

## SECTION 2.2 VET STUDENT LOANS POLICY

### The Australian Ballet School

**RESPONSIBLE:** Audit Risk & Compliance Committee

**THIS VERSION APPROVED BY THE BOARD:** March 2023 (RTO Compliance)

**REVIEW DATE:** March 2026 (or earlier due to regulatory or organisational requirements)

**POLICY ACCESS LOCATION:** Staff Portal, Student Portal, The Australian Ballet School website

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

VET Student Loans (VETSL) refers to an Australian Government loan program for eligible students in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) sector that is administered by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR).

The purpose of VETSL is to assist students to pay their tuition fees for eligible qualifications whilst studying at the Australian Ballet School (School). The School is a DEWR-approved VETSL provider.

A student must meet the DEWR VETSL eligibility requirements to qualify for a VET Student Loan (loan). If a student is eligible, DEWR may approve a loan for an approved course.

If a loan is approved, DEWR will pay the loan directly to the approved course provider (i.e., the School).

The student will be responsible for any gap in the amount of the School's tuition fees which are not covered by the loan.

A VETSL debt (the amount of the loan) must be paid back at the relevant repayment rate when a recipient student's subsequent annual income is above the compulsory payment threshold that is adjusted annually by DEWR.

The student will owe a VETSL debt to the Australian Government for the loan which is managed by the ATO (Australian Taxation Office).

For further information on the DEWR VETSL program, please refer to the following link: <https://www.dewr.gov.au/vet-student-loans/vet-information-students/information-vet-student-loans-students>

#### 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide information about the application and administration of VETSL at the School.

**Related Policies:** This policy should be read in conjunction with the Code of Conduct (1.2), VET Student Loan Withdrawal, Cancellation & Refund Policy (2.2.1), Enrolment Policy (6.2), Student Complaints and Appeals Policy (6.3.3), Full-time Training Program: Assessment and Reporting Policy (6.3.4).

### 3. WHO DOES THIS POLICY APPLY TO

This policy applies to all students at the School enrolled in VETSL approved courses offered by the School and their parents/carers.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

**Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF):** a tool which describes an individual's performance in the five core skills of learning, reading, writing, oral communications and numeracy. Each core skill described against one of five levels of performance.

**Language, Literacy & Numeracy (LNN) test:** an approved test conducted at the School.

### 5. POLICY

All students seeking enrolment into a VETSL eligible course at the School (even if not accessing a VETSL) must complete the overall suitability requirements prescribed herein.

#### 5.1 VETSL Approved Courses:

Eligible students are able to utilise VETSL towards their VET tuition fees when studying in the following courses:

- Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance) CUA51520;
- Advanced Diploma of Professional Dance (Elite Performance) CUA60120;
- Graduate Diploma in Classical Ballet 110008NAT.

#### 5.2 VETSL Student Eligibility Requirements:

To be eligible for a VETSL a student must satisfy the School's proof of identity and date of birth requirements, and must be either:

- an Australian Citizen;
- a Permanent Humanitarian Visa Holder (who is usually resident in Australia); or
- a qualifying New Zealand citizen.

To be a qualifying New Zealand citizen, a student must :

- hold a special visa category, such as the New Zealand Special Category Visa;
- have been usually resident in Australia for at least 10 years;
- have been a dependent child when they were first usually resident in Australia;
- have been in Australia for periods totalling 8 years during the previous 10 years; and
- have been in Australia for periods totalling 18 months during the past 2 years.

Further, to be eligible, the student must:

- be enrolled in an approved course in accordance with the application requirements;
- be studying the approved course at a campus in Australia; and

- have been assessed by the School as fulfilling the audition requirements and suited to undertake the approved course on the basis of:
  - proof of attaining the Australian Year 12 Certificate; or
  - proof of successful completion of an Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) qualification at level 4 or higher (where the language instruction is English) or at a level in a framework that preceded the AQF and is equivalent to level 4 or above in the AQF; or
  - displaying competence at ACSF Exit Level 3 in both reading and numeracy through an LLN test.

## 6. PROCEDURES

### 6.1 Enrolment Requirements:

#### 6.1.1 Pre-Training Interview (PTI) Process:

This is an audition conducted in a studio-based environment, either face-to-face or a digital performance. The class is conducted by qualified training staff who assess the prospective student's suitability for the School's training program.

Following the audition process, the School must reasonably believe the prospective student demonstrates a level of competence to complete the approved course they are applying for.

#### 6.1.2 The LLN Test:

**For a prospective student who is also applying for a loan, it is a mandatory pre-condition of enrolment acceptance and VETSL application approval they complete an online LLN test and obtain a 'Pass' result. See: See further, section 5.2 VETSL Student Eligibility Requirements.**

**The School uses the industry-standard quality assessment tool Total Learning Resources Group (TLRG) "LLN Robot". This tool complies with DEWR legislative and regulatory requirements of the *VET Student Loans Act 2016* and *VET Student Loans Rules 2016 (Cth.) (s.81 – Results of assessments of competence in reading and numeracy)* and *s80(2)(b)* and *s.82(1)(a)-(c)*.**

### 6.2 Conformity to VETSL Student Eligibility Pre-Requisite Requirements:

The School will communicate the results of the LLN test and PTI process to the student as soon as practicable after completion of the LLN test.

The School will also report the results to the Secretary of DEWR in the form, manner and timeframe required.

A prospective student must ensure they:

- meet the TFN Tax File Number (TFN) requirements; and
- have a Unique Student Identifier (USI) number.

### 6.3 Fee Schedule:

Information regarding fees and charges for courses offered by the School, including VETSL approved courses, are on the School's website.

The annual schedule of fees is published on the School website prior to the end of the previous school year.