NSW GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

Temporary Residents Program

Tuition fee structure

Contents

This fact sheet contains information about the tuition fee structure for temporary residents enrolling in NSW government schools. Topics include:

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Introduction

In NSW, most temporary resident students pay the temporary resident application fee and tuition fee to enrol in a government school. The fee is generally calculated using the visa subclass held by the student. For details refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions document on our website.

Setting the tuition fee

Under section 31A (1) and (2) of the *Education Act 1990,* fees for various visa categories are set and approved by the Secretary of the NSW Department of Education. The NSW Department of Education reserves the right to vary fees. A student is required to pay the adjusted fee from the date of variation. The tuition fee is charged at the rate applicable to the academic year indicated by the school, Intensive English Language Centre or Intensive English Language High School, but may change as a student moves to the next academic year fee band.

What the tuition fee covers

The temporary resident tuition fee is a partial contribution to the cost of educating a student in the NSW government school system. The fee includes most tuition costs and access to student support services. The Temporary Residents Program tuition fee includes:

- access to the NSW Education Standards Authority curriculum across all key learning areas
- textbook hire (where hire is available)
- student welfare and counselling services
- Intensive English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EAL/D) support for eligible visa holders
- access to TAFE subjects if eligible and within the curriculum requirements.

What the tuition fee does not cover

The Temporary Residents Program tuition fee does not cover:

- the cost of school excursions
- provision of school uniforms
- student medical expenses
- workbook or textbook purchases
- additional fees for certain subjects or optional extension activities in sport or other disciplines
- subsidised travel under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS). For more details on the School Student Transport Scheme contact Transport for NSW.

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Tuition fee structure

Which fee applies to a bridging visa student

A student holding a bridging visa is required to pay the temporary resident application fee and tuition fee.

The application fee and tuition fee apply regardless of the visa which the applicant has applied for with the Department of Home Affairs. The bridging visa fee type base is charged as the temporary resident rate applicable in Table 1, except in the event of the exceptions listed below.

Exceptions

- A student holding a bridging visa is charged the applicable dependant of international student rate in Table 2a/2b where the immediate previous substantive visa held by the student is a dependant student visa subclass 500.
- A student holding a bridging visa is charged the applicable visitor rate in Table 3 where the immediate previous substantive visa held by the student is a visitor visa subclass 600, 601, or 651 and the student is applying for another visitor visa.
- A student holding a bridging visa is charged the applicable visitor rate in Table 3 where the immediate previous substantive visa held by the student is an international student visa (500P School Sector).

Fees for a temporary resident student

The tuition fee that applies to a temporary resident student depends on the visa subclass held by the student. For details refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions document on our website.

Application fee for 2026 and 2027

A non-refundable application fee of $150 is payable on new applications lodged in 2026 and 2027.

Tuition fee for 2026 and 2027

Refer to Table 1 for the 2026 and 2027 tuition fee for a one-year enrolment of a temporary resident student. Table 1 excludes dependants of an international student (refer to Table 2a/2b) and visitor visa students (refer to Table 3).

Table 1

School year	**2026** Annual fee (40 school weeks)	**2027** Annual fee (40 school weeks)
Primary school (KG-6)	$6,400	$6,600
Junior high school (7-10)	$6,400	$6,700
Senior high school (11-12)	$7,600	$7,800

How tuition fees are charged

- All fees are in Australian dollars.
- Temporary resident students are invoiced by the NSW school term.
- Temporary resident students are not charged for the NSW school holiday periods.
- Weekly, fortnightly, or monthly invoice options are not available.
- If for any reason a student only attends school for a part week, the whole week rate is charged.

Tuition fee structure

Fees for a dependant of an international student (visa subclass 500)

The tuition fee that applies to a dependant of an international student depends on the visa subclass held by the dependant student and the education sector (as per the CoE) where the primary visa holder parent is studying.

Application fee for 2026

A non-refundable application fee of $150 is payable on new applications lodged in 2026.

Tuition fee for 2026

Refer to Table 2a for the 2026 tuition fee for a one-year enrolment of a dependant of an international student. Find the parents education sector in the table below to see the tuition fee.

Table 2a

Visa subclass	Education sector the primary visa holder (parent) is studying	**2026** Annual fee (40 school weeks)		
		Primary (KG-6)	Junior high (7-10)	Senior high (11-12)
500	The CoE of the parent is: • Independent ELICOS • VET sector • Non-Award sector	$11,200	$12,600	$14,200
500	The CoE of the parent is: • TAFE NSW (00591E) course provider • Higher Education • Postgraduate Masters • Postgraduate Doctorate (standard rate) • Postgraduate Doctorate and the parent is studying in a non-NSW main campus university, or where the parent receives a scholarship that includes school fees for the dependant	$7,800	$7,800	$9,000
500	The CoE of the parent is: • Postgraduate Doctorate, and the parent is studying in a NSW main campus university, and the parent does not receive a scholarship that includes school fees for the dependant	• $150 application fee is payable. • Tuition fees exempt while all criteria met. • Tuition fee exemption does not apply to future bridging visas.		
500	The CoE of the parent is: • Australian Foreign Affairs • Australian Defence Force sector	• $150 application fee is payable. • Tuition fees exempt while all criteria met. • Tuition fee exemption does not apply to future bridging visas.		

How tuition fees are charged

- All fees are in Australian dollars.
- Dependants of international students who are liable for a tuition fee, and require a Confirmation of Placement, are invoiced half-yearly (representing 20 school weeks) for the initial invoice.
- Dependants of international students are invoiced by the NSW school term for subsequent invoices.
- Dependants of international students are not charged for the NSW school holiday periods.
- Weekly, fortnightly, or monthly invoice options are not available.
- If for any reason a student only attends school for a part week, the whole week rate is charged.

Fees for a dependant of an international student (visa subclass 500)

The tuition fee that applies to a dependant of an international student depends on the visa subclass held by the dependant student and the education sector (as per the CoE) where the primary visa holder parent is studying.

Application fee for 2027

A non-refundable application fee of $150 is payable on new applications lodged in 2027.

Tuition fee for 2027

Refer to Table 2b for the 2027 tuition fee for a one-year enrolment of a dependant of an international student. Find the parents education sector in the table below to see the tuition fee.

Table 2b

Visa subclass	Education sector the primary visa holder (parent) is studying	**2027** Annual fee (40 school weeks)		
		Primary (KG-6)	Junior high (7-10)	Senior high (11-12)
500	The CoE of the parent is: • Independent ELICOS • VET sector • Non-Award sector	$11,540	$13,000	$14,640
500	The CoE of the parent is: • TAFE NSW (00591E) course provider • Higher Education • Postgraduate Masters • Postgraduate Doctorate (standard rate) • Postgraduate Doctorate and the parent is studying in a non-NSW main campus university, or where the parent receives a scholarship that includes school fees for the dependant	$8,000	$8,140	$9,300
500	The CoE of the parent is: • Postgraduate Doctorate, and the parent is studying in a NSW main campus university, and the parent does not receive a scholarship that includes school fees for the dependant	• $150 application fee is payable. • Tuition fees exempt while all criteria met. • Tuition fee exemption does not apply to future bridging visas.		
500	The CoE of the parent is: • Australian Foreign Affairs • Australian Defence Force sector	• $150 application fee is payable. • Tuition fees exempt while all criteria met. • Tuition fee exemption does not apply to future bridging visas.		

How tuition fees are charged

- All fees are in Australian dollars.
- Dependants of international students who are liable for a tuition fee, and require a Confirmation of Placement, are invoiced half-yearly (representing 20 school weeks) for the initial invoice.
- Dependants of international students are invoiced by the NSW school term for subsequent invoices.
- Dependants of international students are not charged for the NSW school holiday periods.
- Weekly, fortnightly, or monthly invoice options are not available.
- If for any reason a student only attends school for a part week, the whole week rate is charged.

Tuition fee structure

Fees for a visitor visa student

A visitor visa student is restricted to a maximum of 3 months study (13 school weeks) for the duration of their visa. This is a visa condition set by the Department of Home Affairs (condition 8201).

Application fee

A non-refundable application fee of $150 is payable on new applications lodged in 2026 and 2027.

Tuition fee

Refer to Table 3 for the 2026 and 2027 tuition fee for a visitor visa student.

Table 3

Visa subclass	School year	**2026** (1 school week)	**2027** (1 school week)
600, 601, 651	Primary school (KG-6)	$425.00	$437.50
600, 601, 651	Junior high school (7-10)	$450.00	$462.50
600, 601, 651	Senior high school (11-12)	$512.50	$525.00

How tuition fees are charged

- All fees are in Australian dollars.
- Visitor visa students must nominate the number of weeks they wish to enrol.
- Visitor visa students can nominate up to a maximum of 13 school weeks enrolment (visa condition 8201).
- Visitor visa students are not charged for the NSW school holiday periods.
- Weekly, fortnightly, or monthly invoice options are not available.
- If for any reason a student only attends school for a part week, the whole week rate is charged.

Making payment to the Temporary Residents Program

The Temporary Residents Program will issue an invoice to fee-liable students. Payment methods are explained on the invoice, and a receipt will be issued automatically after your payment is received. The NSW Department of Education recommends you do not make a payment to any third-party account. The NSW Department of Education accepts no responsibility for payment you make to an agent or a third-party account.

Voluntary school contributions

NSW government schools may request voluntary school contributions and charge additional fees for certain subjects or optional extension activities. Voluntary school contributions apply to all students, including Australian citizens, permanent residents, temporary residents, and those who pay the Temporary Residents Program tuition fee.

Exemption from the tuition fee based on visa

Some visa subclasses are exempt from the Temporary Residents Program tuition fee. For details refer to the Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions document on our website.

Exemption from the tuition fee based on specific circumstances

Temporary resident students in the following specific circumstances are exempt from the tuition fee, however, are liable for the application fee.

- Dependants of international students who hold visa subclass 500, and the principal visa holder is undertaking a postgraduate doctorate course (as per their *Confirmation of Enrolment*), and the course provider is a NSW main campus university, and the principal visa holder is not a recipient of a scholarship that includes school fees for dependant children.
- Dependants of international students who have a full scholarship from the Australian Government or who are sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade or the Department of Defence.
- Dependants of international students who have a full scholarship from a publicly funded NSW main campus university.
- Dependants of eligible teachers employed by the NSW Department of Education through the NSW Teacher Talent Pool Pathway.
- Exchange students who enrol in NSW government schools through organisations that manage student exchange programs and are registered with the NSW Department of Education.
- Temporary resident students with links to an Australian citizen or permanent resident by birth, marriage or adoption, who have applied for permanent residency and do not hold, or have applied for, a dependant student subclass 500 visa. For details refer to the Link to an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident fact sheet on our website.
- Temporary resident students with links to an Australian citizen or permanent resident by a de facto relationship, who have applied for permanent residency under family stream migration and do not hold, or have applied for, a dependant student subclass 500 visa. For details refer to the Link to an Australian Citizen or Permanent Resident fact sheet on our website.
- Temporary resident students who hold visa subclass 482, and reside with the sponsored parent who is the primary applicant of the 482 visa, and reside in an eligible NSW region, and attend an eligible regional NSW government school. For details refer to the 482 visa regional exemption fact sheet on our website.
- Temporary residents enrolled in a NSW government hospital school and receiving in-patient care.
- Students who are holders of an ImmiCard issued by the Department of Home Affairs.

Exemption from the tuition fee based on low-income

If a family has low family income, they may be eligible to apply for an exemption from the tuition fee. The Exemption Review Panel considers individual appeals for exemption from the tuition fee. Appeals for exemption based on low income must be made in writing using the *Application for fee exemption based on low income* form on our website. All applications are considered on a case-by-case basis. The use of disposable income, the payment of Australian income tax or the purpose for which the visa was issued are not criteria considered by the Exemption Review Panel. The Visa subclasses and enrolment conditions document on our website lists the eligibility of each visa subclass to apply for a fee exemption based on low income.

Tuition fee while learning from home

On occasions where students learn from home, schools will teach online through a virtual platform with materials supplied electronically or in hard copy. The temporary resident tuition fee continues to apply during periods of learning from home if the student remains enrolled in the NSW government school system. NSW government schools are operational, and teachers continue to educate students where online learning platforms are deemed necessary or mandated. Discounts and fee reductions are not available during periods of online learning.

When is a student eligible for refund of an unused tuition fee

The application fee is non-refundable, but a student may be entitled to a pro-rata refund of the tuition fee if their visa category changes to a fee exempt category, the visa is cancelled, the application to enrol is rejected, or the student leaves the school before the end of their paid period of enrolment.

The tuition fee refund will amount to the balance of the tuition fee from the date of the change of visa status or the entire tuition fee amount if the initial application is rejected. Any change of visa status must be confirmed by documentation from the Department of Home Affairs.

If a student cancels the application for enrolment in a NSW government school, any unused tuition fee is refunded in accordance with our refund policy. If a student will cease enrolment, at least one week notice must be given to the Temporary Residents Program by the parent or guardian.

The *Application for refund of the Temporary Residents Program tuition fee* is available on our website or by contacting the Temporary Residents Program.

Need more information

Find out more about the Temporary Residents Program at deinternational.nsw.edu.au/trp or call our Customer Service Team on 1300 300 229 (then option 1).

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