

## **Student Progress, Attendance and Course Duration Policy**

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### **1. Scope**

This policy is applicable to International students enrolled at The Geelong College (the school).

### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of the policy is to advise Full Fee-Paying Overseas Students of the requirements regarding progress, attendance and course duration at The Geelong College.

Overseas students are required to meet and maintain satisfactory course progress and attendance requirements under visa condition 8202 and under Standard 8 of the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018.

### **3. Course Progress**

- a.** The Geelong College will monitor, record and assess the course progress of each student for the course in which the student is currently enrolled
  - b.** The course progress of all students will be assessed at the end of each study period /semester of enrolment according to The Geelong College's course assessment requirements
  - c.** Students who have begun part way through a study period / semester will be assessed according to The Geelong College's course assessment requirements after completing [one full study period/semester]
  - d.** To demonstrate satisfactory course progress at the end of each semester, students will need to show:
    - i.** satisfactory completion of outcomes (grades)
    - ii.** satisfactory or better learning behaviours in any study period (semester).
- 3.1** If at the end of a study period a student does not achieve satisfactory course progress as described above, the international Student Coordinator will formally contact the parent(s) to advise that the student is at risk of breaching the course progress requirement and that there will be a meeting with the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement. This may include:
- a.** After hours tutorial support
  - b.** Subject tutorial support in class time
  - c.** Mentoring
  - d.** Additional ESL support
  - e.** Change of subject selection, or reducing course load (without affecting course duration)
  - f.** Counselling - time management
  - g.** Counselling - academic skills
  - h.** Counselling - personal
  - i.** other intervention strategies as deemed necessary

- 3.2** A copy of the student's individual strategy for academic improvement and any relevant progress reports will be forwarded to parents.
- 3.3** The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following study period by the International Student Coordinator and records of student response to the strategy will be kept. Parents will be kept informed of the student's academic progress while the student is receiving formal intervention.
- 3.4** If the student does not achieve satisfactory course progress by the end of the next study period, The Geelong College will advise the student in writing of its intention to report the student for breach of visa condition 8202, and that he/she has 20 working days in which to access The Geelong College's internal complaints and appeals process. Following the outcome of the internal process, if the student wishes to complain or lodge an external appeal about a decision made or action taken by The Geelong College, he/she may contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman at no cost. Please see The Geelong College's Complaints and Appeals Policy for further details.
- 3.5** The Geelong College will notify the ESOS agency via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course progress as soon as practicable where:
- a.** the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 working days, or the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of The Geelong College in writing, or
  - b.** the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of The Geelong College.

#### **4. Completion within expected duration of study**

- a.** As noted in 1.1), The Geelong College will monitor, record and assess the course progress of each student for the course in which the student is currently enrolled.
- b.** Part of the assessment of course progress at the end of each semester will include an assessment of whether the student's progress is such that they are expected to complete their studies within the expected duration of the course.
- c.** The Geelong College will only extend the duration of the student's study where it is clear the student will not be able to complete their course by the expected date because:
  - i.** the student can provide evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances (see 4. Definitions)
  - ii.** the student has, or is, participating in an intervention strategy as outlined in 1.e.
  - iii.** an approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with The Geelong College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- d.** Where The Geelong College decides to extend the duration of the student's study, The Geelong College will report this change via PRISMS within 14 days and/or issue a new COE if required. In this case, the student will need to contact the Department of Immigration to seek advice on any potential impacts on their visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.
- e.** The overseas student's CoE must not exceed the school's period of CRICOS registration.

## **5. Monitoring Course attendance**

- a.** Satisfactory course attendance is attendance of *80%* of scheduled course contact hours.
- b.** Student attendance is:
  - i. checked and recorded daily
  - ii. assessed regularly
  - iii. recorded in SEQTA and calculated over each study period.
- c.** Late arrival at The Geelong College will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.
- d.** All absences from The Geelong College will be included in absentee calculations and should be accompanied by a medical certificate, an explanatory communication from the Head of Boarding or evidence that leave has been approved by the Principal/Head of Senior School or Middle School.
- e.** Student attendance will be monitored by Student Admin each week using a formula based on the number of days absent:
  - i. Calculating the number of hours, the student would have to be absent to fall below the attendance threshold for a study period the Geelong College uses a formula based on the number of days absent. For example, a 20-week study period with 5 days a week would equal 100 days. 20% of this is 20 days.
  - ii. Attendance for any period of exclusion from class will be assessed under The Geelong College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- f.** Parents of students at risk of breaching The Geelong College's attendance requirements will be contacted by email and students will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have absences totalling 20% in any study period.
- g.** If the calculation at 3.f. indicates that the student has passed the attendance threshold for the study period, The Geelong College will assess the student against the provisions of Item 3.i. (below). Where the student has failed to meet the minimum attendance requirement, and Item 3.i. does not apply, The Geelong College will promptly advise the student of its intention to report the student for breach of visa condition 8202, and that he/she has 20 working days in which to access The Geelong College's internal complaints and appeals process.
- h.** The Geelong College will notify the ESOS agency via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course attendance as soon as practicable where:
  - i. the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 working days
  - ii. the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of The Geelong College in writing,
  - iii. the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of The Geelong College.
- i.** Students will not be reported for failing to meet the 80% attendance threshold for a study period where:
  - i. the student produces documentary evidence clearly demonstrating compassionate or compelling circumstances e.g. medical illness supported by a medical certificate or as per Definition, below, and
  - ii. the student's attendance has not fallen below 70% for the study period.

- j. The method for calculating 70% attendance is the same as that outlined in 3.f. with the following change; number of study days x contact hours x 30%, or number of study days x number of days per week x 30%.
- k. If a student is assessed as having nearly reached the threshold of 70% attendance for a study period, the International Student Coordinator, Care Committee and Head of Campus will assess whether a suspension of studies is in the interests of the student as per The Geelong College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- l. If the student does not obtain a suspension of studies under The Geelong College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy, and falls below the 70% threshold for attendance for the study period, the process for reporting the student for unsatisfactory attendance (breach of visa condition 8202) will occur as outlined in 3.h – 3.i.

## 6. Responsibilities of Head of House/Homeroom

- **Recording Attendance:** The Head of House/Homeroom is responsible for recording attendance daily.
- **Reporting Absences:** If a student is absent for more than 5 consecutive days, the Head of House/Homeroom must:
  - Notify the Student Admin immediately.
  - Contact the student's parents/guardians within 2 days of the 5th consecutive absence.
  - Arrange a counselling session with the student within 5 days of the 5th consecutive absence to discuss the reasons for the absence and provide support.
  - Document all communications and actions taken in SEQTA.

## 7. Allowable Extensions of Course Duration

- a. The Geelong College is only permitted to extend the duration of a student's study where it is clear that the student will not complete the course within the expected duration, as specified on the students CoE as a result of:
- b. Compassionate or compelling circumstances (for example in the case of illness)
- c. The Geelong College implementing its intervention strategy for students who are at risk of unsatisfactory academic progress; or
- d. An approved deferment or suspension of the overseas student's enrolment has occurred.

The Geelong College is not permitted to issue a CoE to enable a student to extend their visa unless in the case of one of the above exceptions.

If The Geelong College extends the duration of the student's enrolment, the provider must advise the student to contact Immigration to seek advice on any potential impacts on their visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.

## 8. Definitions

Compassionate or compelling circumstances: circumstances beyond the control of the student that are having an impact on the student's progress through a course. These could include:

- a. serious illness, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes
- b. bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (with evidence of death a certificate if possible)
- c. major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring their

emergency travel that has impacted on their studies

- d.** a traumatic experience which has impacted on the student (these cases should be where possible supported by police or psychologists' reports)
- e.** inability to begin studying on the course commencement date due to delay in receiving a student visa.

For other circumstances to be considered as compassionate or compelling, evidence would need to be provided to show that these were having an impact on the student's progress through a course.

Expected duration: the length of time it takes to complete the course studying full-time. This is the same as the registered course duration on CRICOS.

The Geelong College day: any day for which The Geelong College has scheduled course contact hours.

Study period: The Geelong College defines a "study period" for the purposes of monitoring course attendance and progress as a semester.