

## Definitions

The meanings of certain terms and acronyms, as used for the purposes of these guidelines, are explained below.

**Accreditation of a course of study** as a higher education course certifies that the standards of a course are appropriate for the qualification to which it leads and that the course and the methods for delivering it are likely to achieve the purpose of the course. A higher education course is deemed to be equivalent in standard to a course leading to a qualification of the same type and level in an Australian university.

**Approval to provide courses of study to overseas students** certifies that, in addition to meeting the requirements for course accreditation and institutional registration, the provider has systems and practices in place that are suitable for international students in New South Wales.

**AUQA** is the Australian Universities Quality Agency, which carries out quality audits of universities, other self-accrediting higher education institutions and State and Territory accreditation agencies.

**Australian higher education institution** means an education institution that is registered as an Australian higher education institution under the *Higher Education Act 2001*.

**Australian institution** means a company (including a foreign company) registered under the Commonwealth *Corporations Act 2001*, or any other body corporate constituted in Australia, or an unincorporated body of persons associated in Australia or any other institution established in Australia.

**Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)** is a policy framework defining all qualifications recognised nationally in post-compulsory education and training within Australia. The AQF comprises guidelines which define each qualification together with principles and protocols covering articulation and the issuance of a qualification.

**Australian university** means an education institution established or recognised as a university by or under an Act of the Commonwealth, a State or Territory and listed in Schedule 1 of the *Higher Education Act 2001*.

**CRICOS** is the *Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students*, the Commonwealth listing of approved providers and courses that may be offered to overseas students.

**Concurrent accreditation and authorisation to offer higher education courses** is a nationally agreed assessment process approved by MCEETYA for considering applications from institutions and organisations wishing to offer higher education awards in two or more States or Territories.

**Education institution** means a company (including a foreign company) registered under the Commonwealth *Corporations Act 2001*, or any other body corporate constituted in Australia that provides or proposes to provide courses of study.

**ESOS Act 2000** is the Commonwealth *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000*, which regulates the provision of education services to overseas students in Australia.

**Higher education course** means a course of study that leads to a higher education qualification.

**Higher education qualification**, as defined in the *Higher Education Act 2001*, means a degree of any kind (including the degrees of doctor, master and bachelor), a post-graduate qualification, a diploma or an advanced diploma.

**Jurisdictions** refers to all Australian States and Territories that are signatories to the *National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes*.

**MCEETYA** is the national Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs.

**National Code** is the *National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Courses to Overseas Students*, which provides nationally consistent standards for CRICOS registration and the conduct of CRICOS-registered providers, effective from 4 June 2001.

**National Protocols** are the *National Protocols for Higher Education Approval Processes*, which provide a national quality assurance framework for higher education services.

**Overseas higher education institution** means an education institution registered as an overseas higher education institution under the *Higher Education Act 2001*.

**Overseas university** means an education institution registered as an overseas university under the *Higher Education Act 2001*.

**Quality assurance** includes policies, procedures and actions necessary to ensure that quality is being maintained and enhanced.

**Quality management system** is the set of procedures for determining and implementing an education institution's intentions in regard to quality.

**Register of Higher Education** is the register required by section 18 of the *Higher Education Act 2001* in relation to registered education institutions, accredited higher education courses, and education institutions approved to provide courses to overseas students.

**Registration as a higher education institution** certifies that an education institution is authorised to deliver a higher education course or courses in New South Wales and is considered to have the necessary academic, financial, staffing and physical resources to do so.