



Elizabeth College 2014

Important Information for International Students

Welcome to Tasmania. We want your study in Tasmania to be a very positive and productive experience. The following notice provides you with important information about maintaining your enrolment and visa in Tasmania. I urge you to read this information carefully and to seek guidance from international student counsellors at your school or college or from the staff at International Services Office if you need additional support.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) deals with breaches of visa conditions very seriously, so it is important that you follow the rules carefully.

1. Visa Condition 1 – Attendance and Academic Progress

One of the most important visa conditions is that of attendance. You are required to attend a minimum of 80% of all classes that you are enrolled in during each term of the academic year. For college students, this means that you must attend a minimum of 80% of classes in all subjects in which you have enrolled. Attendance is monitored and reported on every two weeks.

2. Visa Condition 2 – Academic Progress

You are required to make satisfactory academic progress to retain your enrolment and your visa. Your school or college will advise you and your parents if they believe that you are not showing signs of suitable effort and progress. Arriving at school late, poor attendance, failure to complete work, and disrespectful behaviour are usual indicators of unsatisfactory academic progress. If problems arise you will be offered support to rectify this situation, but if no progress is shown your school will advise GETI to notify DIAC and your visa may be cancelled.

3. Visa Conditions 3 – Accommodation

Visa conditions

1. The education provider must approve accommodation and welfare arrangements for all students under the age of 18.
2. All students must advise their education provider (Elizabeth College) of their current residential address and of any changes to this address.

For students under the age of 18

These conditions mean that you are required to live in homestay or hostel accommodation organised and approved by GETI. You are not able to move to a new homestay without prior GETI approval.

Students under the age of 18 must accept the guidance and advice from GETI. If you are not able to accept the recommendation of GETI, your parents will be contacted and advised to withdraw you from studying in Tasmania. This will result in your visa being cancelled.

For students over the age of 18

We recommend that you live in a homestay or other accommodation approved by GETI for the first 3 months of your stay in Tasmania.

You may live in homestay accommodation for longer than this if you wish, or you may return to a homestay if things become difficult in independent living situations. All homestay arrangements are to be organised by GETI.

At all times you are required to keep your school and GETI informed of any changes to your address. We advise DIAC of changes to your address on your behalf and it is condition of your visa that you keep this record up to date and accurate.

4. Visa Condition 4 – Fees

After your first year of study you are requested to pay your tuition fees before the commencement of the next school year. Failure to pay fees by the end of March may result in DIAC being advised that your enrolment has been cancelled for non-payment of tuition fees and your visa may be cancelled.

In all cases, fees are not refundable if your student visa is cancelled.

5. Holidays

Students under the age of 18 must provide written approval from your parents if you wish to leave Tasmania or Australia for a holiday (including if you wish to return to your home country for a holiday).

Students over 18 must advise your college of your address during any travel outside of Tasmania or Australia.

ALL students regardless of your age MUST complete a Leave Advice Form and submit it to your International Student Program Manager (Heath) two weeks before any travel. If you are under 18 and staying with people who are not your immediate family GETI needs to complete a Police Background Check for whoever you are staying with. This can take 3-4 weeks and must be complete before you travel. Please keep this in mind when making travel plans.

Failure to advise your college of your address while on holiday would result in a breach of **Visa Condition 3**.

6. Dealing with problems

If you are experiencing great difficulty settling into serious study or adjusting to this new lifestyle, please contact the counselling and support staff at your school or college, or speak to the staff at GETI, Department of Education. If your problems remain unresolved, it is sometimes best to withdraw from study, return to your home country, and voluntarily relinquish your student visa, rather than becoming involved in undisciplined behaviour that results in your visa being cancelled and your future study options being restricted.

7. Driving a Motor Vehicle

Students under the age of 18 are prohibited from driving or owning a motor vehicle unless they have a valid Tasmanian Drivers Licence. An international and home country licence is not sufficient to meet this requirement.