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## Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Victorian Institute of Education monitors international students to ensure that they can complete their course within the duration specified on their Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and that timely intervention strategies are implemented for students who are at risk of failing to meet course progress or attendance requirements.

The intention of this policy is to provide all students with the best opportunity to meet their study goals and aspirations and to ensure that students do not breach their visa requirements.

It is recommended that providers consider monitoring the attendance of VET students as part of course progress although it is not required for all providers under the National Code 2018. This is because if students do not maintain satisfactory attendance, it is unlikely that they will be able to maintain course progress.

However, attendance monitoring policies and procedures should be kept in this policy and procedure where it is condition of a provider’s registration as imposed by the ESOS agency that they must have and implement a documented policy and process for monitoring the attendance of overseas students in order to implement and maintain minimum attendance requirements for overseas students.

## Definitions

**CoE** means Confirmation of Enrolment.

**Compulsory study period** is one in which the student must enroll unless granted a deferment or suspension from enrolment or leave of absence under Standard 9 (Deferring, suspending or cancelling the student’s enrolment). A compulsory study period does not include periods in which the student can elect to undertake additional studies.

**DET** means Department of Education and Training.

**ESOS Act** means the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000.

**National Code** means National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018.

**Study period** is defined as a discrete period of study within a course, namely term, semester, trimester, short course of similar or lesser duration, or as otherwise defined by the registered provider as long as that period does not exceed six months.

**Satisfactory Course Progress** is where a student meets course progress requirements for a study period as identified in the Training and Assessment Strategy for each course.

**Unsatisfactory Course Progress** is where a student does not meet course progress requirements for a study period as identified in Training and Assessment Strategy for each course or as identified in the course.

**PRISMS** means Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS).

**Training Product** means AQF qualification, skill set, unit of competency, accredited short course or module.

## Policy

### 1. Completion within expected duration

- International students must complete their studies within the expected duration specified on their Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE). The duration of the course as specified on the student's CoE will never exceed that registered on the CRICOS register.
- Victorian Institute of Education monitors student progress to ensure that students to complete their studies within the expected duration specified on their Confirmation of Enrolment.

### 2. Course progress requirements

- Satisfactory and unsatisfactory course progress including a process for determining the point at which the student has failed to meet course progress requirements is clearly defined in each course's Training and Assessment Strategy.
- Course progress requirements are defined in relation to study periods and may include (but is not limited to), any combination of the following.
  - Satisfactory completion of certain assessment tasks or a certain number of assessment tasks.
  - Achieving competency for certain units of competency or a certain number of units of competency.
  - Requirements to attend a certain number and/or percentage of classes or other training activities such as work-based training shifts as relevant.
- Requirements are designed to uphold the academic integrity of the registered course and meet requirements of the Training Products as relevant, with consideration to the length of the study period and number of units/subjects and assessment requirements of the course.
- Students are advised of course progress requirements in the student handbook and in their course orientation.
- Students who do not meet course progress and/or attendance requirements are at risk of having their visas cancelled.
- Where requirements are not met, Victorian Institute of Education course progress and attendance monitoring procedures will be followed.
- Victorian Institute of Education uses a range of methods to monitor course progress including review of assessment tasks, participation in tuition activities, attendance and other measures of academic progress as defined in the procedures.
- All records of course progress are kept on file.
- Students must also ensure that they abide by academic conduct requirements in order to ensure that they can complete their course in the expected duration.

### 3. Intervention Strategy

- Victorian Institute of Education ensures that it identifies, notifies and assist students where there is evidence that the student is at risk of not meeting course progress requirements.
- For students at risk of not meeting course progress requirements, or Individual intervention plan will be developed based on the appropriate intervention strategy identified.
- An intervention plan will include an interview with the Academic Manager may include one or more of the following strategies:
  - Advising students on the suitability of the course in which they are enrolled and possible alternatives;

- Advising students of opportunities for reassessment; and
- Advising students of assistance that Victorian Institute of Education can provide such as:
  - receiving English language support;
  - providing extra time to complete tasks;
  - providing access to supplementary materials;
  - attending tutorial;
  - receiving individual case management;
  - attending academic counselling;
  - receiving assistance with personal issues which are influencing progress;
  - referral to external organizations where Victorian Institute of Education is unable to address the identified learning or academic issues;
  - being placed in a suitable alternative subject within a course or a suitable alternative course; or
  - a combination of the above and a reduction in course load.

#### 4. Extension to an expected course duration

- Extensions to the course duration specified on the CoE are only allowed where:
  - Compassionate or compelling circumstances apply, and demonstrable evidence is provided, which may include but is not limited to:
    - serious illness or injury, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes;
    - bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents;
    - major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring emergency travel and this has impacted on the student's studies;
    - a traumatic experience which has impacted on the student and which could include involvement in, or witnessing of a serious accident; and witnessing or being the victim of a serious crime. These cases should be supported by police or psychologists' reports); or
    - where Victorian Institute of Education is unable to offer a pre-requisite unit.
    - where the student is unable to begin studying on the course commencement date due to delay in receiving a student visa.
  - Where a student is complying with an intervention strategy implemented for students identified at risk of not making satisfactory course progress or meeting attendance requirements, or
  - An approved deferral or suspension of studies has been granted in accordance with Victorian Institute of Education's *Deferral, Suspension and Cancellation Policy and Procedure*.
- When the student can only account for the variation/s by extending his or her expected duration of study, this will be reported to the Department of Education and Training (DET) via PRISMS.
- All variations in the student's study load, including the reasons for the variation will be recorded on the student's file.
- Where the duration of the student's enrolment is extended, Victorian Institute of Education will advise the student to contact the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) to seek advice on any potential impacts on their visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.

### 5. Online or distance learning enrolment

- Victorian Institute of Education will not deliver a course exclusively by online or distance to an international student.
- At no time during a compulsory study period will a student study more than one-third of the units (or equivalent) by online or by distance learning.
- Victorian Institute of Education will ensure that in each compulsory study period for a course, the overseas student is studying at least one unit that is not by distance or online learning, unless the student is completing the last unit of their course.
- A student's participation in on-line study will be monitored.
- Victorian Institute of Education will ensure it takes all reasonable steps to support students who may be disadvantaged by:
  - Additional costs or other requirements, including students with special needs, from undertaking online or distance learning.
  - Inability to access the resources and community offered by the education institution, or opportunities for engaging with other students while undertaking online or distance learning.

### 6. Reporting students

- Where a student has demonstrated unsatisfactory course progress in a study period and/or has failed to meet attendance requirements despite interventions implemented, Victorian Institute of Education will be required to report the student to DET via PRISMS and the student will receive a written notice informing them of the intention to report for non-satisfactory course progress and/or attendance and the reasons for the intention to report.
- Students have the rights to appeal against this decision as per Victorian Institute of Education *Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedures* If the student chooses to access this process, the student will not be reported until this process is complete.
- Victorian Institute of Education will only report unsatisfactory course progress or unsatisfactory course attendance in PRISMS if:
  - the internal and external complaints processes have been completed and the decision or recommendation supports the registered provider; or
  - the overseas student has chosen not to access the internal complaints and appeals process within the 20 working day period; or
  - the student has chosen not to access the external complaints and appeals process: or
  - the overseas student withdraws from the internal or external appeals processes by notifying the registered provider in writing.
- All records will be kept on the student's file including warning letters and the notice of intention to report.

### 7. Publication

- This policy and procedure will be published in the Student Handbook and on Victorian Institute of Education's website to ensure that course progress requirements are clearly communicated to students before they commence their course. Course progress requirements will also be communicated to students in the Course Outline and at their orientation.

## Document Control

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