

Subject Achievement Indicators (SAIs)

Fact Sheet 6: Visa students

What are visa students?

For OP calculation purposes, visa students are those who live temporarily in Australia under a short-term visa or a similar authority issued by the Australian Government.

A visa student is not an Australian citizen (through naturalisation or otherwise) or a permanent resident of Australia. Visa students can be eligible for an OP-equivalent by meeting the same eligibility requirements as domestic students.

Do teachers assign SAIs to Visa students?

Teachers only assign SAIs to visa students if they are part of a large group. Group size is determined by the number of OP-eligible domestic students. That is, visa students are **not** included as OP-eligible to determine group size. For example:

- 12 domestic students + 5 visa students = intermediate group
- 5 domestic students + 15 visa students = small group.

The exception is where the visa students make up the entire group. This happens in international schools or schools which have a large group of visa students studying a foreign language such as Chinese. In this case, these students will be a large group and must be assigned SAIs.

How can I be sure I have counted the group correctly?

The easiest way to check that you have either a small/intermediate or a large group is to try to import the group from SDCS into BonSAI. BonSAI will not import anything but a large group. (**Please ensure that you have checked the visa status of your students.**)

Is there anything else the school needs to do?

It would be helpful, if you have a large number of visa students at your school, to identify them in some way. This will make the checking process much easier at the QCAA end. You could:

- identify visa students differently from students who are domestic OP-ineligible students; a triangle instead of a circle is the most common symbol used by schools
- send the Analysis and Reporting Branch a list of the visa students with their rung placements in their subjects (use the email address below).

Where can I find more information?

If you would like more information, please read *Visa student procedures: Equivalent Overall Positions (OPs) and Field Positions (FPs)* at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/senior/tertiary-entrance/publications.

Alternatively, phone 3864 0299 or email the Analysis and Reporting Branch at analysis.reporting@qcaa.qld.edu.au.