The simplified student visa framework (SSVF) - Explanatory notes for immigration risk reports
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How is an education provider’s immigration risk rating calculated under the SSVF?

The methodology used to calculate an education provider’s immigration risk rating for the purpose of the SSVF is similar to the approach used in the existing streamlined visa processing (SVP) and Assessment Level (AL) framework arrangements.

Immigration risk ratings are calculated using a weighted average which is based on the total numbers of international students (applicants and holders of Student visas) that have a Confirmation of Enrolment to study a principal course from the education provider.

The following weightings and immigration risk indicators are used to calculate the immigration risk rating of each education provider and country under the SSVF:

- Rate of visa cancellations (25% weighting)
- Rate of refusals due to a fraud reason where the applicant lodged overseas (40% weighting)
- Rate of refusals (excluding fraud) where the applicant lodged overseas (10% weighting)
- Rate of student visa holders becoming unlawful non-citizens (15% weighting)
- Rate of Subsequent Protection Visa applications (10% weighting)

Immigration risk ratings are allocated to each education provider and country as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Index (Weighted average of all risk indicators)</th>
<th>Immigration risk rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Below 1.0</td>
<td>One</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1.0 and 2.70</td>
<td>Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 2.70</td>
<td>Three</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Smaller education providers

Education providers that during a 12 month reporting period do not have 50 active student visa holders (column 1 of the risk report) and/or 50 offshore student visa applications (column 2) and/or 50 student visas about to expire (column 3) are allocated a default immigration risk rating of two under the SSVF.

The Department has set this threshold based on experience in managing the Streamlined Visa processing (SVP) arrangements and in consultations with a working group of members from the Education Visa Consultative Committee (EVCC).
Detailed overview of the risk report

What do columns 1 to 3 represent?

Columns 1 to 3 are used to determine the rates of the relevant immigration risk indicators.

- Column 1 refers to the number of active primary student visa holders who have been in Australia and lawful for at least one day. Primary student visa holders excludes any dependents who may accompany the visa holders.
- Column 2 refers to the number of student visa applications granted or refused during the reporting period where the applicant lodged overseas.
- Column 3 represents the number of student visa holders whose visas are due to expire in the period of the report.

How are visa cancellations defined in the report?

Immigration risk reporting for education providers includes linked Student visa cancellations relating to fraud, non-genuineness, breaches of condition 8202 (must maintain enrolment, attendance and course progress), and breaches of work condition 8105 (cannot work more than 40 hours per fortnight when course is in session).

The immigration risk report does not include linked Student visa cancellations where the student personally requests visa cancellation, for example, a student who has ceased study and returned home may request visa cancellation.

What does the rate of cancellation figure represent?

The rate of cancellation is obtained by dividing the number of student visas that were cancelled by the number of active Student visas (in effect).

Column 5 of the SVP risk report represents 25% of the rate of cancellation:

Rate of Cancellation (25%) = (Col 4 / Col 1) x 100 x 0.25

What types of visa refusals count towards the immigration risk rating?

Refusals that count towards an education provider’s immigration risk rating include linked Student visa refusals due to fraud and non-fraud reasons. The number of linked Student visas that have been refused (excluding fraud) refers to Student visas that have been refused where the overseas applicant did not meet one of the legal requirements for grant of the visa and no fraud was detected. For example, if a Student visa applicant does not meet financial, genuine temporary entrant, health or other requirements for grant of the visa. However if a linked Student visa is refused because of fraud (whether or not any other refusal reason exists), the refusal information counts towards the number of Student visas that have been refused because of a fraud reason.

Rate of Refusals because of a fraud reason (40%) = (Col 6 / Col 2) x 100 x 0.40
Rate of Refusals (excluding fraud) (10%) = (Col 8 / Col 2) x 100 x 0.10
When does a student visa holder overstaying their visa appear in the unlawful non-citizen data?

Students and other visa holders who present to the Department and have overstayed their visa and have been unlawful for short periods of time will usually have the opportunity of applying for and being granted a Bridging visa to resolve their immigration status. Persons who have been unlawful and resolve their immigration status within a short period of time (less than 28 days) are unlikely to have an adverse record on our databases. Therefore these figures represent those visa holders who did not contact the Department to arrange a Bridging visa or another visa and overstayed their visas for more than 28 days.

What does the rate of student unlawful non-citizens represent?

The rate is obtained by dividing the total number of Student visa holders who have become unlawful for over 28 days during the reporting period by the number of Student visas that were due to expire in the reporting period.

The figure in column 12 contains the rate of student unlawful non-citizens (with 15% weighting):

Rate of Student unlawful non-citizens (15%) = (Col 10 / Col 3) x 100 x 0.15

How is the number of Protection visa applications defined?

The number of Protection Visa (PV) applications is defined as the number of people who lodged a PV application where the last visa held by them was a Student visa.

What does the rate of subsequent protection visa applications represent?

The rate is obtained by dividing the total number of Protection Visa applications where the previous visa held was a student visa by the number of Student visas that were due to expire in the reporting period.

The figure in column 13 contains the rate of subsequent protection visa applications (with 10% weighting):

Rate of subsequent protection visa applications (10%) = (Col 12 / Col 3) x 100 x 0.10

How is a student visa linked to an education provider?

The immigration risk report contains information based on Student visas that are linked to that education provider. An education provider is linked to its students by the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) held at the time the Student visa application was decided.

This means that if a Student transfers to another education provider their Student visa will continue to be linked to the original education provider specified on the CoE for visa grant until the student is granted a further visa.
Which education provider is the data attributed to when a student studies at multiple education providers?

The Student visa outcomes are attributed to the education provider specified on the CoE for the principal course at the time the Student visa application was decided. For example if the student is intending to undertake a package of courses, their Student visa outcomes would only count towards the immigration risk rating of the education provider specified on the CoE of the principal course.

Why could there be differences between the figures in this report and a provider’s records?

The Department has used all reasonable endeavours to ensure information it has provided to the education provider is based on data that was accurate when collected. The immigration risk report is based on information held in departmental systems at a specific point in time. The data presented in this report may differ to that held by individual education providers for a number of reasons, including differences in reporting time frames, data sources and methodologies, and because some Student visa applications may not be linked to the education provider in departmental systems.

Scenarios

Scenario one

Bob holds CoE A and is granted a Student visa (Student visa 1) for the period 1 October 2014 to 15 September 2015. Bob arrives in Australia on 2 November 2014 and after studying for six months Bob decides to change to a lower level course. In April 2015, Bob applies for and is granted a new Student visa (Student visa 2, with CoE B) while in Australia to study a different course. Student visa 1 ceases in April 2015 when the new visa was granted. Bob subsequently has his Student visa 2 cancelled in August 2015 as he was found to be working 70 hours per fortnight (breach of work condition 8105).

The education provider associated with CoE A will have attributed to its immigration risk report:

- One active Student visa (column 1);
- One Student visa application granted or refused where the applicant lodged overseas (column 2); and
- One Student visa due to expire in the reporting period (column 3).

The education provider associated with CoE B will have attributed to its risk report:

- One active Student visa (column 1); and
- One Student visa that was cancelled (column 4).

Scenario two

Jan lodges his visa application overseas for an ELICOS course offered by Provider 1 (CoE C), to be followed by a Bachelor course offered by Provider 2 (CoE D). Jan is refused the visa application on 1 December 2014 because he did not meet the genuine temporary entrant requirement. There was no fraud involved in the application.

The education provider associated with CoE C will not have any Student visa outcomes attributed to its immigration risk report as they did not provide the principal course of study.
The education provider associated with CoE D will have attributed to its immigration risk report:

- One count in column 2 (Student visa applications granted or refused where the applicant lodged overseas); and
- One count in column 8 (number of Student visas that have been refused (excluding fraud)).

**Scenario three**

Mohamed had deferred his course for six months due to illness and needs to apply for a new Student visa to complete his studies. Mohamed is granted a Student visa (and holds CoE F) for the period 1 July 2014 to 28 March 2015. Mohamed departs Australia on 27 March 2015.

The education provider associated with CoE F will have attributed to its immigration risk report:

- One count in column 1 (number of active Student visas); and
- One count in column 3 (the number of Student visas that are due to expire in the reporting period).

**Scenario four**

Yuli was granted a Student visa (and held CoE G) on 1 February 2014 that was valid until 15 March 2017. Yuli’s family circumstances have changed and she can no longer afford to study in Australia. Yuli requests that her education provider (same as on CoE G) cancel her CoE. On 30 May 2015 Yuli departs Australia and writes to the Department to request visa cancellation. At her request, Yuli’s Student visa is cancelled on 15 June 2015.

The education provider associated with CoE G will have attributed to its immigration risk report:

- One count in column 1 (number of active Student visas).

As the visa was granted before the reporting period, no counts are attributed to column 3 (the number of Student visa applications granted or refused where the applicant lodged overseas).

As the cancellation ground was voluntary cancellation, the cancellation of Yuli’s visa is not attributed to the risk report.