



## Genuine Student Requirement

As an international student applying for a student visa, you must be able to demonstrate that studying in Australia to gain a quality education at Edith Cowan University is the primary reason for your application. The [Department of Home Affairs Genuine Student \(GS\) requirement](#) is effective for all student visa applications lodged on and after 23 March 2024 and assessment against this criteria forms part of the review of your eligibility for an offer to study at Edith Cowan University.

In assessing the genuine student requirement, we consider the unique circumstances of each applicant which includes ties to family, community, the employment and economic circumstances in your home country, your reasons for choosing to study at Edith Cowan University and the wider benefits you believe the study will bring. You will need to demonstrate what research you have undertaken prior to submitting your application and explain your understanding of studying and living in Australia. For applicants already in Australia, there may be additional information you need to provide about your time in Australia to date.

We encourage you to answer each section in your own words and ensure that the information provided isn't copied from another source or produced using artificial intelligence, as this may affect your eligibility for an offer of a place. You should also ensure that you have the relevant evidence available to support all information provided in your responses.

To be granted a student visa, the Department of Home Affairs requires that all applicants satisfy the genuine student criterion or the genuine student dependent criterion so the information you provide to Edith Cowan University must be consistent with that intended to support your student visa application.

## GENUINE STUDENT (GS) ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

The genuine student assessment form should be completed by all applicants from the countries indicated in the table below<sup>#</sup>.

| Bangladesh   | Bhutan | India | Iran  | Nepal | Pakistan | Sri Lanka | Vietnam |
|--|--------|-------|---|-------|----------|-----------|---------|
| All sub-Saharan African countries (excluding Mauritius and South Africa) |        |       | <i>Other countries – by request. Please note that the Genuine Student requirement applies to all applicants and evidence may be requested at any time in the application process to support this.</i> |       |          |           |         |

<sup>#</sup> Excludes applicants for research programs where this will be requested as required.

### Important Information:

- You must answer all questions and complete the financial matrix. If you leave any sections blank, the form will be returned and assessment of your application for entry to ECU will be delayed.
- Where you are asked to complete your response within a maximum number of words, don't exceed the maximum.
- Documentary evidence will be required to support all information provided in the Genuine Student Assessment form. You don't need to provide financial documents until you are requested to do so but you should ensure you have all required documents available to avoid delays with your application assessment.
- If you have previously studied in Australia or are currently studying with another education provider in Australia, you must provide official academic transcripts to support your study to date. Confirmation of Enrolment documents are not accepted as evidence of study and/or visa compliance.

| Evidence Guidance  |
|--|
| <p><b>Evidence of Employment</b></p> <p>When providing details of previous employment, including where this is to support claims for credit and recognition of prior learning, ECU will require the following evidence in support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A letter issued on the company letterhead which includes the company's taxation authority registration number or national business registration number. The letter should confirm the position held, usual weekly hours, length of employment and income.</li> <li>▪ Where the employment is within a business owned by a family member or relative, ECU will also require income tax returns for the previous three years and itemised company bank statements for the previous 12 months to demonstrate active business operations.</li> <li>▪ A bank statement for a period of at least six months is acceptable as evidence of salary payment or a recent copy of the most recent annual income tax return.</li> <li>▪ ECU will validate employment records so you should ensure that contact details are correct and current. Where salary is paid in cash, further information or evidence may be required.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Evidence of Financial Capacity</b></p> <p>When completing the financial matrix, please note the following important requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Where your primary source of funds is personal loan or other savings/personal funds, please note that mutual fund or stock holdings are not acceptable as means of evidence of accessible funds to support loan repayment or total study costs.</li> <li>▪ Where bank statements are provided as evidence of savings or source of funds, a supporting explanation and additional evidence must be provided for any large deposits shown on the statements.</li> <li>▪ Where the primary source of funds is declared as being from the sale of land or property, you will be required to provide copies of the deed of sale and where applicable, property tax receipts may also be required.</li> <li>▪ Where you are being sponsored by a family member, you must also provide evidence of your relationship such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, passport documents which show parent names, national identity cards, other family or relationship documents.</li> </ul>                                |

Please also review the Genuine Student document checklist before submitting your application.

## GENUINE STUDENT (GS) ASSESSMENT FORM

Please refer to the Genuine Student Requirement guidance before completing this assessment form. You must answer all questions and should ensure that you have the relevant supporting evidence for all information provided.

### Submission Information:

- Check that you have entered responses for all questions and that the student declaration and financial matrix are complete.
- Submit the fully completed form and supporting documents via the [Apply Online Portal](#).  
Note: If you are applying through an ECU authorised agent, your agent can submit this on your behalf.
- ECU Admissions will review the Genuine Student Assessment form and supporting documents and provide an application update to you or your agent. Incomplete assessment forms will be returned and may delay your application outcome.

| 1. Student Details |  |                            |  |
|--------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| Family name        |  | Date of birth              |  |
| Given name(s)      |  | Student ID<br>Applicant ID |  |

| 2. Immigration History   |    |     |  |
|--|----|-----|--|
| Do you hold or have you previously held an Australian visa?                          | No | Yes | ▶ If yes, provide evidence of all current and previous visa grant(s) |
| Do you hold or have you previously held a confirmation of enrolment (CoE)            | No | Yes | ▶ If yes, provide evidence of all current and previous CoE(s)        |
| Have you ever had any visa refused or cancelled?                                     | No | Yes | ▶ If yes, specify which country and provide evidence                 |
| Have you ever been deported or removed by the Immigration Department of any country? | No | Yes | ▶ If yes, specify which country and provide evidence                 |

| 3. Study History  |              |            |  |           |
|---|--------------|------------|--|-----------|
| 3.1 Previous study in Australia                                       |              |            |  |           |
| Have you previously studied in Australia?                             | No           | Yes        | ▶ If yes, complete the section below and provide transcripts for all study |           |
| Institution name (Australia only)                                     | Course title | Start date | End date   | Complete? |
|   |              |            |  | No Yes    |
|   |              |            |  | No Yes    |
|   |              |            |  | No Yes    |
| For any incomplete study, please explain why here                     |              |            |  |           |
| 3.2 Gaps in Study   |              |            |  |           |
| Have you had any gaps of more than 3 months during any prior studies? | No           | Yes        | ▶ If yes, please provide details below                                     |           |
| Reasons for gap   | Start date   | End date   | Other relevant information   |           |
|   |              |            |  |           |
|   |              |            |  |           |

| <b>4. Family Details</b>  |                                 |                   |  |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>4.1 Marital Status and Children</b>  |                                 |                   |  |
| Are you married?  | No                              | Yes               | ▶ If yes, please provide details below and provide your marriage certificate |
| Place and date of marriage  |                                 |                   | Spouse date of birth   |
| Spouse name   |                                 |                   | Will your spouse join you in Australia?                                      |
|   | No                              | Yes               |  |
| Is your spouse currently employed?  | No                              | Yes               | ▶ If yes, please provide your spouse's resume                                |
| What is your spouse's highest qualification?<br>e.g. Secondary School, Diploma, Bachelor, Masters   |                                 |                   |  |
| Has your spouse ever had any visa refused or cancelled?   | No                              | Yes               | ▶ If yes, specify which country and provide evidence                         |
| Has your spouse been deported or removed by the Immigration Department of any country?  | No                              | Yes               | ▶ If yes, specify which country and provide evidence                         |
| Do you have any children, including stepchildren?   | No                              | Yes               | ▶ If yes, please provide details below                                       |
| Child name  | Child date of birth             | Child age         | Will this child join you in Australia?                                       |
|   |                                 |                   | No Yes   |
|   |                                 |                   | No Yes   |
|   |                                 |                   | No Yes   |
| Detail additional children here   |                                 |                   |  |
| <b>4.2 Other Family and Relatives</b>   |                                 |                   |  |
| *For questions below, family and relatives, includes siblings, parents, children, aunts, uncles and cousins   |                                 |                   |  |
| Do you or your spouse have any relatives* living in Australia?  | No                              | Yes               | ▶ If yes, please complete the section below                                  |
| Name of relative  | Relationship to you (e.g. aunt) | City of residence | Residency status or visa type (e.g. permanent resident, student visa)        |
|   |                                 |                   |  |
|   |                                 |                   |  |
|   |                                 |                   |  |
| If you have relatives living in Australia but not in Perth, please explain here why you have decided not to study in the city or location where you already have relatives. |                                 |                   |  |
| <b>4.3 Other General</b>  |                                 |                   |  |
| Do you have military service commitments in your home country or any other country?   | No                              | Yes               | ▶ If yes, please provide details below                                       |
|   |                                 |                   |  |

**5. Genuine Student Responses**

It is important that the responses and documentation you provide to ECU in relation to the genuine student requirement are the same as the responses and documentation you intend to provide to support your application for a student visa.

**5.1 Outline your current circumstances**

Please explain the family, social, cultural, religious, and financial/economic ties you have to your home country. You should clearly demonstrate what incentives there are for you to return home following completion of your study. If you plan to stay in Australia at the end of your study, explain this in more detail here.

**Maximum 150 words**

**5.2 Why did you choose Australia and Edith Cowan University?**

Please explain why you chose Australia and at ECU specifically as your preferred study destination. What course have you chosen to study and why? Explain what you know about your chosen course structure and any specific units that are of particular interest.

**Maximum 150 words**

**5.2.1 Why did you not choose to study your nominated course in your home country?**

Detail below the availability and cost of equivalent study in your home country.

| Equivalent Course | Institution | Cost (local currency) | Cost (AUD) |
|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
|                   |             |                       |            |
|                   |             |                       |            |

Other additional information



**5. Genuine Student Responses (cont.)**

It is important that the responses and documentation you provide to ECU in relation to the genuine student requirement are the **same as the responses and documentation you intend to provide to support your application for a student visa.**

**5.3 What are the benefits of the proposed study?**

Please explain how this course will be of benefit your future. How does your chosen course align with your previous study and employment and your future career plans? Explain any prospective salaries from future employment and provide evidence.

**Maximum 150 words**

Detail below the expected salary and other benefits in your home country or any other country gained following completion of your proposed study.

| Position/Role | Company | Expected Salary (local currency) | Expected Salary (AUD) |
|---------------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
|               |         |                                  |                       |
|               |         |                                  |                       |

**5.4 Living in Australia**

Please explain your understanding of living and studying in Australia. Outline the research you have undertaken and explain your proposed living arrangements. Do you intend to work in Australia?

**Maximum 150 words**

**5.5 Other relevant information**

## 6. Financial Matrix

You must demonstrate that you have sufficient funds to cover all study-related expenses or alternatively, provide evidence that your spouse or parents are willing to support you and have the minimum annual income required to do so.

### 6.1 Expected study, travel and living expenses

Please complete the table below to calculate your total expenses

| Expense Type |   | Calculation of funds (AUD)  | Total (AUD) |
|--------------|---|---|-------------|
| A            | Funds required to cover 12 months' tuition fees.  | = $\frac{\text{Total indicative course fee} - \text{confirmed scholarship}}{\text{divided by years of study}}$        | \$          |
| B            | Funds required to cover your living expenses for 12 months.   | <b>\$29,710</b>   | \$29,710    |
| C            | Additional living costs for accompanying dependents.  | Spouse/partner<br><b>Add \$10,394</b><br>(or \$0 if none accompanying)  | \$          |
|              |   | Child<br><b>Add \$4,449</b> per child<br>(or \$0 if none accompanying)  | \$          |
| D            | School costs for all school age dependent children to be included in your student visa application. <a href="#">Costs may vary</a> ** | No. of children<br><b>Add \$13,502</b> per child per year minimum school cost<br>(or \$0 if none accompanying)        | \$          |
| E            | Travel costs for yourself <b>and</b> your accompanying spouse and/or any accompanying dependants.                                     | Travel costs when applying from:  | \$          |
|              |   | East or South Africa - <b>\$2,500</b>   |             |
|              |   | West Africa - <b>\$3,000</b>  |             |
|              |   | Other outside Australia - <b>\$2,000</b><br>In Australia - <b>\$1,000</b> or <b>\$1,500</b><br>if returning to Africa |             |
| F            | Total funds required to cover all study-related expenses.   | <b>= A + B + C + D + E</b>  | <b>\$</b>   |

\*\* If you are including any school-age children in your application, add schooling costs of at least AUD13,502 per year for each child. Costs can vary between states, territories and schools in Australia, and you are responsible for checking how much your child's schooling will cost.

### 6.2 Source of funds

Please outline the source of funds to cover your expenses outlined above in section 6.1 and the percentage of funds from the nominated source below.

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Personal income                         | <i>You will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate genuine access to the funds required to cover the total costs in section 6.1 (F).</i>  | % |
| Savings, term deposits, provident funds | <i>You will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate genuine access to the funds required to cover the total costs in section 6.1 (F).</i>  | % |
| Education loan or personal loan         | <i>You will be required to provide evidence of the loan and the income source for loan repayment. Please confirm what percentage of the total costs in section 6.1 (F) will be funded through the loan.</i> | % |
| Funds from the sale of land/property    | <i>You will be required to provide evidence of land/property ownership, details of the purchaser and evidence of funds deposit.</i>   | % |
| Private sponsorship                     | <i>You will be required to provide evidence to demonstrate your relationship to the sponsor(s) and evidence of savings and/or income for each proposed sponsor.</i>   | % |
| Scholarship                             | <i>You will be required to provide a signed undertaking from the scholarship provider which details the value and conditions of the scholarship award, and the issuing officer/authority</i>                | % |

## 7. Student Declaration

If you are under 18 years of age, this form should be signed by your parent or legal guardian.

**I declare that I am a genuine student and that the information and documentation provided to ECU are a true and accurate representation of myself and do not include any false or misleading information.**

| PRINT NAME | SIGNATURE | DATE |
|------------|-----------|------|
|            |           |      |

| DOCUMENT CHECKLIST  |  |
|---|--|
|   | Genuine Student Assessment Form with all sections fully completed.   |
|   | Evidence of prior study and employment.  |
|   | Evidence of previous visa grants, refusals, and cancellations for and your spouse ( <i>if married</i> ).   |
|   | Marriage certificate ( <i>if married</i> ), and your spouse's resume ( <i>if your spouse is employed</i> ).  |
|   | Any supporting evidence you have to support your Genuine Student responses.  |
|   | Evidence of financial capacity ( <i>documents will be requested later - the following requirements will apply</i> ).   |
| Bank Statements   | Fixed Deposit/Term Deposit Statements  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statements must be issued by an accepted financial institution which is registered with the appropriate central, reserve or national bank or relevant monetary authority.</li> <li>Statements provided should cover a minimum period of 6 months prior to application submission and ECU may request additional statements as evidence of regular income.</li> <li>Statements will be verified with the relevant central/issuing financial institution.</li> <li>Statements provided as evidence of business income should be supported by relevant company income tax documents and financial audit reports.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fixed or term deposit statements must be issued by an accepted financial institution which is registered with the appropriate central, reserve or national bank or relevant monetary authority.</li> <li>Statements must include the name of address of the financial institution where funds are held, the name of the account holder, the deposit date, deposit amount, and term duration/term end date.</li> <li>Where the term deposit was made within the last 6 months, additional evidence must be provided to evidence the source of funds (including previous term deposit statements where this has been renewed or extended).</li> <li>Statements will be verified with the relevant central/issuing financial institution.</li> </ul> |
| Income Evidence   | Personal/Education Loans   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of income may include 2-3 years of official income tax documents, and bank statements showing salary payment receipts for a minimum of 12 months (refer to bank statement guidance above), together with supporting salary slips.</li> <li>Income evidence may be required for yourself or for your sponsors. For sponsors, evidence of your relationship will also be required.</li> <li>Where income is from the sale of land or property or from rental income, additional evidence will be required, such sale deeds or registration documents.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A copy of the loan approval document/letter which is in the name of the applicant or the proposed sponsor should be provided as evidence, when requested.</li> <li>Loan approval documents should show the date of the loan approval, the total amount of the loan and should be issued by an accepted government body or financial institution which is registered with the appropriate central, reserve or national bank or relevant monetary authority.</li> <li>Loan documents will be verified with the relevant issuing financial institution and evidence of loan disbursement may also be required.</li> </ul>  |

### Agent Declaration

If you are applying via an ECU authorised agent, your agent must complete the declaration below.

The information provided in this application has been completed by the applicant and is a true and accurate representation of the applicant.

The original documents provided in support of this application have been sighted by me. I have taken all necessary steps to validate the information being provided to ECU to ensure that this does not include any false or misleading statements or evidence.

### ECU Authorised Representative

Stamp

Representative name and position

Signature

Date