

Review of the student visa program

Bangladesh will be back to relaxed student visa program known as Level-3 from April'2011

How it's going to affect Bangladeshi students?

Changes only for Sub-class 573 / following Programs

Higher Education

- Bachelor degree
- associate degree
- graduate certificate
- graduate diploma

Masters by coursework

This means:

- Anybody can be your sponsor (not just immediate family)
- Upto 2yrs total fund (Tuition Fee + Living) needs to be shown even if course duration is over 2yrs
- Students will be required to keep funds for 3 consecutive mths in a bank account instead of 6mths

Joint Media Release with Chris Bowen MP – *Minister for Immigration and Citizenship* and Senator Chris Evans – *Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations*

Thursday, 16 December 2010

Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, and Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Jobs and Workplace Relations, Senator Chris Evans, today announced a review of the student visa program, along with a package of measures for the international education sector.

'The review is tasked with enhancing the continued competitiveness of the international education sector, as well as strengthening the integrity of the Student visa program.'

These measures include:

- Reducing the student visa assessment levels from April 2011 as indicated in the recent assessment level review conducted by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). As part of this decision, the higher education visa assessment levels for applicants from China and India will also be reduced.
- Refining the rules to further enable pre-paid boarding fees to be counted toward students' cost of living requirements in their visa application.
- Improved information exchange between the government and the international education sector, including provision of a quarterly statistical publication on the student visa program that will soon be available from the DIAC website to allow the sector to track emerging student visa trends.
- Enabling assessment level 4 vocational education and training (VET) students to undertake a package of certificate level courses to meet visa requirements.

Today's announcement complements other measures recently implemented by the government to strengthen the international education sector, including the Baird Review of the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000, amendments to the ESOS Act requiring all providers of international education to re-register by the end of 2010, and the release of the Council of Australian Government's International Students Strategy for Australia.

'It's important that Australian education continues to be highly regarded for the quality of course offerings available to international students who choose to study here,' Senator Evans said.

'The establishment of the National VET Regulator and the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency next year will underpin continued high quality in both the VET and higher education sectors.'

More information on the Student visa changes is available on DIAC's website.

www.immi.gov.au