



ABSTUDY Travel – Other types of travel

This factsheet provides information on the ABSTUDY travel assistance available for secondary students travelling for various reasons during the school year. This factsheet should be read in conjunction with the other factsheets on ABSTUDY travel arrangements:

- ABSTUDY Travel – Overview
- ABSTUDY Travel – The start and end of year and school holidays

Secondary students and other approved travellers can be approved for Fares Allowance to travel during the school year. This includes for:

- compassionate reasons,
- a special purpose visit, or
- an orientation activity.

Compassionate travel

Students, or a close family or community member, may be entitled to Fares Allowance to travel to or from the school address to their usual place of residence for compassionate reasons, including where:

- an immediate family member is ill or injured,
- a student is ill or injured and either needs to return home or a visit from a close family or community member is appropriate,
- there is a death or funeral of an extended family member,
- the student needs to participate in a community activity under Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander law or kinship obligations, or
- the student has been expelled from school and other particular circumstances exist, for example the student is a harm to themselves or others and there are no other options to get the student home.

Suspended students cannot be approved for Fares Allowance to travel home while they are suspended.

Compassionate travel is limited to a maximum of **two return trips** per student per calendar year. Compassionate travel for an expelled student does not count towards this limit.

Special purpose visit travel

The main purpose of special purpose visit travel is to encourage family or community engagement in school activities, so that the boarding school placement can be most effective.

Special purpose visit travel can be used where the student:

- is in a boarding placement and is under threat of expulsion because of serious problems of adjustment and a visit is expected to assist, or

- is participating in a school event; including a graduation, school play, award ceremony, parent-teacher interview or sporting event.

Special purpose visit travel is limited to a maximum of **three return trips** per student per calendar year. These trips can be utilised by any approved traveller, including a family or community member.

Orientation visit travel

Orientation travel can be used where the student:

- needs to attend interviews or other selection procedures before being accepted to the school, or
- is intending to board away from home for the first time, is either from a remote town or community, and it is likely they would experience serious problems of adjustment.

Students intending to board away from home for the first time may not have had their enrolment confirmed. These students can still access Fares Allowance for their orientation travel, for example to undertake an interview before being accepted to the school.

Where a student is approved for orientation visit travel, they are entitled to a return journey between their usual place of residence and orientation location.

Orientation travel can also be used by students to attend interviews during the term, for example if a student changes schools during the term and needs to undertake an interview before being accepted to the new school.

Approved Travellers

Other people may be approved for Fares Allowance to travel with a student for compassionate, special purpose or orientation travel. This includes **supervisor travellers**, **travelling companions**, and **dependent travellers**.

A **close family or community member** may visit the student at their school address for compassionate, orientation or special purpose visits.

A **representative from the school or hostel** can travel to the student's home community, if the student is eligible for orientation or special purpose visit travel, in certain circumstances. This includes:

- to engage with family or community members who are unable to visit the boarding school for a school event, such as a parent-teacher interview,
- to engage with a group of ABSTUDY students for orientation or special purpose reasons, or
- if it is more cost-effective for the representative to travel to a community rather than students/parents travelling to the school.

Top tip: *representatives from the school or hostel can travel to community during the year for orientation, special purpose visits, or as supervisors. This is a great opportunity to improve community engagement.*