



ASIA

ASTRAL SKILLS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

RTO Code: 41322 | CRICOS No: 03858C

Fee Payment and Refund Policy and Associated Procedures

Version 2.0

THE EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING COMPANY PTY. LTD. T/A ASTRAL SKILLS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

ABN: 80 600 951 264

RTO: 41322

CRICOS: 03858C



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STATUS, DETAILS AND SUMMARY OF CHANGES

| | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Document Reference | FPRP-POL-PROC/2023 | Status | Current |
| Type | Academic-Administrative | Version | 2.0 |
| Effective Date | 01 October 2023 | Review Date | 30 September 2025 |
| Review Authority | ASIA Academic Committee | | |
| Endorsement Authority | ASIA Board of Director(s) | | |
| Enquiries | Academic Manager: joy.academic@asia.edu.au | | |
| Available on | Website <input type="checkbox"/> | Academic Manager's Office | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| References of Related Documents, Legislation, Policies and/or Procedures | <p>Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015:</p> <p>Standard 1. The RTO's training and assessment strategies and practices are responsive to industry and learner needs and meet the requirements of training packages and VET accredited courses</p> <p><u>In particular:</u></p> <p>Clauses 1.1 to 1.4 and 2.2—Implementing, monitoring, and evaluating training and assessment strategies and practices, clauses 1.5 and 1.6 – Industry relevance, and clauses 1.8 to 1.11 – Assessment</p> | | |

VERSION CONTROL AND SUMMARY OF CHANGES

| Version | Date | Description of Changes |
|---------|------------|---|
| 1.0 | 01.10.2021 | Introduction of the policy |
| 2.0 | 30.09.2023 | New version with Refund Table and Refund Application Form |



Fee Payment and Refund Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide information in relation to Fee payment & refund of course money to students in accordance with the requirements of 'Standard 3' of the National Code 2018 and clause 5.3 of the Standard for RTOs 2015.

This fee payment & refund policy is consistent with the requirements of ESOS Act, policy in relation to refunds of tuition fees and non-tuition fees in the case of student default and Provider default i.e. ASIA default.

The policy provides students with information on the amounts that may or may not be repaid to the overseas students (including any tuition and non-tuition fees collected by education agents on behalf of ASIA).

This Refund policy and procedures has been documented to ensure all students are treated fairly and with integrity when applying for refunds.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all students currently studying or formally enrolled at Astral Institute of Australia (ASIA). Applicants are advised to ensure that they understand the Fee payment & Refund Policy. Refunds will be available only under certain circumstances as mentioned in this policy below.

3. Responsibility

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is responsible for the implementation, monitoring and interpretation of this policy.

ASIA will ensure that learners are aware about their rights to obtain a refund for the services not provided by the institute in the event the:

- Arrangement is terminated early; or
- ASIA fails to provide agreed services

4. Definitions

Tuition Fee: The Tuition Fee is a compulsory academic fee payable by students for courses offered by the institute. It does not include course material fees and other applicable fees or cost.

Tuition Protection Service (TPS): The Tuition Protection Service is a protection scheme for international students whose provider cannot fully deliver a course for which the student has paid. The TPS ensures that international students are able to either:

- a. complete their studies in another course or with another education provider or
- b. receives a refund of their unspent tuition fees.

Agreed Start Date/Course Commencement: Agreed Start Date (Course Commencement) means the day on which the course was scheduled to start as per the student's Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE), or a later date agreed between student and the RTO (i.e. IIT in this case) for the start of the course.

Course Material Fee: A fee charged for the cost of providing course materials for theory and practical study, textbooks (if any), student guides and resource materials that are retained by the student as his/her personal property.

Application Fee: Application fee is one-time fee payable at the admission to cover administration cost associated with enrolment and it is non-refundable fee in event of withdrawal.

Term: A term is referred to a study period of 10 weeks excluding Holidays.

Withdrawal from the Course: Withdrawal refers to a student's deferral, suspension or cancellation of enrolment in courses offered by the institute.

DHA: Department of Home Affairs



Provider Default: Provider default means when a provider fails to start or finish providing a course to a student at the location on the agreed starting day,

Student Default: This means when a student fails to start or finish a course with a provider, withdraws from the course, or when provider refuses to provide, or continue providing, the course to the student due to:

- failure to pay an amount that he/she is liable to pay to the provider,
- Student breached a condition of his/her student visa, or misbehaviour by the student.

5. Requests for Refund of Tuition fees.

A student who wishes to apply for a refund of tuition fees in accordance with this Refund Policy should do so by completing a Refund Application form (Appendix 1) available at ASIA reception or on the ASIA's website at www.asia.edu.au and submit with other supporting documents to:

Administration Officer
info@asia.edu.au
Astral Skills Institute of Australia (ASIA)
Level 9, 79 George St, Parramatta, NSW 2150

6. Policy

It is important that learners are aware about the institute's Fees Payment policy and the Fees Refund Policy before they sign the agreement.

I. Payment of Tuition Fees

- The initial tuition fee, application fee and material fee as stated in the offer letter must be paid in advance before the commencement of the course for confirmation of enrolment at institute.
- Students are not required to pay more than 50% of the student's total tuition fee for a course before the student begins the course. ASIA will not accept more than 50% of tuition fee upfront unless the course duration is 25 weeks or less.
- Students are not required to pay more than the initial tuition fee amount as stated on the offer letter (or 50% of the tuition fee) before the start of the course. However, students can pay more than 50% if they wish to do so. Any amount of fees paid before the start of the course will be reflected on the Confirmation of Enrolment (COE).
- Any remaining tuition fees can be paid through payment plan arrangements. All students are required to understand and sign the fees agreement which states the next instalment amounts with the due dates. All due dates on the tuition fees will be kept at standard 15th of every month.
- Student must pay full tuition fees for each term by the due date or as specified in the invoices unless any other payment plan/arrangement is agreed with the institute.
- Tuition fees will be payable to the Institute by a bank draft or telegraphic transfer (or other approved payment options) in Australian dollars as agreed by the institute.
- Students must pay their fee directly to ASIA. Student should not pay the fee to the agent and/ or third party in relation to the application for enrolment.

Reminder letter

In case the student's instalment falls on a particular month, a friendly email reminder along with the first warning letter will be issued to the student after 7 working days of the date when the student has missed the payment i.e. 7 working days after the "due date". Students may also be informed via phone call or post for initial reminder.

After sending the first warning letter, if the student fails to make the payment again and does not communicate with the accounts department, a second warning letter will be issued to the student after 7 Working days of sending the first warning letter. Students will be provided with 7 more working

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days to make the payment or to request for an extension. Students may call ASIA on +61 272 522 525 for any further enquiries.

- g. If a student fails to make the payment of the outstanding fees even after a final notice and/or email, "Intention to cancel Enrolment" letter will be sent to the student. Student's enrolment will be cancelled after 20 working days of final notice. The suspension of enrolment will cause following restrictions to apply:
- Loss of access to the institute library service, Learning Management System, classroom, computer system including internet and others.
 - Loss of access to enrolment records, results and academic certificates.
 - Inability to attend any classes where this may result in students having to repeat missed work and/units.

The student has the right to appeal against the decision from the date of letter. Refer to complaints and appeal policy for information available on ASIA's website. If the student decides to appeal against the decision, his/her enrolment will be kept active until both internal and external appeal process is completed.

- h) If students choose not to appeal against the institute's decision and makes no further payment or do not contact the institute concerning their debt, their enrolment may be cancelled, and the student will be reported to the Department of Home Affairs for non-payment of fees.
- i) If student decides to not appeal against the decision and accepts to pay the fees, then students will be required to pay the full dues along with late fee of \$50 per week.
- j) An additional fee for re-assessments will be applicable when:
- Students have to undergo reassessment after two additional attempts. (Re-assessment fee after 2 attempts - \$300), or
 - Students have to repeat a subject (Repeat unit fee- \$300).
- k) Students who enrol in additional courses will be required to pay a separate tuition fee as specified for the course.
- l) The tuition fee charged to the student will remain the same provided the student remains enrolled in the same course. If the student transfers the course, tuition fee for the transferred course will be applied.

Please Note: Fees are subjected to change without prior notice. Students are advised to contact student administration for updated fees and charges.

- m) If the student's visa status changes (e.g. becomes a temporary or permanent resident), the student will continue to pay full overseas student fees for the duration of the enrolled program.
- n) ASIA reserves the right to engage in any third party to recover any outstanding fees payable to the institute. The cost incurred to the Institute for engaging a third party to recover such outstanding fees will be charged to the student.
- o) All refunds applications will be submitted to the student administration department and the following procedures will be followed in assessing the application.
- p) All 'refunds' will be approved by the Administration Officer and the applications will be processed within 10 working days of the application being placed.

7. Procedures

All students' refunds are conditional on the following:

A. COURSE WITHDRAWAL

- Where a written notice of withdrawal is received by the institute **at least 12 full weeks or more before the agreed start date** of the course or term, the institute will refund 100% of the fee received except application fee.
- Where the institute receives a written notice of withdrawal within **6 to 11 full weeks before the agreed start date** of the course or term, the institute will refund 50% of the fee received except application fee.

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- iii. Where the institute receives a written notice of withdrawal within **5 full weeks or less before the agreed start date** of the course or term, no refund will be provided.
- iv. Where the institute receives a written notice of withdrawal after the start date of the course or term, no refund will be provided.
- v. Where the student defaults, including withdrawing from a course, after the course/term start date, student are liable to pay full tuition fee and there will be no refund of paid tuition fees.
- vi. It should also be noted that if your enrolment falls within no refund timelines before the agreed start date of the course, then there will be no refund before.

For example: If a student enrolls in week 5 before course start date, he/she will not be eligible for refund as enrolment falls in no refund time period of 5 full weeks prior to the agreed start date of the course.

- vii. If the refund application is approved, Refund will be paid within the period of 28 days (20 working days) after receiving written notification/claim from the student and relevant forms duly signed by the student.
- viii. The institute must have received funds in order for any refunds to be made available (i.e. cheques are cleared, telegraphic transfers have been received).

B. STUDENT DEFAULTS

An overseas student or intending overseas student defaults, in relation to a course at a location, if the student himself/herself initiates termination of enrolment like:

- a. the course starts at the location on the agreed starting day, but the student does not start the course on that day (and has not previously withdrawn); or
- b. the student withdraws from the course at the location (after the agreed starting day); or
- c. the institute refuses to provide, or continue providing, the course to the student at the location because of one or more of the followings:
 - the student failed to pay an amount payable to the institute for the course;
 - the student breached a condition of his/her student visa;
 - misbehavior by the student (Note: the student is entitled to natural justice under subsection 47A (3))

A student does not default for failing to start a course on the agreed starting day if he/she does not start that course because the institute defaults in relation to the course at the institute.

C. VISA REFUSAL

If a student visa application or visa renewal is refused by the Australian Government, a refund of course fees, less application fee, will be made and visa refusal refunds are calculated in accordance with the legislative instrument under subsection 47E (4).

The calculation under subsection 47E (4) is as follows:

The amount of unspent pre-paid fees that the institute must refund the student for the purpose of

Subsection 47E (2) of the Act is the total amount of the pre-paid fees the provider received for the course in respect of the student less the following amount the lesser of:

- a. 5% of the total amount of pre-paid fees that the provider received in respect of the student for the course before the default day; or
- b. the sum of \$500.



Students must provide the institute with substantiated evidence of their student visa refusal.

If an international student currently in Australia has their student visa application refused by Department of Home Affairs (DHA) after the commencement of their studies; refund will be calculated as follows:

The refund amount = weekly tuition fee x the number of weeks in the default period

- a. The weekly tuition fee = total tuition fee for the course / number of calendar days in the course x seven (7). This amount is rounded up to the nearest whole dollar.
- b. The number of weeks in the default period = number of calendar days from the default day to the end of the period to which the payment relates / seven (7).

No refunds will be granted where an international student currently in Australia has their student visa cancelled by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) for a breach of visa conditions.

D. PROVIDER DEFAULT

- i. In the unlikely event that the institute is unable to start or deliver the course (known as provider default), the student can choose to accept either:
 - A refund of course fees, which will be issued to the student within 14 days. or
 - be placed in an alternative course with the institute or another provider. If the student chooses this option, they must sign a new written agreement to indicate they have accepted the placement.
- ii. If the student chooses to receive a refund of course fees, the institute will calculate the unspent portion of tuition fees paid to date (i.e. tuition fees the student has paid for, but which has not been delivered by the institute). The refund will be paid within 14 days after cessation of the course.
- iii. If the institute is unable to provide a refund or place the student in an alternative course, the TPS will provide the student with options for suitable alternative courses (if any such courses are available), or if this is not possible, the student will be eligible for a refund as calculated by the TPS Director.

E. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Where a student withdraws from the course and returns home because of exceptional and extenuating circumstances of a compassionate nature, such as a death or severe illness in the immediate family, 100% of all the unspent fees paid, less any application/enrolment fees, will be refunded.

REFUND PROCESS

- a. The Student must apply for refund using the Refund Application Form (Appendix 1) along with the evidence and supporting documents. Such documents may include, but are not limited to:
 - a completed Course Withdrawal Form (Refund application form) provided by the institute,
 - a letter from DHA advising of a rejection of the student visa application or a refusal to extend a student visa,
 - Proof of extenuating circumstances of a compassionate nature.
- b. Refunds will be made within 28 days of the receipt of completed refund application form along with full supporting document by the institute.
- c. Student can nominate a person(s), other than the overseas student, who can receive a refund in respect of the overseas student identified in the written agreement, consistent with the ESOS Act.



PAYMENT OF REFUNDS

Refunds will be paid in Australian dollars via bank transfer to the bank account number nominated by the student on the refund application form.

Refund to International banks are made in the Australian currency whereby student will receive refund amount equivalent to Australian Dollar exchange rate on the date of transfer.

Note: Timeline for refund

It is to be noted that refund will be made available to students differently based on student's default and providers default.

In case of Student default: Refund will be paid within the period of 28 days (20 working days) after receiving written notification/claim from student and relevant forms duly signed by the student.

In case of Provider's default: Refund will be paid within the period of 14 days after cessation of the course.

Please refer to the course refund table below for details:

| ASIA COURSE FEE REFUND TABLE | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Refund circumstances | Refund of Tuition Fees paid | Refund of Material Fees | Application/enrolment Fee |
| Withdrawal at least 12 full weeks or more prior to agree start date. | 100% | 100% | No refund |
| Withdrawal between 6 to 11 full weeks prior to the agreed Start Date. | 50% | 100% | No refund |
| Withdrawal in 5 full weeks or less | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| Withdrawal after course start date | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| Course withdrawn by the institute | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Application rejected by the institute | 100% | 100% | No Refund |
| The course is not provided fully to the student because the institute has a sanction imposed by a government regulator. | Refund of unused portion of tuition fees for future terms | No refund | No refund |
| Visa refused prior to course commencement | Total amount of the pre-paid fees received by ASIA for the course in respect of the student course less the following amount (a) 5% of the total amount of pre-paid fees that the institute received in respect of the | 100% | No refund |





| | | | |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| | student for the course before the default day; or (b) a maximum sum of \$500 whichever is lesser | | |
| Visa is refused after commencement of studies due to not meeting visa requirements | The refund amount = weekly tuition fee x the number of weeks in the default period a. The weekly tuition fee = total tuition fee for the course/ number of calendar days in the course x 7. This amount is rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. b. The number of weeks in the default period = number of calendar days from the default day to the end of the period to which the payment relates /7 | No refund | No refund |
| RPL fee | No refund if 'Statement of Attainment' is provided | No refund | No refund |
| Visa refused due to submission of fraudulent documents by or on behalf of the student | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| Withdraws from the course without notification or breaches their Visa conditions | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| Visa cancelled due to actions of the student | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| Student abandons the course | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| The institute cancels an enrolment due to serious student misconduct | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| <p>Note: If a student's enrolment falls within no refund timelines before the agreed start date of the course and the student decides to withdraw from the course, then there will be no refund. For example: If a student enrolls in week 5 before course start date, he/she will not be eligible for refund if student withdraws from the course as enrolment falls in no refund time period of 5 weeks prior to the agreed start date of the course.</p> | | | |

STUDENT'S RIGHTS TO APPEAL

- a. Any student who is refused a refund by the institute may appeal within 14 days in writing to the Complaints and Appeals officer and follow the complaints and appeal process of ASIA.
- b. The institute's appeal process does not restrict the student's right to pursue other legal avenues.

The written agreement and the right to make complaints and seek appeals of decisions and action under various processes, does not affect the rights of the student to take action under the Australian Consumer Law if the Australian Consumer Law applies.





| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|-----------|-----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Withdrawal in 5 full weeks or less | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Withdrawal after course start date | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Course withdrawn by the institute | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Application rejected by the institute | 100% | 100% | No Refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The course is not provided fully to the student because the institute has a sanction imposed by a government regulator. | Refund of unused portion of tuition fees for future terms | No refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visa refused prior to course commencement | Total amount of the pre-paid fees received by ASIA for the course in respect of the student course less the following amount (a) 5% of the total amount of pre-paid fees that the institute received in respect of the student for the course before the default day; or (b) a maximum sum of \$500 whichever is lesser | 100% | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visa is refused after commencement of studies due to not meeting visa requirements | The refund amount = weekly tuition fee x the number of weeks in the default period a. The weekly tuition fee = total tuition fee for the course/ number of calendar days in the course x 7. This amount is rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. b. The number of weeks in the default period = number of calendar days from the default day to the end of the period to which the payment relates /7 | No Refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | RPL fee | No refund if 'Statement of Attainment' is provided | No refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visa refused due to submission of fraudulent documents by or on behalf of the student | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Withdraws from the course without notification or breaches their Visa conditions | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Visa cancelled due to actions of the student | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Student abandons the course | No refund | No refund | No refund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | The institute cancels an enrolment due to serious student misconduct | No refund | No refund | No refund |





Note: If your enrolment falls within no refund timelines before the agreed start date of the course and you decide to withdraw from the course, then there will be no refund.

For example: If a student enrolls in week 5 before course start date, he/she will not be eligible for refund if student withdraws from the course as enrolment falls in no refund time period of 5 weeks prior to the agreed start date of the course.

Please approach the administration department for approval on this application prior to final submission.

Student can specify person(s), other than themselves who can receive a refund in respect of the student identified in the written agreement, consistent with the ESOS.

| | |
|--|--|
| Full name of person authorised receive refund on behalf of you | |
| Address and contact detail of authorised person | |

Student Declaration

- I have read and understood the policies and procedure for refund at Astral Skills Institute of Australia (ASIA).
- I am aware about the terms and conditions applied with the amount of refund received by me as mentioned in the ASIA's Refund policy.
- I have been informed and understand that withdrawing from this course might affect my Visa status. I have been informed to contact DHA for any visa related queries.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|--|
| Student's Signature | | Date | |
|----------------------------|--|-------------|--|





ASIA

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| Events | Signature | Date |
|---|-----------|------|
| <i>Request received</i> | | |
| <i>Refund Application Processed by:</i> | | |
| <i>Operation Manager approval</i> | | |
| <i>Decision Granted</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | | |
| Entered PRISMS (If Yes) | | |
| Entered Student Management System (If yes) | | |

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