

Tuition protection¹ refers to the protections and assistance available to support FEE-HELP or HECS-HELP (HELP) students, VET Student Loans (VSL) students and international students, in the event that their education provider defaults (ceases delivering a course or closes entirely).

As an approved higher education provider under the [ESOS Act 2000](#) and the [Higher Education Support Act 2003](#), Edith Cowan College (ABN 35 064 377 993) must meet the tuition assurance requirements. In doing so, ECC contributes annually to the Australian Government's [Tuition Protection Service](#) (TPS). This requirement is to protect students in the event that Edith Cowan College ceases to provide a course of study in which a student is enrolled.

Note: Temporary residents are not covered under the TPS and will be managed on a case-by-case basis in the event Edith Cowan College is unable to provide a course of study.

In the event that Edith Cowan College ceases to provide a course of study, the student is eligible for tuition protection assistance if the course has not commenced, or ceases after commencement but before completion, and the student has not previously withdrawn.

What happens if Edith Cowan College ceases to provide a course of study?

Information for affected students

Edith Cowan College will notify affected students (currently enrolled and or pending applications) in writing that a course of study is no longer provided within 24 hours after the College ceases to provide the course.

As soon as practicable, Edith Cowan College will also update its website to reflect that the course is no longer being delivered and to give students information about the tuition assurance arrangements.

Course Assurance

In the event of a course or provider default, HELP students will be assisted to continue their studies with a replacement provider in an equivalent or similar course or receive a loan re-credit for the units of study they had received a HELP loan for and were undertaking when their provider defaulted.

Replacement courses must meet the following criteria:

- the course must lead to the same or comparable qualification as the original course;
- the mode of delivery of the replacement course must be the same as or, with the student's consent, similar to the mode of delivery for the original course;
- the location where the replacement course is primarily delivered must be reasonable, having regard to the costs of, and the time required for, a student's travel; and
- the student will not incur additional fees that are unreasonable and will be able to attend the replacement course without unreasonable impacts on the student's prior commitments.

Affected students will be offered a replacement course and may seek a review about whether the course offered to them meets the requirements for replacement courses.

A student who accepts the replacement course offered will not be required to pay the second provider for the replacement components of the replacement course. However, the fees payable for the remainder of the replacement course may be different from the fees payable for the original course.

The student will also receive course credits for parts of the original course successfully completed by the student, as evidenced by a copy of the academic transcript or other Australian Qualifications Framework certification document issued by the course provider or an authorized issuing organization in accordance with the Australian Qualifications Framework.

Each affected student will have six (6) months in which to accept the replacement course offer.

The Tuition Protection Service may extend that period in circumstances that justify an extension.

If an affected student enrolls into a course that is not a replacement course, the student may be required to pay additional tuition fees and might not receive the course credits the student would have received if they enrolled in a replacement course.

Re-credit of HELP balance

Where the student prefers to apply for a re-credit of their FEE-HELP balance for the eligible parts of their original course, the student may nominate the TPS to make the application on their behalf.

Edith Cowan College will consider students' applications as soon as practicable and notify them of the decision about the application, together with a statement of reasons for the decision. If an application for a re-credit is accepted, the amount re-credited will be equal to the amount of FEE-HELP assistance received by the student for the eligible units of study.

Tuition Fee Repayment

If there are no suitable alternative courses/courses or offers, the student may apply for a refund of the amount of any unspent pre-paid tuition fees paid to the provider. These are any tuition fees already paid that are directly related to the courses/course which the student has not yet received. Any remaining unspent tuition fees are refunded to the student.

Note: Ceasing study may affect a student visa. Contact the [Department of Home Affairs](#) on 131 881 for assistance.

Record Keeping

It is suggested best practice for students to retain assessments, records of competencies, transcripts or statements of attainment that they receive from their education provider.

Publication

This *Statement of Tuition Assurance* is located on Edith Cowan College's website:
<https://www.edithcowancollege.edu.au/>