



# COVID-19 – information for CRICOS providers

## Exempt from registration fees in 2020 and 2021

On 12 April 2020 the Australian Government announced a [Higher Education Relief Package](#) to provide support for Australia's education and training providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The package includes a regulatory fee relief measure to provide refunds and waive or provide exemptions for the majority of registration fees charged by education regulators for the period from 1 January 2020 to 30 June 2021 (the exemption period).

As part of this measure, Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) providers will not be required to pay the 2020 and 2021 annual registration charge (ARC), or any entry to market charges (EMCs) which would have fallen due during the exemption period. The department invoices providers for these charges.

Exemptions will be given effect by amending the *Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Regulations 2011* (Regulations) to exempt all providers from the requirement to pay the ARC and the EMC.

Specifically, the proposed draft Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment (COVID-19 Exemptions) Regulations 2020 will amend the Regulations to:

- exempt all new and existing CRICOS-registered providers from the requirement to pay the 2021 ARC; and
- exempt all new and existing CRICOS-registered providers from the requirement to pay the EMCs, for the period 12 April 2020 to 30 June 2021.

For the 2020 ARC and EMCs already paid, the department will return these payments to providers. For providers that have unpaid invoices for 2020 ARCs and EMCs, they have either been advised not to pay or have been invoiced an amount of \$0.

### ***I am an existing registered CRICOS Provider. What do I need to do to be included in the exemption?***

Existing providers do not need to make any changes to their registration. You will simply not receive an invoice for your 2021 fees.

### ***What do I need to do if I want to register as a new CRICOS Provider? Will I still be eligible to be included in the fee exemption?***

New providers can find information on how to register as a CRICOS provider [here](#). You will be exempt from paying EMC and ARC fees that would otherwise be payable until 30 June 2021.

***What do I need to do if my CRICOS registration is expiring before 30 June 2021?***

Existing providers will still need to renew their registration if it is expiring. For school providers please find the relevant information on the [Department of Education, Skills and Employment's website](#).

For VET and ELICOS providers please refer to the [ASQA website](#).

For Higher Education, Foundation Program and ELICOS Providers please refer to the [TEQSA website](#).

Some further Frequently Asked Questions on the Higher Education Relief Package can be found [here](#).

***Providing Comments on the ARC and EMC fee exemptions under the Education Services for Overseas Students (Registration Charges) Amendment (Exemptions) Regulations 2020***

Comments can be provided to the department until 5:00pm AEDT on 11 June 2020.

Please send your comments to [ESOS-PolicyTeam@dese.gov.au](mailto:ESOS-PolicyTeam@dese.gov.au).