

Date: 28/04/2026

Subject: DHA GS Guideline Update – April 2026

Following the DHA meeting held in Nepal on 16 April 2026, key integrity risks, assessment criteria, and emerging trends in student visa applications were identified, particularly for Assessment Level 3 markets.

In response, Sydney Met has reviewed its current GS assessment approach and will implement updated requirements across all Assessment Level 3 countries. The changes focus on strengthening document verification, financial assessment, and overall applicant credibility.

The table below outlines the **previous (before)** and **updated (after)** requirements, highlighting the key changes to GS documentation and assessment criteria.

These changes will take effect from **Monday, 4 May 2026**.

Please note:

- The updated requirements will apply to **new applications only**.
- Applications from offshore Assessment Level 3 markets that are currently in progress or have already received GS approval prior to 4 May 2026 will **not be affected**.

For details, please contact our teams below:

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Regards,



Head of Student Recruitment

**Update: 28 April 2026**

**Document Specification changes for Level 3 countries – Sydney Met**

The table below outlines the **previous (before)** and **updated (after)** requirements, highlighting the key changes to GS documentation and assessment criteria.

These changes will take effect from **Monday, 4 May 2026**.

Description	Previous Criteria	Updated Criteria
<b>Loan Documents</b>	- Loan Sanction Letter	- All previous requirements remain applicable
	- Disbursement covering 1 year of living expenses	- In addition, a minimum balance of AUD 10,000 (or equivalent) must be maintained in the applicant’s bank account alongside the loan disbursed amount
<b>Self-Declared Agricultural Income</b>	- Up to AUD 5,000 accepted based on self-declaration and personal bank statements	- Agricultural income must be fully justified through itemized crop sales
		- Sales must be verified by local government authority
		- Bank transactions must support the declared income
		- Unverified income will not be accepted
		- Maximum acceptable limit remains AUD 5,000
<b>Rental Income</b>	- Accepted with tax clearance and 1 year of bank deposit history	- Rental income must not exceed 50% of total required income
		- Must be supported by complete documentation (e.g., agreements, tax records)
		- Consistent monthly deposits must be reflected in bank statements
<b>Vehicle Income</b>	- Up to AUD 5,000 accepted based on supporting documents	- Vehicle income will no longer be accepted
<b>Sponsor Contribution Ratio</b>	- 70% Primary Sponsor and 30% Secondary Sponsor accepted	- Revised to 80% Primary Sponsor and 20% Secondary Sponsor to ensure stronger financial reliability
<b>Annual Income Requirement</b>	- Standard requirement: AUD 29,710 equivalent - Previously accepted applications with income as low as AUD 23,000	- Minimum sponsor annual income requirement set at AUD 25,000 equivalent - Applications below this threshold will not be considered

Attached: GS Training Session Presentation – Offshore – Levels 1, 2, and 3 – Sydney Met