

Purpose

This fact sheets details eligibility exemptions for training providers under the VET Funding Contracts

Scope

In 2024 the Eligibility Exemptions Initiative Brite Institute may only exempt a student from the eligibility requirements in accordance with Part C of Schedule 1 of the Contract. You must sight and retain evidence of a student's eligibility to receive an exemption.

Asylum Seeker VET Program

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- 1.1 Prior to granting an exemption from the citizenship/permanent residence eligibility criterion, you must sight and retain evidence the student is eligible to participate in the Asylum Seeker VET Program as follows:

	Sighting	Retaining
a)	<p>a record from the Visa Entitlement Verification Online (VEVO) system generated by the student.</p> <p>and</p> <p>an original or certified copy of their foreign passport or ImmiCard that matches the name, date of birth and document number shown in the VEVO record.</p> <p>and</p>	<p>a copy of the VEVO record that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Home Affairs logo. • the student's name and date of birth. • document number of the student's foreign passport or ImmiCard • confirmation the student has study and (if relevant) work rights. <p>and</p>

Sighting	Retaining
<p><i>in the case of a bridging visa, supporting evidence.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>confirmation the student holds, or is a dependent of an individual, who holds:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>a valid humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa; or</i> ○ <i>holds a valid bridging visa.</i> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a copy of the original - or certified copy of the student's foreign passport or ImmiCard.</i> <p>and</p> <p><i>in the case of a bridging visa, a written declaration attached to the student's file stating you have sighted a document from the Department of Home Affairs acknowledging the student has lodged an application:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>for a humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa; or</i> • <i>under section 417 or section 48B of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) which is yet to be determined.</i>
OR	
<p>b) <i>a record from VEVO generated by you (If you are registered with the Department of Home Affairs to access the VEVO system and have permission from the student to check their visa status);</i></p> <p>and</p> <p><i>in the case of a bridging visa, supporting evidence.</i></p>	<p><i>a copy of the VEVO record that shows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>the student's name, date of birth and document number of their foreign passport or ImmiCard were verified to match a record in the VEVO system, and</i> • <i>confirmation the student has study and (if relevant) work rights; and</i> • <i>the student holds, or is a dependent of an individual who holds:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>a valid humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa; or</i> ○ <i>a valid bridging visa.</i> <p>and</p> <p><i>in the case of a bridging visa, a written declaration attached to the student's file stating you have sighted a document from the Department of Home Affairs acknowledging the student has lodged an application:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>for a humanitarian, protection, or refugee visa; or</i> • <i>under section 417 or section 48B of the Migration Act 1958 (Cth) which is yet to be determined.</i>
OR	
<p>c) <i>a signed 'Referral to Government Subsidised Training - Asylum Seekers' form from the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre or the Australian Red Cross Victims of Human Trafficking Program.</i></p>	<p><i>a copy of the form.</i></p>

Electronic completion of the Evidence of Eligibility and Student Declaration form

- 1.2 *If you complete, and have students complete, the Evidence of Eligibility and Student Declaration form electronically, you must ensure:*
- *that the information collected is the same as that which would have been collected in hard copy; and*
 - *an electronic action equivalent to a signature is undertaken in any instance where a signature is required on the form.*
- 1.3 *If you engage a Gateway Service Provider to access the DVS as part of obtaining and assessing evidence of eligibility and the DVS is unable to verify a student's document, then you must offer them the opportunity to provide their evidence of eligibility in an alternative format, prior to making an assessment of their eligibility.*

Relying on information obtained about a student for a subsequent enrolment

- 1.4 *If you have sighted and retained evidence of a student's citizenship (in accordance with the requirements of the Evidence of Eligibility and Student Declaration form), you may use this evidence for any subsequent enrolments by that student, with only you, provided that:*
- a) *the evidence, if verified by any means other than through the DVS, has not expired when a subsequent enrolment occurs.*
 - b) *the evidence, if verified through the DVS without retaining an expiry date, is only used for subsequent enrolments that occur within the same calendar year as the DVS check;*
 - c) *the evidence continues to be retained for audit, review or investigation purposes; and*
 - d) *you make all other assessments of the student's Skills First Entitlement for each subsequent enrolment.*

Exemptions outside these mandatory cohorts can be applied at your discretion. However, you should give preference for exemptions to students seeking to enrol in training that meets identified skills shortages and localised labour market needs or improves their employment prospects. In addition, you should use the exemptions to support women, young people, recent migrants and vulnerable people who've been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 to help them gain new skills and employment.