



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

Date: July 1, 2021

Subject: United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) – Requirements for Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT)

Dear School Certifying Official,

You are receiving this communication because the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) records indicate that one or more of your facility's programs of education is presently approved for the education of U.S. military veterans and/or their family members using VA GI Bill Education benefit programs.

This correspondence contains important information about coming changes that will be required to maintain a program approval to participate in the VA GI Bill.

Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) Requirements

The Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33), is required by U.S. law to make tuition and fees payments directly to educational institutions on behalf of the Veteran or beneficiary attending an approved program of education. Recent U.S. Treasury regulations, as well as limitations in some foreign countries, are preventing the issuance and acceptance of physically mailed paper checks.

This letter will serve as **official notification** to all foreign educational institutions participating in VA GI Bill education benefit programs that the use of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), commonly known as "direct deposit," is a requirement for approval.

There are two options for educational facilities outside of the United States to participate in direct deposit.

The first option, is for the facility to obtain the following *through its own efforts and resources*:

- A U.S. Employer Identification Number (Taxpayer ID Number): Identification numbers can be obtained here: [Taxpayer Identification Numbers \(TIN\) | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](https://www.irs.gov).
- Establish a checking or savings account with any branch of a U.S. financial institution.

The second option, is for the facility to *work through an available third-party*, who can establish a U.S. bank account on behalf of the facility and forward VA payments to their local bank:

- A U.S. Employer Identification Number (Taxpayer ID Number): Identification numbers can be obtained here: [Taxpayer Identification Numbers \(TIN\) | Internal Revenue Service \(irs.gov\)](https://www.irs.gov).
- Obtain account information from the third-party provider to provide to VA.



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Veterans Benefits Administration
Washington, D.C. 20420

- Examples of “third party providers” include Western Union Business Solutions, TransferWise, Ebury, American Express, etc.; VA is aware that Western Union is already being used by a number of educational facilities for this purpose. You may reach out to your existing Western Union contact or send an email to veteranbenefits@westernunion.com and they will walk you through the process.

Note: VA does not endorse, nor is VA affiliated with, any of the named financial services companies above.

Once the educational institution has completed either of the above options, the educational institution should provide a letter to VA with the information described below. The letter must be dated and signed by a school administrator and contain the following information:

- Name of School:
- Address of School:
- VA Facility Code:
- U.S. Employer Identification Number:
- Name of U.S. Financial Institution:
- Address of U.S. Financial Institution:
- Nine Digit Bank Routing Number:
- Bank Account Number:
- Type of Account (Checking or Savings)

We encourage facilities to complete the direct deposit process as soon as possible.

In other matters, VA is re-working its foreign approval application and will be implementing a reapproval process for all foreign institutions by the end of calendar year 2021, facilities without direct deposit at the conclusion of that process will be withdrawn from participation in VA GI Bill education programs. Details about the reapproval process will be released in the coming weeks.

General questions and requests for direct deposit should be referred to VA at the following email address: federal.approvals@va.gov.

Respectfully,

Foreign Program Approvals Team
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Washington D.C.