

# Student visa holder tip sheet

## Course variations

### **Can I defer my studies if I have a special circumstance?**

Requests for students to defer from study are assessed by their education providers. If you wish to defer your studies, you will need to submit your request to your education provider as per their procedure. Under the national code, providers can defer or temporarily suspend the enrolment of a student on the grounds of compassionate or compelling circumstances.

### **What can I do during the period of deferral?**

Students are encouraged to depart Australia within 28 days of the effective date of a deferral and return no sooner than 28 days before their new scheduled course commencement date. If you are unable to travel, for example due to medical reasons, you may be able to remain onshore during the deferral period. It is important that you continue to hold a valid confirmation of enrolment (COE) during this time. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship regularly checks on deferrals granted by providers to determine whether the grounds for the deferral continue to exist, and inappropriate use of deferrals may lead to visa cancellation in certain circumstances.

### **Can I defer my studies if I do not have any special circumstances?**

Under the national code, you cannot defer a course without compassionate and compelling circumstances. However, you could make an application at your education provider to request a withdrawal from your study and recommence at a later date.

### **What are the consequences of withdrawal?**

When you make a withdrawal application to an education provider, you will generally be required to provide a one way ticket to your home country. Once you have departed, your student visa may be cancelled, and you will need to apply for a new visa when you are ready to recommence your studies.

Further information is available at [www.immi.gov.au/students/](http://www.immi.gov.au/students/)