



INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

Tuition fee for Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa (subclass 482) and the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) whose children attend public schools in Western Australia.

As a 457 or 482 Visa holder your children will have the same access to public education as local Western Australian children and can be enrolled at their local public school. However, you will need to pay the family tuition fee.

The tuition fee and school voluntary contribution, charges and fees

The tuition fee is \$4 000 per family per year, regardless of the number children (Pre-primary to Year 12) you have enrolled in public schools. Families with the oldest child enrolled in Kindergarten are not required to pay the fee.

You will also need to pay the school voluntary contributions, charges and fees directly to your children's schools. These payments are made by all families whose children attend the school, and need to be paid each year for each child enrolled.

Paying the tuition fee

The tuition fee is paid to TAFE International Western Australia. At the start of each school year (or when you enrol your children in school) you will receive a fee advice for \$4000 (or pro rata) either through the mail or email.

You can pay the tuition fee in full as one payment; or by instalments throughout the year via direct debit. Full payment should be received before the end of the year in which the invoice is issued.

Any unpaid or outstanding tuition fees from previous years must be paid along with the 2019 fees.

No longer paying the tuition fee

You will no longer pay the tuition fee if:

- > you gain permanent residence;
- > your children leave the public school system; or
- > your visa status changes from a 457 or 482 Visa.

You must notify each of your children's schools if any of these situations occur. This will ensure a correct Fee Advice is issued and you receive any refunds for which you may be eligible.

If you were on a 457 or 482 visa but are now on a Bridging Visa you will need to continue to pay the tuition fee. A Bridging Visa does not change the conditions and entitlements of your substantive 457 or 482 visa.

Financial hardship

If you are a 457 or 482 visa holder you can apply for financial hardship to have your tuition fee reduced or waived. An application for financial hardship should be made within the year that the fee is incurred. Financial hardship applications for tuition fees incurred prior to 2018 can no longer be submitted.

There are two different kinds of financial hardship applications:

Combined gross family income

Combined gross family income is the total taxable income received by both parents before tax and other deductions are made. Income from overtime or bonus payments is included.

If your combined gross family income is calculated to be \$75 000 or less for the calendar year then you can be granted a full waiver of the tuition fee.

You need to provide evidence to allow your combined gross family income to be calculated. Evidence for you and your partner should include:

- > the three most recent payslips;
- > evidence of year to date income;
- > income reported in PAYG or group certificates; and
- > the 457 or 482 Visa Grant Notice or your employment contract with guaranteed income.

Unforeseen changes to financial circumstance

A full or partial fee waiver of the tuition fee may be provided when unforeseen changes to your financial circumstance reduce your capacity to pay the tuition fee. You will need to provide evidence of the unforeseen circumstance and how this has reduced your capacity to pay the tuition fee within six months of the event.

An unforeseen circumstance may include illness, unemployment, changed employment conditions, family breakdown or death.

The following circumstances are not considered to be unforeseen:

- > the requirement to pay this tuition fee or other school fees;
- > applying for permanent residence;
- > family living expenses, such as rent, health insurance or loan repayments; or
- > paying for the education of other children or an adult student.

Any change to employment may affect your application for hardship. You will need to provide gross income received by you and your partner from all paid work. You should provide letters of termination or redundancy, final payslips from a job or information about how long you or your partner have been unemployed.

All financial hardship applications are considered on a case-by-case basis. You will be notified of the outcome of your financial hardship application between four and six weeks after all required documentation has been provided to TAFE International Western Australia.

A new application for financial hardship must be made each year. When a tuition fee waiver is granted, it will apply only for the period when you do not have the capacity to pay the fee. A fee waiver does not carry over into the following school year.

