

NEW SOUTH WALES  
DEPARTMENT  
OF EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING



# **REFUGEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

## **GUIDELINES FOR INSTITUTES - 2010**

**Social Inclusion and Vocational Access Skills Unit**  
**Training and Education Support**  
**Tel: 9217 4293**

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## REFUGEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME

### GUIDELINES FOR INSTITUTES - 2010

#### 1. Rationale

- 1.1 The Refugee Student Assistance Scheme (Scheme) provides financial support for students enrolled in NSW government schools and TAFE NSW Institutes who are refugees, including asylum seekers and humanitarian visa entrants. The Scheme enables limited financial assistance to be provided for education related expenses in order to help eligible students to remain in education or training.

#### 2. Management and financial support

- 2.1 The NSW Department of Education and Training and the NSW Teachers Federation share management responsibility and provide equal financial support for the Scheme.
- 2.2 A Refugee Student Assistance Scheme Committee, (RSAS Committee) is responsible for overseeing the administration of the Scheme. The Committee comprises representatives of TAFE NSW and the NSW Teachers Federation,
- 2.3 The Committee meets twice a year in February/March and October/November.

#### 3. Students eligible for support

- 3.1 Eligible students must be enrolled in a course conducted by a TAFE NSW Institute.
- 3.2 Priority for funding support should be given to students:
- within in the first two years of their being issued with an eligible visa sub-class
  - in their first year of enrolment in a TAFE NSW course.
- 3.3 To be eligible for financial support under the Scheme, students must hold a visa in one of the visa subclasses that can be broadly described as refugee or humanitarian visas. These are:
- permanent or temporary humanitarian visas
  - permanent or temporary protection visas
  - bridging visas where the holder has applied for a protection visa or is released into the community pending removal from Australia.
- 3.4 A current list of eligible visa sub-classes is provided in Section 9. As visa sub-classes are subject to regular revision by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC), any changes to the list will be noted in the TVH Mandatory Study Conditions that is available at the following webpage:

<http://multiculturalsupport.sydneyinstitute.wikispaces.net/Policies+and+Related+Documents>

#### 4. Funding for the Scheme

- 4.1 Annual funding for the Scheme is \$20,000. This comprises \$10,000 contributed by the NSW Department of Education and Training and \$10,000 contributed by the NSW Teachers Federation.

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- 4.2 Of the total funds available, \$15,000 is allocated to support students in government schools and \$5,000 to support TAFE NSW students, reflecting relative full time enrolments of eligible students in the two sectors.
  - 4.3 Additional donations for the Scheme will be sought each year from Federation members and other organisations to supplement the funding pool.
  - 4.4 Any additional funds raised from donations will be made available on a submission basis to schools and institutes to support eligible students.
  - 4.5 Funds for the Scheme are managed by the TAFE NSW Social Inclusion and Vocational Access Skills Unit.

## **5. Funding for TAFE NSW Institutes**

- 5.1 The \$5,000 to support TAFE NSW students will be paid to TAFE NSW Institutes in Term 1 each year based on the enrolments of the previous calendar year.
- 5.2 The basis of funding to each TAFE NSW Institute will be on a sliding scale according to the relative number of students born in source countries enrolled in TAFE NSW in the previous year and resident in Australia less than two years. The source countries will be identified from Department of Immigration and Citizenship data indicating countries with high numbers of permanent refugee and humanitarian visas issued for NSW in the two previous intake years.
- 5.3 Funds are provided on a calendar year basis and any unused funds will become an opening balance of funding available for the following calendar year. Should the program cease then any unused funds are to be returned to the Department of Education and Training Multicultural Programs Unit and TAFE NSW Social Inclusion and Vocational Access Skills Unit.
- 5.4 The RSAS Committee will inform Institute Directors of the availability of any additional funding for the Scheme received from donations.

## **6. Purposes for which the funding may be used**

- 6.1 Refugee Student Assistance Scheme funds are allocated to TAFE NSW Institutes to support eligible refugee students. Funds may be paid directly to the student or be disbursed by the Institute for the benefit of the student (for example to pay for necessary equipment that may be bought at a discount by the college).
- 6.2 The Institute Director will nominate an officer who will be responsible for determining the allocation of the available funds for the benefit of individual students. A nominated officer may be a College Director/Campus Manager or an Institute Multicultural Education Coordinator (IMEC).
- 6.3 The following items are listed as a guide to the types of items or activities that the funds may be used for. This is not an exhaustive list:
  - textbooks
  - excursions or related costs,
  - subject or course specific costs
  - uniforms or tools of trade
- 6.4 A maximum of \$200 to support any one student is recommended as a guide for Institute Directors.

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- 6.5 Monies are not to be made available for the payment of *TAFE fees* or *tuition fees* as this would be a subsidy to the Institute.
  - 6.6 Funds are not to be used to purchase items which the college/campus is currently paying for, or is required to pay for at present.
  - 6.7 Refugee Student Assistance Scheme funds are to be treated as external funding from the Department of Education and Training for TAFE NSW Institute accounting purposes. That is, funds are not to be used for general TAFE NSW Institute operations or for any other purpose than for assistance to eligible students under this Scheme.

## **7. Administration of the Scheme**

- 7.1 The Refugee Student Assistance Scheme Committee is responsible for the administration of the Scheme. This includes:
  - providing information to schools and TAFE NSW Institutes each year on the funds available under the Scheme and application procedures
  - allocating annual funding to schools and TAFE NSW Institutes
  - assessing applications from other schools and notifying them of the outcomes of the applications
  - determining priorities for allocation of any additional funding for the Scheme
  - monitoring procedures and reporting annually on the outcomes of the Scheme.
- 7.2 The NSW Teachers Federation will seek donations each year from Federation members, NSW Department of Education and Training employees and other interested organisations and groups to supplement the annual funding.
- 7.3 The RSAS Committee will publicise the Scheme through a variety of channels including Department and Federation journals.

## **8. Accountability and reporting**

- 8.1 Institute Directors will report annually on the expenditure of funds and number of students supported as part of the Department Education and Training's report on achievement in relation to the NSW Multicultural Planning Framework (formerly the Ethnic Affairs Priority Statement report)..
- 8.2 The RSAS Committee will provide an annual report to the Department of Education and Training and the NSW Teachers Federation on the outcomes of the program including numbers of refugee students assisted.
- 8.3 The Social Inclusion and Vocational Access Skills Unit will prepare the annual report through consultation with Institutes. The report will specify allocations to each student in terms of:
  - Institute
  - Campus
  - Amount
  - Purpose (see Section 6.3).

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## 9 REFUGEE STUDENT ASSISTANCE SCHEME 2010

*Students must be in their first year of enrolment in a TAFE NSW course.*

*Following is a list of eligible visa sub-classes.*

<b>Visa sub-class</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>
<b>051 a</b>	Protection visa applicant	Bridging
<b>200</b>	Refugee (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>201</b>	In-country special humanitarian (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>202</b>	Global special humanitarian (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>203</b>	Emergency rescue (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>204</b>	Woman at risk (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>205</b>	Camp Clearance (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>208</b>	East Timorese SAC (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>209</b>	Citizens of the former Yugoslavia (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>210</b>	Minorities of former USSR (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>211</b>	Burmese in Burma (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>212</b>	Sudanese (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>213</b>	Burmese in Thailand (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>214</b>	Cambodian SAC (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>215</b>	Sri Lankan (special assistance) (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>216</b>	Ahmadi (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>217</b>	Vietnamese (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>435</b>	Sri Lankan (Temporary)	Humanitarian
<b>447</b>	Secondary Movement Offshore Entry	Humanitarian
<b>448</b>	Kosovar Safe Haven (Temporary)	Humanitarian
<b>449</b>	Humanitarian Stay (Temporary)	Humanitarian
<b>451</b>	Secondary Movement Relocation (Temporary)	Humanitarian
<b>695</b>	Return Pending Visa	Humanitarian
<b>785</b>	Temporary Protection (Temporary)	Humanitarian
<b>786</b>	Temporary (Humanitarian Concern) (Temporary)	Humanitarian
<b>860</b>	Protection (Permanent)	Humanitarian
<b>866</b>	Protection (Permanent)	Humanitarian

*a: Students must provide evidence of application for a protection visa*