

# Students with atypical circumstances

## Overview of clarifications

This information sheet helps schools understand the clarifications in this group of ACE Rules, but schools must view the rules on the NSW Curriculum website.

The clarifications to **Students with atypical circumstances** include:

### Students accelerating into a course(s)

#### Decisions about students accelerating into a course

NESA has consolidated the requirements for schools when making decisions about students accelerating into courses.

#### Courses for acceleration and exclusions

NESA has updated the list of Stage 6 courses students may accelerate into.

### Compressed curriculum

#### Principal responsibilities

NESA has clarified and strengthened the responsibilities of principals who choose to deliver a compressed curriculum. The rules mandate compliance requirements for eligibility, commencement, school-based assessment and submitting marks to NESA.

#### Student responsibilities

NESA has also clarified the responsibilities of students studying under a compressed curriculum including requirements for eligibility, course commencement and the All My Own Work program.

### Credit transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

NESA has clarified the rules for students applying for credit transfer, including for students transferring from other jurisdictions. These clarifications include principals' responsibilities in RPL determinations, retention of supporting documentation by schools, the RPL application process, and the credentialling of courses in which RPL is granted.

NESA has published clarified ACE Rules on the NSW Curriculum website.

<https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/ace-rules>

The clarified rules will be mandated from 14 October 2024, but schools must use the current rules until then. Schools must not implement the clarified rules before this date.

The clarified rules will apply to students commencing HSC courses from October 2024, sitting HSC exams in 2025, and receiving the RoSA from October 2024.

The current ACE Rules remain in effect for the 2023 and 2024 HSC. The current rules can be found at:

<https://ace.nesa.nsw.edu.au>

To find the right contact for enquiries about ACE Rules, visit the ACE Rules contact page:

<https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/ace-rules/contact>

# Students with atypical circumstances

## Study with an external provider

### School responsibilities

ACE Rules for outsourcing courses to external providers have been strengthened to ensure all schools are aware of their duty of care obligations to students.

### Retaining records

The clarified rules outline the documentation that schools must retain when outsourcing courses to external providers, and the minimum record retention period.

### Determining suitability

NESA has clarified the rules for principals in determining the suitability of external providers. The clarified rules also outline the documentation a school must retain.

### Principal responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of both principals and external providers are clearly defined throughout the clarified rules. This will support course delivery and ensure student data is entered correctly in Schools Online.

### Limitations on study with an external provider

NESA has clarified the limitations on study with an external provider for courses that contribute to the RoSA and/or the HSC.

### Credentialling

NESA has clarified that conditions under which courses studied with external providers are eligible to be recorded on the RoSA, Transcript of Study, or HSC.

## Granting leave during an HSC course

### School responsibilities

NESA has strengthened the rules for granting leave and approving a returning student for the HSC. The clarified rules specify the extent of a principal's discretionary power to consider and approve leave requests from HSC students.

## Self-tuition

### Eligibility

NESA has strengthened eligibility criteria for applicants to enrol in HSC courses by self-tuition. These include NSW residency, citizenship status, and minimum academic requirements.

### Other requirements

NESA has clarified related requirements for self-tuition applicants, including which HSC courses they may study, allocation to an HSC exam centre, application dates and the required documentation.

## Study with an outside tutor

### Determining suitability

NESA has strengthened the requirements for principals when determining the suitability of outside tutors. This will ensure schools meet their duty of care obligations to students.

### Principal responsibilities

NESA has clarified the rules for approving study with an outside tutor in Stage 5 and Stage 6, including key dates and limitations on the courses that may be approved.

### Outside tutor responsibilities

Key responsibilities for outside tutors have been clarified and strengthened to support course delivery, including the provision of student assessment data to schools.

### Study of languages

NESA has clarified the rules for approving the study of languages with an outside tutor in Stage 4.

## Transferring, withdrawing, and entering students

### Schools Online

NESA has clarified schools' responsibilities related to transferring students. Rules include the requirements for both previous and new schools when entering, withdrawing, and providing student assessment data.

### Eligibility for the RoSA

NESA has clarified the RoSA eligibility rules for students transferring from home schooling, or a non-accredited NSW non-government school.