



## Comparison of Part B (Criteria for Higher Education Providers) of the revised *Higher Education Standards Framework* with the requirements of the current Framework<sup>1</sup>

The table below lists each of the proposed Criteria of Part B (B1, B2 & B3) of the proposed *Higher Education Standards Framework* and compares them to the requirements of the current Framework. In some cases the comparison is difficult because only parts of the Standards are directly comparable. Judgement and inferences of intent have been applied where necessary.

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
<b>Part B: Criteria for Higher Education Providers in Australia</b>						
These criteria enable categorisation of different types of providers of higher education according to certain characteristics, including the types of providers that are eligible to apply for registration and whether a provider is responsible for self-accreditation of a course(s) of study it delivers.						
<b>PART B1: Criteria for Eligibility to Make an Initial Application for Registration as a Higher Education Provider in Australia</b>						
<b>An applicant is eligible to apply for registration as a Higher Education Provider in Australia if:</b>						
1	The applicant is an entity of a type consistent with the <i>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011 (TEQSA Act 2011)</i> .	PCS	2		Higher education providers are able to seek approval within a particular provider category under subsection 18(1) of the <i>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011</i> . There are several provider categories that use the word 'university':	The criterion is a re-draft of an existing requirement of the Threshold Standards. It also clarifies the intent of the Act that the applicant be an entity rather than a natural person or some other unincorporated applicant.
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian University</li> <li>• Australian University</li> </ul>	

<sup>1</sup> Threshold Standards – Provider Registration Standards (PRS), Provider Category Standards (PCS), Provider Accreditation Standards (PCAS), Qualification Standards (QS).

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
					College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Australian University of Specialisation</li> <li>• Overseas University</li> <li>• Overseas University of Specialisation.</li> </ul>	
2	A principal purpose of the entity to be registered is the provision of higher education in or from Australia.	PRS	1	1.1	The higher education provider has education as a principal purpose, with governance and management of its Australian higher education operations located in Australia.	The criterion is a re-draft of the existing requirements.
3	The applicant has a governing body and a constitution (or equivalent) that meets the requirements of the instrument under which the applicant is established or incorporated.	PRS	3	3.1	The higher education provider has a corporate governing body that has responsibility for oversight of all of the higher education provider's higher education operations, including conferral of its higher education awards, and to which management is accountable.	The criterion is a re-draft of part of the existing requirements. The 'accountability' for conferring higher education awards is now addressed in Part A.
4	Members of the governing body meet the Australian residency requirements, if any, of the instrument under which the applicant is established or incorporated, or otherwise there are at least two members of the governing body who are ordinarily resident in Australia.	PRS	1	1.6	The higher education provider complies with applicable State/Territory and Commonwealth laws and regulatory requirements.	This redraft clarifies potential ambiguities in relation to location of governance.
		PRS	1	1.1	The higher education provider has education as a principal purpose, with governance and management of its Australian higher education operations	

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
					located in Australia.	
5	The applicant has, or will have, operations and staffing in Australia for the delivery of higher education.	PRS	1	1.1	The higher education provider has education as a principal purpose, with governance and management of its Australian higher education operations located in Australia.	The criterion is a re-draft of the existing requirements.
6	The members of the governing body are fit and proper persons.	PRS	1	1.2	Members of the higher education provider's corporate governing body and the higher education provider's key personnel demonstrate that they are 'fit and proper' persons.	The criterion is a re-draft of existing requirements.
7	The applicant has fulfilled, and is reasonably expected to continue to fulfil, its regulatory obligations as a corporation in Australia.	PRS	1		The higher education provider is reputable and accountable for the higher education it offers.	The criterion is a re-draft of existing requirements.
		PRS	1	1.6	The higher education provider complies with applicable State/Territory and Commonwealth laws and regulatory requirements.	
8	The applicant applies for accreditation of a higher education course of study at the time of application for registration as a higher education provider in Australia, and tenably expects to commence delivery of an accredited course of study in or from Australia from the date of commencement of its registration	PCS	1	1.1	The higher education provider meets the Threshold Standards and offers at least one accredited course of study.	The criterion includes current requirements and provides a means of maximising the registration period for a provider being newly established

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
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	as a higher education provider.					
9	The applicant is not engaged in, or reasonably expected to be engaged in, any proceedings or actions that may jeopardise its intended delivery of higher education.	PRS	1	1.5	The higher education provider's history, and the history of its parent entities, its predecessors and related entities, shows a sound track record in managing business operations and in the provision of education or related services at an acceptable level of quality and in accordance with any applicable regulatory or accreditation requirements.	The criterion is a re-draft of existing requirements with a focus on the objectives of the track record of the prospective provider.
10	The application for registration discloses accurately and in full:					
a	the registered name of the applicant and trading name if different	PRS	1	1.4	The higher education provider accurately discloses to TEQSA all information, documents and assistance required by TEQSA, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>details of the history of the higher education provider, its parent entities, its predecessors and related entities, and the history of all these entities of prior applications for approval to provide education or related services in Australia and overseas;</li> </ul>	The criterion is a re-draft of the existing requirement with a focus on the legal identity of the provider.

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
b	the ownership of the entity	PRS	1	1.4	<p>The higher education provider accurately discloses to TEQSA all information, documents and assistance required by TEQSA, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• details of the history of the higher education provider, its parent entities, its predecessors and related entities, and the history of all these entities of prior applications for approval to provide education or related services in Australia and overseas;</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	The criterion is a re-draft of the existing requirement with a focus on the identity of those accountable for the prospective provider.
c	any parent entities, predecessors and other related entities	PRS	1	1.4	<p>The higher education provider accurately discloses to TEQSA all information, documents and assistance required by TEQSA, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• details of the history of the higher education provider, its parent entities, its predecessors and related entities, and the history of all these entities of prior applications for approval to provide education or related services in Australia and overseas;</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	The criterion is a re-draft of existing requirements with a focus on the information relevant to the track record of the entity.

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
d	the entity's constitution (or equivalent)	TEQSA Application Guide for Registration as a Higher Education Provider			Section 1: 1.2 Type of legal entity	Addresses a requirement of current regulatory practice that is not specified in the existing Framework.
e	the members of the governing body	TEQSA Application Guide for Registration as a Higher Education Provider			4.2 Details of the legally constituted corporate governing body 4.2.1 TEQSA requires the following details about the Chair of the governing body: 4.2.2 TEQSA requires the following details about each member and/or director of the governing body	The criterion is consistent with the existing TEQSA application guide for Registration as a Higher Education provider.
f	the higher education course(s) of study and qualification(s) that are proposed to be offered initially	TEQSA Application Guide for Registration as a Higher Education Provider			Pg. 5 Under section 25 of the TEQSA Act, a registered Higher Education Provider must offer at least one accredited course. In order to be registered by TEQSA as a Higher Education Provider, in addition to meeting the Threshold Standards, at least one higher education course of study that meets the Provider Course Accreditation Standards must be offered. An application for registration as a Higher Education Provider must be accompanied by an application for accreditation of at least one course of study. TEQSA	The criterion is consistent with the existing TEQSA application guide for Registration as a Higher Education provider.

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
					<p>will not assess a registration application unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an accompanying application for course accreditation is made using the approved form,</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the application for course accreditation is accompanied by documentation and information required by TEQSA.</li> </ul> <p>Refer to the Application for Accreditation of a Higher Education Course of Study and accompanying application guidelines for further information about the course accreditation process, available at: <a href="http://www.teqsa.gov.au/course-accreditation">http://www.teqsa.gov.au/course-accreditation</a>.</p>	
g	other parties with whom it is proposed to deliver higher education in Australia and overseas, if applicable	PRS	1	1.4	<p>The higher education provider accurately discloses to TEQSA all information, documents and assistance required by TEQSA, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ...</li> <li>• details of its arrangements with other entities for the delivery of course of study, their history of prior applications for approval to</li> </ul>	The criterion is a re-draft of existing requirements.

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
					provide education or related services, and of any conditions or sanctions placed on their approvals including deregistration; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• details of the higher education provider's agents; and,</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	
h	other educational activities undertaken or proposed in Australia or overseas	PRS	1	1.4	The higher education provider accurately discloses to TEQSA all information, documents and assistance required by TEQSA, which will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• details of the history of the higher education provider, its parent entities, its predecessors and related entities, and the history of all these entities of prior applications for approval to provide education or related services in Australia and overseas;</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	The criterion is a re-draft of existing requirements.
i	any previous applications for approval to provide higher education in Australia or overseas made by the applicant or related entities and any conditions imposed on such approvals if granted	PRS	1	1.5	The higher education provider's history, and the history of its parent entities, its predecessors and related entities, shows a sound track record in managing business operations and in the provision of education or related services at an acceptable level of quality and in accordance with any applicable regulatory or	The criterion is a re-draft of an existing requirement with a focus on the information required by the regulator.

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
					accreditation requirements.	
j	if approval to offer higher education has ever been withdrawn from the applicant or related entities	PRS	1	1.4	<p>The higher education provider accurately discloses to TEQSA all information, documents and assistance required by TEQSA, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ...</li> <li>• any conditions or sanctions placed on approvals including deregistration;</li> <li>• details of its arrangements with other entities for the delivery of course of study, their history of prior applications for approval to provide education or related services, and of any conditions or sanctions placed on their approvals including deregistration;</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	The criterion is a re-draft of an existing requirement.
k	if any serious offences have been committed by the applicant or related entities in Australia or overseas, and	PRS	1	1.4	<p>The higher education provider accurately discloses to TEQSA all information, documents and assistance required by TEQSA, which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ...</li> <li>• any conditions or sanctions placed on approvals including deregistration;</li> <li>• details of its arrangements with other entities for the delivery of course of study,</li> </ul>	The criterion is a re-draft of an existing requirement.

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
					<p>their history of prior applications for approval to provide education or related services, and of any conditions or sanctions placed on their approvals including deregistration;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ...</li> </ul>	
I	such other information as may be requested by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).	PRS	1	1.4	The higher education provider accurately discloses to TEQSA all information, documents and assistance required by TEQSA, which will include:	The criterion is a re-draft of an existing requirement and is consistent with Section 28 of the TEQSA Act 2011
<b>PART B2: Criteria for Classification of Higher Education Provider Categories</b>						
Minor editorial changes to ensure consistency in terminology. Summary statement shortened. Use of “award” as a noun changed to “qualification” and terms “Qualification Standards” and “Threshold Standards” changed to “Higher Education Standards Framework”.						
<b>PART B3: Criteria for Seeking Authority for Self-accreditation of Courses of Study</b>						
<b>Providers with Authority to Self-Accredit some or all Courses of Study</b>						
	Registration of a higher education provider in certain categories of provider may confer self-accrediting authority on the provider. A higher education provider that is registered in the ‘Australian University’ provider category and meets the requirements under Section 45(1) of the TEQSA Act 2011 is authorised under the TEQSA Act 2011 to self-accredit each course	PCAS	7	1	Each higher education provider that is registered in the “Australian University” provider category and meets the requirements under section 45(1) of the <i>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011</i> is authorised under the <i>Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011</i> to self-accredit each course of study that leads to a higher education award that it	The revisions to these criteria enhance the specificity and clarity of requirements to assist providers in understanding the requirements and to outline more clearly the types of self-accrediting authority that may be sought. The revised Criteria also link back to the Standards for higher Education (Part A) rather than introduce additional ‘standards-like’ requirements as occurs in the

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
	of study that leads to a higher education qualification that it offers or confers. TEQSA will authorise a higher education provider that is registered in the 'Australian University College' provider category to self-accredit all of its courses of study. A higher education provider that is registered in the 'Australian University of Specialisation' provider category self-accredits some of its courses of study and TEQSA may authorise the provider to self-accredit all of the courses of study it offers, in its one or two broad fields of education only.				offers or confers.	current standards, with an attendant ambiguity in interpretation of this material. No additional requirements have been added. The clarity of the requirements in the Criteria is expected to obviate or minimise the need for additional guidance to be provided by TEQSA in relation to interpretation of the criteria.
		PCAS	7	2	For a higher education provider that is approved by TEQSA for registration in the "Australian University College" provider category, TEQSA will authorise the higher education provider to self-accredit all courses of study.	
		PCAS	7	3	For a higher education provider that is approved by TEQSA for registration in the "Australian University of Specialisation" provider category, TEQSA may authorise the higher education provider to self-accredit all courses of study in its one or two broad fields of study only.	
<b>Types of Self-Accrediting Authority that may be Sought</b>						
1	A higher education provider that is registered in the 'Higher Education Provider', 'Overseas University' or 'Overseas University of Specialisation'	PCAS	7	4	For a higher education provider that is approved by TEQSA for registration in the "Higher Education Provider", "Overseas University" and "Overseas	The revisions to these criteria enhance the specificity and clarity of requirements to assist providers in understanding the requirements and to outline more clearly the

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
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	provider category, or any other registered provider that proposes to extend the scope of its self-accrediting authority, may seek authorisation from TEQSA to self-accredit:				University of Specialisation” provider category, TEQSA may authorise the higher education provider to self-accredit a course of study or courses of study, at one or more higher education award levels, and in one or more broad fields of study or discipline areas, if the following criteria are met:	types of self-accrediting authority that may be sought. The revised Criteria also link back to the Standards for higher Education (Part A) rather than introduce additional ‘standards-like’ requirements as occurs in the current standards, with an attendant ambiguity in interpretation of this material. No additional requirements have been added. The clarity of the requirements in the Criteria is expected to obviate or minimise the need for additional guidance to be provided by TEQSA in relation to interpretation of the criteria.
a.	one or more existing courses of study					
b.	one or more existing courses of study and new course(s) of study at the same qualification level in the same narrow or broad field of education					
c.	one or more existing courses of study and new course(s) of study at the same qualification level in nominated new narrow or broad field(s) of education					
d.	one or more existing courses of study and new courses of study at one or more new qualification levels in the same narrow or broad field of education					
e.	one or more existing courses of study and new courses of study at one or more qualification levels in nominated new narrow or broad fields of education					

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
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f.	all higher education courses of study that it offers, or may offer, irrespective of level of qualification or field of education.					
<b>Providers Seeking Authority from TEQSA to Self-Accredit Nominated Courses of Study</b>						
2.	A provider that is seeking authorisation to self-accredit a nominated course(s) of study as specified in Part 1 (a-e) is able to demonstrate:	PCAS	7	4	For a higher education provider that is approved by TEQSA for registration in the “Higher Education Provider”, “Overseas University” and “Overseas University of Specialisation” provider category, TEQSA may authorise the higher education provider to self-accredit a course of study or courses of study, at one or more higher education award levels, and in one or more broad fields of study or discipline areas, if the following criteria are met:	The revisions to these criteria enhance the specificity and clarity of requirements to assist providers in understanding the requirements and to outline more clearly the types of self-accrediting authority that may be sought. The revised Criteria also link back to the Standards for higher Education (Part A) rather than introduce additional ‘standards-like’ requirements as occurs in the current standards, with an attendant ambiguity in interpretation of this material. No additional requirements have been added. The clarity of the requirements in the Criteria is expected to obviate or minimise the need for additional guidance to be provided by TEQSA in relation to interpretation of the criteria.
2.1	sustained and sustainable achievement of all of the Standards for Higher Education (Part A) that apply to the provider, including for course approval processes in particular					

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
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	and any delivery arrangements with other parties					
2.2	there are no unresolved compliance matters with TEQSA, or conditions outstanding from the most recent registration and course accreditations by TEQSA or a recognised registration or accreditation authority, and there is no history of significant continuing compliance problems in any other assessments, audits or reviews of its higher education operations conducted by TEQSA, professional bodies or government agencies	PCAS	7	4.1	The higher education provider has no issues or conditions outstanding from its most recent registration and course accreditations by TEQSA or a recognised registration or accreditation authority, no substantiated serious complaints, and no history of significant compliance problems in any other assessments, audits or reviews of its higher education operations conducted by TEQSA or external professional bodies or government agencies.	The revisions to these criteria enhance the specificity and clarity of requirements to assist providers in understanding the requirements and to outline more clearly the types of self-accrediting authority that may be sought. The revised Criteria also link back to the Standards for higher Education (Part A) rather than introduce additional 'standards-like' requirements as occurs in the current standards, with an attendant ambiguity in interpretation of this material. No additional requirements have been added. The clarity of the requirements in the Criteria is expected to obviate or minimise the need for additional guidance to be provided by TEQSA in relation to interpretation of the criteria.
2.3	a history over at least five years of successful delivery of the course(s) of study for which self-accrediting authority is sought, which is supported by evidence of student success based on analysis of trend data including completion rates and times, attrition rates and grades	PCAS	7	4.4	The higher education provider has a history of successful operation of the course(s) of study including systematic, mature internal processes for course quality assurance and the maintenance of academic standards and academic integrity.	

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
		Chapter	Section	Standard	Content	
	awarded that are referenced against credible national or international comparators and encompass at least three cohorts of graduates from each course of study					
2.4	where a cycle of review and improvement is required by the Standards for Higher Education (Part A) in relation to courses of study and their oversight (see Table B2), the provider has, in relation to all course(s) of study proposed for self-accreditation:	PCAS	7	4.5	At least three cohorts of students in Australia have graduated from the course(s) of study, and there is substantial evidence of successful graduate outcomes from the course(s) of study.	The revisions to these criteria enhance the specificity and clarity of requirements to assist providers in understanding the requirements and to outline more clearly the types of self-accrediting authority that may be sought. The revised Criteria also link back to the Standards for higher Education (Part A) rather than introduce additional 'standards-like' requirements as occurs in the current standards, with an attendant ambiguity in interpretation of this material. No additional requirements have been added. The clarity of the requirements in the Criteria is expected to obviate or minimise the need for additional guidance to be provided by TEQSA in relation to interpretation of the criteria.
2.4.a	completed at least one cycle of review and improvement in relation to all relevant standards					
2.4.b	demonstrated successful implementation of evidence-based improvements arising from the reviews, and					
2.4.c	has established these review and improvement activities as effective sustainable features of the provider's operations across all courses of study.					
<b>Providers Seeking Authority from TEQSA to Self-Accredit All Courses of Study</b>						
3.	Where a provider is seeking self-accrediting authority under Criterion 1f for all courses of study that it offers, or may offer,					The revisions to these criteria enhance the specificity and clarity of requirements to assist providers in understanding the requirements

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
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	in addition to meeting Criteria 2.1 - 2.4, the provider is able to demonstrate the necessary capacity and capability to provide new courses leading to any level of higher education qualification in any field of education, including:					and to outline more clearly the types of self-accrediting authority that may be sought. The revised Criteria also link back to the Standards for higher Education (Part A) rather than introduce additional 'standards-like' requirements as occurs in the current standards, with an attendant ambiguity in interpretation of this material. No additional requirements have been added. The clarity of the requirements in the Criteria is expected to obviate or minimise the need for additional guidance to be provided by TEQSA in relation to interpretation of the criteria.
a.	processes for the design, delivery, accreditation, monitoring, quality assurance, review and improvement of existing courses of study that are transferrable to any new courses of study and any new level of qualification offered	PCAS	7	4.2	The higher education provider has highly effective academic governance processes and a robust internal capability to monitor and improve its higher education courses of study.	
b.	capability in planning and establishment of new courses of study in new broad fields of education					
c.	capacity for competent academic governance, oversight and scrutiny of the accreditation of new courses in new broad fields	PCAS	7	4.2	The higher education provider has highly effective academic governance processes and a robust internal capability to	

Proposed Criteria		Requirements of the comparable current Threshold Standards				Comparison of the proposed Criteria to current requirements.
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	of education				monitor and improve its higher education courses of study.	
d.	sufficient breadth and depth of academic leadership, scholarship and expertise in relevant disciplines to guide entry into and sustain new levels and broad fields of higher education, and	PCAS	7	4.3	The higher education provider demonstrates sustained scholarship in respect of the course(s) of study, which informs teaching and learning for the course(s) of study.	The revisions to these criteria enhance the specificity and clarity of requirements to assist providers in understanding the requirements and to outline more clearly the types of self-accrediting authority that may be sought. The revised Criteria also link back to the Standards for higher Education (Part A) rather than introduce additional 'standards-like' requirements as occurs in the current standards, with an attendant ambiguity in interpretation of this material. No additional requirements have been added. The clarity of the requirements in the Criteria is expected to obviate or minimise the need for additional guidance to be provided by TEQSA in relation to interpretation of the criteria.
e.	where professional accreditation is applicable to otherwise self-accredited courses, professional accreditation can reasonably be expected to be obtained and maintained.	PCAS	7	4.6	If applicable, the higher education provider has achieved and maintained appropriate professional accreditation of the course(s) of study.	