



## Compassionate and Compelling Circumstances

### Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the circumstances RBIT may consider approving students for matters relating to their study and this may affect their application.

### Compassionate and Compelling circumstances

Refer to situations beyond the control of an Overseas Student that have a significant impact on their course progress or wellbeing. These circumstances may include, but are not limited to:

1. Serious illness or injury supported by a medical certificate stating the student's inability to attend classes for a specified period.
2. Bereavement of immediate family members (e.g., parents or grandparents) with approved documentation.
3. Major political upheaval or natural disaster in the student's home country, necessitating emergency travel that affects their studies.
4. Unavailability of a prerequisite unit or failure in a prerequisite unit resulting in a shortage of eligible units for enrolment (as per ESOS Act 2000, Section 46A(1)(a)(i)).
5. National Service obligation requiring the student's return to their home country.
6. The need to return to the home country for a university exam or similar assessment impacting their education.
7. Pregnancy (applicable to female students).
8. Traumatic experiences, including:
  - Involvement in or witnessing a serious accident supported by police or psychological reports.
  - Being a victim of or witnessing a serious crime supported by police or psychological reports.

Students are required to provide document evidence substantiating these circumstances.

### Not considered Compassionate and Compelling reasons

Examples of circumstances that are not considered compassionate and compelling include:

- The death of a non-immediate family member.
- Returning home due to the ill health or critical medical status of a family member (subject to approval).
- Requests for early departure or late return from vacation, including the inability to secure cheap flights (subject to approval).
- Leaving early or returning late from holidays to attend important festivals in the student's home country (subject to approval).
- Returning home to attend urgent family gatherings that occur during term time (subject to approval).
- Quarrels with a boyfriend or girlfriend.

### Note

Regardless of the reason, if an overseas student's enrolment is deferred or suspended the period of suspension of enrolment (as entered in PRISMS) should not be included in attendance monitoring calculations.



An international student's visa may be cancelled if the deferral or suspension:

- is due to the conduct of the student
- is for reasons other than compassionate or compelling circumstances
- the compassionate or compelling circumstances which warranted the deferral or suspension of studies cease to exist is based on fraudulent evidence or documents given to the registered provider.

### **Review and considerations**

RBIT will use their professional judgement to assess each case, based on its individual merits and consider documentary evidence provided to support the claim.

RBIT will retain copies of these documents in the overseas student's file. Examples of such documents include:

- Medical Certificate (issued by an Australian doctor) to be provided in case of illness or absence from classes.
- Death Certificate (notarized) to be provided in the event of an absence due to the death of a family member.