

Factsheet

Principal Course

What is a ‘Principal Course’ and the implications of a ‘Principal Course’ on eligibility for overseas student transfer?

Definition: The ‘Principal Course’ is the main course of study to be undertaken by an overseas student where a student visa has been issued for multiple courses and is usually the final course of study or the highest qualification level. The first six months is calculated as six calendar months from the date an overseas student commences their Principal Course (ESOS Standard 7: Overseas Student Transfers).

Implications of a Principal Course

- Lawson College Australia is obliged to implement policy and procedures as related to ESOS Standard 7.
- Prospective Students are advised this includes applying the standard relating to ‘Principal Course’ in relation to request for transfer as outlined in: [Policy-Procedure-Overseas-Student-Transfers.pdf \(lawsoncollege.edu.au\)](#)
- Note that eCoE details are listed on the Australian Government Provider Student Management System known as PRISMS and this system determines the Principal Course, and not Lawson College Australia.

Example scenario 1. Student eCoE issued for two (2) courses of study

A student has signed the Letter of Offer and an eCoE (electronic confirmation of enrolment) issued indicating the two (2) courses elected to study at Lawson College Australia. The eCoE includes the relevant start and end date (duration) of each course.

- The first (1st) course elected to study is at AQF level 5 (Diploma). The duration of study on the eCoE outlines a duration of 18 months/1.5 years; and
- The second (2nd) course elected to study is at AQF level 6 (Advanced Diploma). This course is the Principal Course (final course of study and a higher qualification). The duration of study on the eCoE outlines a duration of 18 months/1.5 years.
The total duration of study for the two (2) courses is 36 months (3 years).



Lawson College Australia

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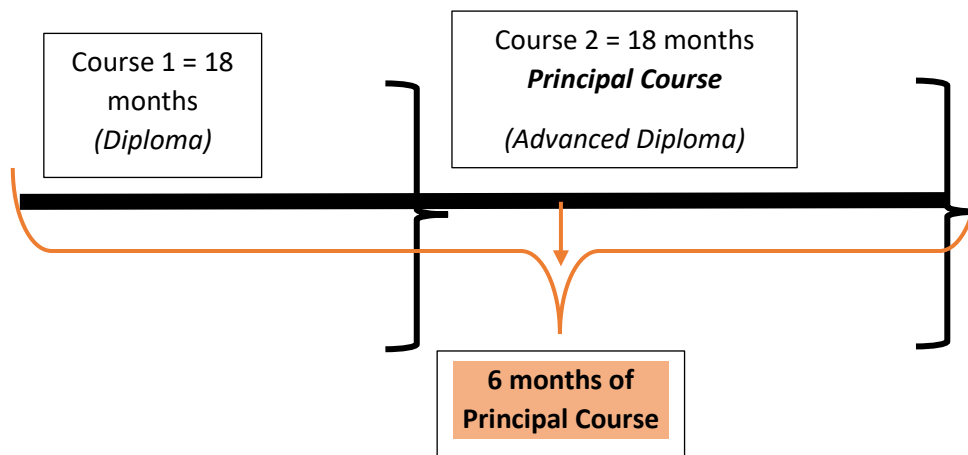
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Implications of Principal Course and eligibility for transfer out in example scenario 1:

- The student is required to complete at least **2 years of study from the date of commencement of study in the first course before being eligible to transfer** out of Lawson College Australia as per ESOS Standard 7.
- That is, the student must complete at least **six (6) months of the Principal Course** to be eligible to transfer out of Lawson College Australia as per ESOS Standard 7.
- However, transfer prior to completion of 6 months of a Principal Course may be approved based on valid evidence considered to be compassionate and compelling as per published policy and procedure.



Example scenario 2. Student eCoE issued for three (3) course of study.

A student has signed the Letter of Offer and an eCoE (electronic confirmation of enrolment) issued indicating the three (3) courses elected to study at Lawson College Australia. The eCoE includes the relevant start and end date (duration) of each course.

- The first (1st) course elected to study is at AQF level 4 (Certificate). The duration of study on the eCoE outlines a duration of 18 months/1.5 years; and
- The second (2nd) course elected to study is at AQF level 5 (Diploma). The duration of study on the eCoE outlines a duration of 18 months/1.5 years.
- The third (3rd) course elected to study is at AQF level 6 (Advanced Diploma). This course is the Principal Course (final course of study and a higher qualification). The duration of study on the eCoE outlines a duration of 18 months/1.5 years.

The total duration of study for the three (3) course enrolled is 54 months (4.5 years).



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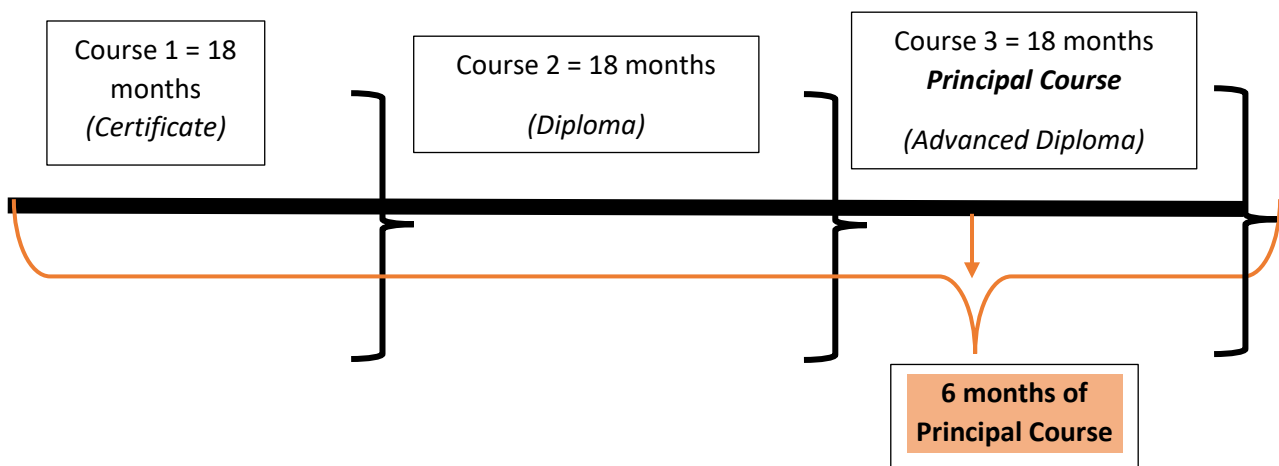
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Implications of Principal Course and eligibility for transfer out in Example scenario 2:

- The student is required to complete at least 6 months **of study from the date of commencement of study before being eligible to transfer** out of Lawson College Australia as per ESOS Standard 7.
- That is, the student must complete at least **six (6) months of the Principal Course** to be eligible to transfer out of Lawson College Australia as per ESOS Standard 7.
- However, transfer prior to completion of 6 months of a Principal Course may be approved based on valid evidence considered as compassionate and compelling as per published policy and procedure.



Other scenarios relating to the number of courses, duration of these courses as per the eCoE can also be examined as per the Principal Course and eligibility to transfer out of Lawson College Australia by using the same calculations as above. Should you wish to clarify your situation as a prospective student, for example if you have elected to study three (3) courses at Lawson College Australia, please contact a Student Support Officer on support@lawsoncollege.edu.au

Note that eCoE details are listed on the Australian Government Provider Student Management System known as PRISMS and this system determines the Principal Course.

