

International Student Accommodation Subsidy Semester 1, 2022

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The Western Australian Government's *Reconnect WA* program includes support for international students commencing their studies onshore in Western Australia in Semester 1, 2022.

The *International Student Accommodation Subsidy* will provide a one off payment of \$1,500 to the first 5,000 eligible international students, to offset accommodation expenses while studying.

1. Eligibility

1.1. Eligible international students

To be eligible for the \$1,500 payment, international students must comply with the following criteria:

- A. You are enrolled and in Western Australia to study a CRICOS registered course at a Western Australian University, Vocational College or TAFE, pathway college, or an English Language (ELICOS) provider. (CRICOS Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students) (ELICOS English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students)
- B. You are studying full-time in Semester 1, 2022, and your enrolled course must run for at least one year / two semesters / all of 2022.
- C. You have started studies and reached the census date for that institution.
- D. You were not in Western Australia studying at any time in 2021, and have entered Western Australia to commence or recommence your studies in person in 2022.

1.2. Ineligible international students

International students who are not eligible for the Accommodation Subsidy include:

- A. Students studying at primary or secondary schools in Western Australia:
- B. Students studying part-time;
- C. Students studying courses that are shorter than one year / two semesters in length;
- D. Students who were in Western Australia studying at any time during 2021.
- E. Students who are still overseas and have not arrived in Western Australia yet.

2. Payments

Successful Applicants will receive a one off payment of \$1,500 from the WA Government through the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI). Payments are exclusive of GST.

To apply for the one off \$1,500 payment, Applicants will need to follow the process identified below and supply <u>ALL</u> required information.

Payments will only be made after successful Applicants have started their studies and reached the census date for that institution, as confirmed by the nominated education provider. Successful Applicants will receive their payment direct to their nominated Australian bank account after the census date.

3. How to apply

International students should read these guidelines carefully to determine their eligibility before starting the application form. Incomplete application forms are ineligible and will not be considered.

The following information will be required in the *International Student Accommodation Subsidy* (ISAS) application form:

- 1. Your official name, in full and as used on your enrolment and travel documents to study in Western Australia.
- 2. Your home address in Western Australia, email address and telephone number.
- 3. A <u>copy of your Confirmation of Enrolment</u> (CoE) which identifies you are an international student and details your education provider, course and course length. Please see an example of the CoE here.
- 4. A <u>copy of your travel documents</u>, either ticket or boarding pass that includes your name, flight details and your arrival date into Western Australia.

- 5. Your Unique Student Identifier (USI), a number provided to you by the Australian Government when you arrive in Australia. More information is contained here: https://www.usi.gov.au/
- 6. Your student number, provided to you by your education provider.
- 7. Details of your Australian bank account, and a <u>copy of a recent bank statement</u> showing your name, address and account details.
- 8. Consent to share your name, student number and course details with your nominated education provider to confirm you are an enrolled international student.

Follow the steps below:

- Step 1 Go to https://ie.smartygrants.com.au/internationalstudentaccommodation.
- Step 2 Click on the 'Start a submission' link.
- Step 3 Complete the application registration process. You will receive an email confirming vour reference number (ISAS#).
- Step 4 Compete the online application form. You can save and return to the application form at any time before you submit the form.
- Step 5 Once your application is complete, click 'Submit'.
- Step 6 You will receive an automated email acknowledging that your application has been received. Without this acknowledgement your application has not been submitted.

4. Timeframes

The ISAS is available to the first 5,000 approved Applicants only. Applications open at 11am (AWST) on 1 April 2022 and close at 10am (AWST) on Monday 2 May 2022, or when program funds have been exhausted, whichever date is earliest.

International students coming or returning to Western Australia may have registered initial interest in the *International Student Accommodation Subsidy* via the JTSI website, however this <u>registration</u> <u>does NOT constitute an application</u>.

When the program is open for applications, all registered students will be emailed a link to the application form. Any other students who meet the criteria but did not initially register can also apply.

Students should be in Western Australia and have an Australian bank account in place before they finalise and submit their application.

Please note, as a maximum of 5000 payments are available under this program <u>complete</u> applications with all required supporting documentation will be prioritised for assessment in order of receipt. It is estimated payments will be made to approved applicants within four weeks of a complete application being made.

5. Assessment and Terms and Conditions

5.1. Assessment

Once the application is submitted, it will be assessed by JTSI against the eligibility criteria for the ISAS.

Successful Applicants will receive a Notification via email that their application has been successful and payment will be made directly to the Applicant's nominated Australian bank account.

Unsuccessful Applicants will be notified in writing.

5.2. Terms & Conditions

By submitting your application, you acknowledge and agree to be legally bound by these Guidelines, including the General Terms and Conditions as set out in these Guidelines. These Guidelines and

the General Terms and Conditions will form and constitute a legally binding Agreement between you (the Applicant) and the JTSI.

Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have read and understood the General Terms and Conditions as set out in these Guidelines.

6. Contact

All enquiries regarding the *International Student Accommodation Subsidy* can be directed to <u>iesupport@itsi.wa.gov.au</u>.

7. General income tax information

Subject to an Applicant's specific circumstances, the receipt of funding from this program may be treated as assessable income. We strongly recommend that potential Applicants seek independent advice about the possible income tax implications from a qualified tax agent/advisor, or the Australian Taxation Office, prior to submitting an application.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

I am an international student returning to study in Western Australia early in 2022, however I was enrolled in my course and studied offshore in 2021. Am I able to apply for this fund?

Yes, the accommodation subsidy is provided to international students who were unable to enter Western Australia to undertake their studies in 2021 as a result of the COVID pandemic. Providing you did not enter Western Australia to study at any time in 2021, and will be studying full time in 2022 at an eligible institution, you are able to apply for this payment.

I am an international student and plan to enrol in a course commencing Semester 2, 2022. Will I be eligible for the \$1,500 payment?

No, currently the program is in place for those students enrolling in courses commencing in Semester 1, 2022 and studying full-time for the entire year.

I don't hold a student visa but I am enrolled to commence my course in 2022. Will I qualify for this payment?

Applicants must be able to demonstrate they have a confirmed full-time enrolment as an international student at an eligible institution for a period of at least one year commencing in Semester 1, 2022, and are studying in Western Australia, to be eligible for payment.

My enrolled course is shorter than one year (two semesters). Can I still apply?

No, this payment is intended to offset accommodation costs for students studying in Western Australia for one year or more.

Who do I contact with any queries?

All enquiries regarding the *International Student Accommodation Subsidy* can be directed to iesupport@jtsi.wa.gov.au.

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General Terms and Conditions

1. Cancellation and Variation

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) reserves the right at its absolute discretion, at any time and from time to time, to (in whole or in part) cancel, vary, supplement, supersede or replace this Program.

If JTSI cancels, varies, supplements, supersedes or replaces this Program, then:

- (a) JTSI will advise each Applicant that the Program has been cancelled, varied, supplemented, superseded or replaced; and
- (b) The Applicant shall not have any recourse against JTSI whatsoever including claims for any costs or expenses incurred by the Applicant in applying for funding through this Program.

2. JTSI's Rights & Applicant Obligations

2.1 JTSI Rights

JTSI is under no obligation to accept any application and may reject any application at its absolute discretion, including, but not limited to:

- (a) an application fails to comply with the requirements of this Program;
- (b) an application is incomplete or contains information or representations that are false or misleading;
- (c) JTSI, in its absolute discretion, decides to cancel the Program, or exercise any other right referred to in clause.

2.2 Information

During the assessment of an application, and before any payment is made to the Applicant, JTSI may from time to time request information and/or documents in connection with the Program, the Applicant's eligibility and/or this Agreement, including without limitation any information or documents (including supporting evidence) which JTSI reasonably required to consider whether JTSI is or should be satisfied of or with any matter in connection with the Program, the Applicant's eligibility or this Agreement and the Applicant must promptly comply within the time period prescribed by JTSI's written request.

2.3 Audits

After a funding payment is made to an Applicant, JTSI may, at its absolute discretion:

- (a) Conduct random or specific audits of any or all of the information provided by the Applicant;
- (b) Request additional information from the Applicant if JTSI reasonably believes that any of the information provided by the Applicant may be incomplete, false or misleading; and
- (c) If JTSI decides that an Applicant no longer satisfies, or never did satisfy, the eligibility criteria for the funding program, JTSI may seek recovery of some or all of the funding paid to the Applicant. The obligation for an Applicant to repay JTSI any funding represents a debt due and payable by the Applicant to JTSI.

2.4 Applicant warranties

Each Applicant, in submitting an application, warrants and represents that all information and representations (in whatever form) given to JTSI under, as part of or in connection with the Program or the application, is true and correct, complete, and up-to-date, and in no way misleading or deceptive.

2.5 General

Despite anything expressed or implied to the contrary in these General Terms and Conditions, the Guidelines, or any other documentation associated with the Program, no Applicant shall have or

assert any legal (including equitable) rights under, in connection with, on account of, or associated with any of the aforesaid documents or the Program.

3. Application Process

The Applicant must submit the application electronically through the website link https://ie.smartygrants.com.au/internationalstudentaccommodation, noting the following conditions:

- (a) Receipt of the application will be determined by the date and time shown on the 'in-box' that the application was received;
- (b) Lodgement of electronic files may take time and the Applicant must make their own assessment of the time required for full transmission of their application;
- (c) JTSI will not be responsible or liable (in negligence or howsoever) in any way for any loss, damage or corruption of the electronic copy of the application;
- (d) If the electronic copy of the application becomes corrupted, illegible or incomplete as a result of transmission, storage, encryption or decryption, then JTSI may request the Applicant to provide another copy of the application either electronically or in hard copy or both;
- (e) If JTSI requests the provision of further information, then the Applicant must provide the copy of the documents or information requested within the period specified by JTSI.

4. Assessment Process

An assessment of each application will be undertaken against the criteria identified above to confirm that the information submitted is complete, correct and accurate, prior to any offer of funding.

5. Withdrawal of Application

The Applicant may withdraw their application at any time prior to acceptance of its application, by notifying JTSI by email.

6. Disclosure of Offer Information

6.1 Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)

- (a) The Applicant acknowledges and agrees that the application, this Agreement and information relating to the application, Agreement and/or the funding payment may be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA). As such, JTSI may be required to publically disclose such information as required by the FOI Act. JTSI may also be required to disclose information to the State of Western Australia under court order or upon request by Parliament, any Committee of Parliament or as otherwise required by law.
- (b) To the fullest extent of the Law the Applicant releases the State of Western Australia, JTSI including their respective officers, employees, contractors and agents or otherwise from all liability (in negligence or howsoever arising) for any loss, injury, damage, liability, costs or expenses suffered or incurred by the Applicant resulting from the disclosure of the application in part or whole.

6.2 Auditor General's Act 2006 (WA) and Financial Management Act 2006 (WA)

- (a) Nothing in the Guidelines or the General Terms and Conditions shall be interpreted to affect or diminish the powers and responsibilities of the Auditor General for the State of Western Australia under the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Auditor General's Act 2006 in any way.
- (b) Subject to this clause 6, the provisions of the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Auditor General's Act 2006, JTSI will not make public any part of the application or any application information that the Applicant expressly and reasonably nominates in their application as

confidential. However, JTSI may require the Applicant to withdrawany claim to confidentiality in respect of any part of the application information as a condition of acceptance of the application.

6.3 Privacy

- (a) By submitting their application for the Program, the Applicant consents to the information provided by the Applicant or collected by JTSI relating to the Applicant or their Application being used by JTSI in the assessment of their application, administration of the Program and this Agreement.
- (b) JTSI will store personal information collected in this process, supporting documentation and any program administration, monitoring and evaluation activities in compliance with its obligations under the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) and the Australian Privacy Principles.

7. Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent of the law, the State of Western Australia and JTSI, including their respective officer, employees, contractors and representative, shall have no liability whatsoever (arising in negligence or howsoever) for any loss, injury, damage, liability, costs or expenses (including legal costs) suffered or incurred by the Applicant in connection with their application and the Department's lawful disclosure of the Applicant's information and/or application as required for the purposes of administering the Program and this Agreement.

8. General

To the fullest extent permitted by law all implied terms and conditions are excluded from General Terms and Conditions constituting the Agreement between the Applicant and JTSI. .

9. Laws

This Agreement, including the General Terms and Conditions, are governed by the law of the State of Western Australia.

The Applicant must comply with all relevant laws and rules of the State of Western Australia regarding their application.

10. Definitions

In these General Terms and Conditions:

Agreement means these Guidelines and the General Terms and Conditions contained within.

Program means the International Student Accommodation Subsidy, and associated processes, and requirements and benefits described in both the Program Guidelines and these General Terms and Conditions; and

Guidelines means the document titled "International Student Accommodation Subsidy Semester 1, 2022. Guidelines, FAQs, Terms and Conditions".