



Dear All,

My name is Abdul Rahman, and I am the UWA Student Guild's International Students Department President for 2021. I am writing this letter to all of you with a heavy heart today on behalf of the many international students who are currently enrolled at the University. The University and ISD have had many conversations around the issues of the offshore students but there has been an increasing number of students who are still conveying their disappointment with the experience they have had as a student in this University.

At the time of writing, students are about to complete their last academic week of the semester and are heading into exams in 2 weeks. They need answers and they need to have tangible outcomes achieved for them in this stressful time of the semester. I do believe we owe it to our students who have stuck with us through this trying time and that we can do so much more for them.

On behalf of the students, I would like to put forth once again the requests we have that we hope the University will finally agree to as international students as are well qualified for these requests.

Our first request is for the offshore students to get at least a 15% course fee rebate and future discount. This is not unheard of. The University of Queensland has given a 12.5% fee rebate for their offshore students and was the first one to do so in the Group of 8 that we often compare and regard ourselves a leader in. The University of Adelaide has given offshore students a 20% fee rebate to their offshore students that is automatically applied at the time of offer acceptance. It is about time that we add UWA to that list of Universities that show tangible care for our students. Even with a 15% rebate for an undergraduate commerce student, they would still be paying \$16,000 per semester. A science student would also be paying around the same amount. This discounted amount is not one that can be considered a small amount either.



This request has been put forth multiple times before but the importance of giving this rebate now is the feedback from a year of online learning. The multitude of students who are coming forward with their issues around the standard of teaching, inadequate attention being given to them, no access to practical sessions and the overall dissatisfaction of the experience they received is overwhelming. This is especially so given they are paying the same amount as their onshore counterparts.

The second request is to communicate more with us. Overall, support for the offshore international students has dropped. We have been loyal students who are still sticking to the University we chose to pursue more than a degree in, and we are not being treated fairly. Other Universities and states have said something about their plans to bring the students offshore back onto Australian soil. However, UWA has not made an announcement regarding such a massive issue. Offshore students have felt in a limbo for the longest time and a response around a plan that has been developed or in development by the University and State, acknowledging its existence would go a long way. Further detailing the steps would be much-appreciated as well.

I hope to hear from the University within reasonable time and I hope that the executives take this request for the fee rebates and speaking about a plan to bring students back seriously. This is a long overdue step and I hope that we can take that step together.

On behalf of the International Students On and Offshore at UWA,

Abdul Rahman
International Students Department President
UWA Student Guild
isd@guild.uwa.edu.au