

Thursday 7th June 2012

Dear Agents,

The Australian Government has made changes to the legislation that deals with **International Students entering Australia on a Student Visa**. The Tuition Protection Service (TPS) has been introduced and changes come into effect for all new enrolments/payments received on and after the 1st July 2012. Details of the legislation can be found as follows; <https://aei.gov.au/Regulatory-Information/Education-Services-for-Overseas-Students-ESOS-Legislative-Framework/ESOS-Review/Pages/Changescommencing1July.aspx>

The two main changes which will have a direct impact on how we conduct our business are;

1. Providers (the schools and colleges) will have to place 100% of the students tuition fees into a special Pre-paid Fees Account as soon as it has been received. Only once the course has begun, can the Provider gain access to the fees.

DUE TO LANGPORTS' PAYMENT POLICY OUR AGENTS WILL NOT BE EFFECTED BY THIS AND CAN CONTINUE PAYING FEES IN THE WAY THAT WE HAVE AGREED PREVIOUSLY.

2. Providers will not be allowed to collect more than 50% of the tuition fees in advance on courses of 25 weeks or more. Which means that if a student books 30 weeks on the same course, we can only collect 15 weeks' worth of fees to start and a further 15 weeks fees 2 weeks before the second study period is due to start. Of course this is going to create extra accounting work and extra bank charges for us and our agents. So Langports suggests that you approach long term bookings (25 weeks or more) in a slightly different way in the future.

As Langports has always offered its longer term students the opportunity to have an individual Langports Study Plan which usually includes a combination of courses, it is unusual for a student to actually stay on the same course for their total enrolment. Our academic staff continuously counsel students to go to courses appropriate to their levels and their desired outcomes.

In light of these legislation changes we are suggesting that agents enrol their student on a combination of courses that can total more than 24 weeks but, with no individual course more than 24 weeks. Langports can then issue separate eCOEs for each course and our agents can collect the fees for the TOTAL study program, therefore avoiding the extra administration and the extra costs.

The combination of courses will depend on your student's level of English, however, we will provide you with some examples to discuss with potential students. It is also important to assure your students that when they are at Langports, if they need or wish to change their course, they will be able to do this without any extra charges.

However, if you or your student wishes to book 25+ weeks on the same course, we are happy to accept this according to the new legislation **and payment requirements**.

NOTE THAT STUDENTS ON TOURIST VISAS AND WORKING HOLIDAY VISAS ARE NOT SUBJECT TO THE TUITION PROTECTION SERVICE AND NOTHING CHANGES.

Should you need clarification of the above or would like to arrange a Special TPS Agent Online Training session with one of our staff, we would be happy to assist.

Kind regards,

Anna France
Marketing Director

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