progressing to their principal course.

What happens if a student on a scholarship does not go on to commence their principal course?

The grant recipient must re-coup the AUD\$2500 from the student or absorb the cost of the delivery. The money will be re-funded to the Victorian Government or used to fund another scholarship. This risk will need to be mitigated by the grant recipient.

What happens if the cost of the course is less than \$2500?

The student should be offered a scholarship for the advertised cost of the course and the excess amount will need to be returned to the Victorian Government. Alternatively, the excess funds could be bundled up and offered as another scholarship.

Can students be offered more than one scholarship?

No. A student can only be provided one scholarship for either their ELICOS or their foundation course. They must then progress to their principal course.

What happens if a scholarship student does not progress to their principal course because of academic failure?

Scholarship students should be carefully selected, especially in terms of English language proficiency, to give them with the best chance of completing their pathway course to progress into their principal course. The grant recipient must re-coup the AUD\$2500 from the student or absorb the cost of the delivery. This risk should be managed by the institutions, risk management strategy for the program.

Is the scholarship also available for international students in Australia?

The Pathway to Victoria Scholarship Program was created to help universities and TAFEs build their international student pipeline for when the travel restrictions are lifted. Ideally, these scholarships should be used to attract new international students who are offshore. However, they can also be offered to students who are onshore who may be interested in a pathway to a higher qualification with a Victorian education provider. This is a decision for grant recipients provided it complies with the Program Guidelines.

Can the scholarships be used for higher education diplomas as well as ELICOS, foundation and VET pathways courses?

Please find below some examples of eligible packaged offers:

1. English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) Program [packaged with Vocational Education and Training (VET) or Higher Education (HE) Programs]
2. VET Program [packaged with VET Program at higher Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) level or HE Program]
3. University Foundation Program [packaged with HE Program]

If students would like to proceed to their principal course and successfully completes the pathway course, but the principal course is no longer available online to offshore students (and borders remain closed), does the student need to return the \$2500 pathway scholarship?

In principle, if the student has enrolled in a packaged course in good faith and completed the pathway requirements then, they shouldn't have to return the scholarship in the event that the course is no longer available to them.

To manage this financial risk, some suggestions include:

- during the application process, students are required to nominate more than one principal course preference
- the grant recipient partners with another Victorian education provider, who can deliver the student's preferred course
- students have the option to defer their principal course start dates until it again becomes available
- Universities and TAFEs absorb the cost of the scholarship.

What if a student is awarded the scholarship, completes the pathway course and applies for a student visa to take the principal course onshore (after the borders are opened) and is negated the visa?

It is important for grant recipients to carefully select students with a high likelihood of visa approval. This may include avoiding markets where international student visas refusal rates are high.

Can students study the pathway course offshore with a transnational education partner of the grant recipient?

Yes, they can. International students can commence their scholarship program online or onshore with a transnational partner of the grant recipient while still in their home country.