



# Delivery of online education to students based in China

## Recognition of blended teaching/learning models by the Chinese Government

The China Service Center for Scholarly Exchange (CSCSE) is responsible for the recognition of qualifications in China. It does not currently recognise qualifications earned via cross border distance learning. 'Online degrees' therefore, are not recognised.

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) has sought clarification from the CSCSE on the treatment of **blended learning**. It is understood formal advice on this issue will be published on the CSCSE's website in due course.

## Delivering online education into China – accessibility issues

The information contained in this factsheet is intended to inform Australian education providers when looking to deliver online education to students affected by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic who cannot currently travel to Australia to commence studies.

- Australian education providers wishing to deliver online education into China may wish to consider the following:
  - Pending a reliable internet connection, students in China should have ready access to education material delivered via Australian universities' **official websites (@edu.au)**. A number of institutions have reported that the **@edu.au** approach is working.
  - Students may have some **accessibility issues** when trying to access material on particular sites. For example, when education materials hosted on an education institution's website require access to third party sites (sites not hosted by the education institution), particularly foreign news websites and/or other sites on sensitive topics.
  - Providers may find that students' ability to access permitted online content is **slower** than in Australia, particularly when accessing multimedia or larger files. This is in part due to the increased packet loss and network latency internet users in China experience.

- Speeds can be improved via different technologies including the hosting of content on a **local internet server in China, cloud computing, and/or leveraging content via a Content Delivery Network (CDN)** within mainland China or one that is geographically close to mainland China (eg in Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR or the Republic of Korea).
- Note that in order to have content hosted by a local internet server in mainland China or a China-based CDN, entities must apply for an Internet Content Provider (ICP) license from the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology.
- The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) and Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) have identified a **list of online delivery solution partners** that may be able to assist providers to deliver online education to students in China. This list is available on the Study in Australia website ([online delivery solution partners PDF](#)).
- DESE and other agencies are regularly engaging with Chinese Government counterparts to discuss education issues, including support for and access to online education.

## Problems or concerns with delivery of content

If providers are currently using platform/s to provide online education into China and are experiencing/have experienced issues, we would welcome information on the specific nature of those issues to inform our future advice. Please email [international.students@dese.gov.au](mailto:international.students@dese.gov.au)

## Further information on regulatory environment for online education in China

Austrade commissioned two reports on **China's online education and edtech opportunities** – the [K12 sector](#) (September 2017) and the [Adult Learning sector](#) (October 2018) - which providers might find useful references.

*This advice will be regularly updated as new information becomes available.*