



HEIGHTS COLLEGE

OVERSEAS STUDENT PROGRESS, ATTENDANCE AND COURSE DURATION POLICY

CHARACTER LEADERSHIP INFLUENCE BREAKTHROUGH

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.

1. Course Progress

- a) The school 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 of enrolment according to Heights College's course assessment requirements.
- c) Overseas Students who have begun part way through a study period will be assessed according to Heights College's course assessment requirements after completing one full study period.
- d) Students will need to demonstrate satisfactory course progress in any study period

- i. **Senior Secondary Students Year 11-12 (QCE):** Overseas students must progressively accrue sufficient credit of units in Years 11 and 12 to remain eligible for a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). Students enrolled for all four Units of a Senior Secondary Course will be identified and notified as being at risk of not achieving satisfactory course progress when their results indicate that the Learning Options available to them to remain eligible for a QCE are becoming limited. If a student is enrolled for all four units of a Senior Secondary Course and is identified as being at risk of not achieving satisfactory course progress result, they will be notified by the Head of Teaching and Learning, and parents will be contacted that the student is at risk of breaching the course progress requirements. A plan may be put into place to improve the academic result, this may include; after hours tutor, subject tutor, mentoring, additional ESL support, change of subject (or reducing the course load without affecting course duration), counselling (time management, academic skills or personal).

If the student becomes ineligible for a QCE during the course of study, Heights College will advise the student and parents in writing of the possible breach of visa condition 8202, and that they have 20 working days in which to access the College's Complaints and Appeals policy process. Depending on the Visa being cancelled by Immigration.

- ii. **Junior Secondary Students Years 7-10:**

Overseas students in Years 7 to 9: must (at a minimum), achieve a satisfactory result (pass level, 'C' grade or satisfactory result) for the majority of core subjects and fail no more than 2 elective subjects studied in any study period.

Overseas students in Year 10: In preparation for QCE studies in Senior Secondary School for Years 11 & 12, Year 10 students are expected to demonstrate a satisfactory result achieve a satisfactory result (pass level or 'C' grade) in five (5) of their six (6) academic subjects.

- iii. **Primary Students Years P-6:** Overseas students must demonstrate academic outcomes each semester that allow them to remain on track for progression into the next year level.

- e) If at the end of a study period a student does not achieve satisfactory course progress as described above, the subject teacher 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 Head of Teaching and Learning, and the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement. This may include;
 - i. Subject tutorial support in class time or at homework centre
 - ii. Additional ESL support
 - iii. Change of subject selection or reducing course load (without affecting course duration)
 - iv. Offer to repeat a year level (requiring an extension of course duration under item 2c) ii) of this policy)
 - v. Counselling – time management
 - vi. Counselling – academic skills
 - vii. Counselling – personal
 - viii. Other intervention strategies as deemed necessary



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- f) A copy of the student's individual strategy for academic improvement and any relevant progress reports will be forwarded to parents. Parents will be advised if the proposed strategy has any implications for fees payable, the student's progression through a package of courses, or the student's visa. Where a proposed intervention plan has significant implications for the student's course of study (as originally agreed), a new written agreement will need to be established. A new CoE may also be required.
- g) The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following study period by subject teachers and Head of Teaching and Learning, 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.
- h) If the student does not achieve satisfactory course progress by the end of the next study period, Heights 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 school's internal complaints and appeals process. The notification of intention to report will be issued to the student prior to the commencement of the next semester. 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 Heights College, he/she may contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman at no cost. Please see Heights College's Complaints and Appeals Policy for further details.
- i) The College will notify the ESOS agency via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course progress as soon as practicable where:
 - i. the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 days, or
 - ii. the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of Heights College in writing, or
 - iii. the complaints and appeals process, including and external appeal made by the student, results in a decision in favour of the College.

2. Completion within expected duration of study

- a) As noted in 1.a, the school 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 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 definitions below)
 - ii. the student has, or is, participating in an intervention strategy as outlines in 1.e.
 - iii. an approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with Heights College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation policy.
- d) Where the school decides to extend the duration of the student's study, the school will report this change vis PRISMS within 14 days and/or issue a new CoE if required. In this case, the student will need to contact the Department of Home Affairs (Immigration) to seek advice on any potential impacts in their visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.

3. Monitoring Course Attendance

- a) Satisfactory course attendance is attendance of 80% of scheduled course contact hours.
[NB – the National Code St 8 specifies a minimum attendance requirement of 80%, or under certain conditions, of 70% as outlined in St 8.15 School Policy can require a higher minimum attendance rate].
- b) Student attendance is:
 - i. Checked and recorded daily
 - ii. Assessed regularly



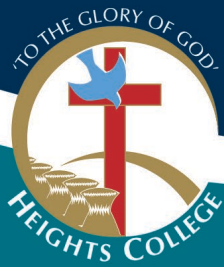
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iii Recorded and calculated over each study period

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- c) Late arrivals at school will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.
- d) All absences from school will be included in absentee calculations and should be accompanied by a medical certificate, and explanatory communication from the student's carer or evidence that leave has been approved by the Principal.
- e) Any absences longer than 5 consecutive days without approval will be investigated.
- f) Student attendance will be monitored by Student Reception every day over the year to assess student attendance using the following method:
 - i. The student attendance roll will be marked by the classroom teacher every session. Students attendance is recorded on the College database for every lesson throughout each day. At the conclusion of each term, absences are automatically recorded and this information is recorded on the student's report for each semester. Calculating the number of hours the student would have to be absent to fall below the 80% attendance threshold for a study period is calculated as follows: Number of study days x contact hours x 20%.
 - ii. The monitoring process will include a review of the reasons given for students absence, including a determination of whether compassionate and compelling circumstances apply (as per definitions, below).
 - iii. Where a student's absence represent grounds for the student to apply and be approved for a deferment of study or temporary suspension of enrolment, those absences will not be included in the student's attendance calculations for that study period (see Heights College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy).
 - iv. Attendance for any period of exclusion from class will be assessed under Heights College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- g) Parents of students at risk of breaching Heights College's attendance requirements will be contacted by phone and students will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have absences totalling 10% in any study period.
- h) If the calculation of 3.f. indicates that the student has fallen below the 80% attendance threshold for the study period, Heights 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 evidence of compassionate and compelling circumstances do not apply, the school 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 school's internal complaints and appeals process.
- i) The school 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 days
 - ii. the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of Heights College in writing.
 - iii. the complaints and appeals process, including any external appeal made by the student, results in a decision in favour of the College.
- j) Students will be reported for failing to meet the 80% attendance threshold for a study period where:
 - i. the student has produced documentary evidence in a timely manner clearly demonstrating the presence of 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
- k) The method of 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%.
- l) If the student's attendance falls below the 70% threshold for the study period, the process for reporting the student for unsatisfactory attendance (breach of visa conditions 8202) will occur as outlined in 3.h – 3.i.



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4. Definitions

- a) *Compassionate or compelling circumstances* – circumstances beyond the control of the student that are having an impact on the student’s course progress or attendance through a course. These could include:
- serious illness, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes
 - bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (with evidence of death - a certificate if possible)
 - major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring their emergency travel that has impacted on their studies
 - a traumatic experience which has impacted on the student (these cases should be where possible supported by police or psychologists’ reports)
 - where the school was unable to offer a pre-requisite unit
 - 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 course progress or attendance through a course.
- b) *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.
- c) *School day* – any day for which the school has scheduled course contact hours.
- d) *Study period*:
- For the purpose of monitoring attendance, a study period is a semester
 - For the purpose of monitoring course progress in a Primary School or Junior Secondary School course, a study period is a semester
 - For the purpose of monitoring course progress in a Senior Secondary School course, a study period is a unit of a subject or course of study (i.e, Unit 1 or Unit 2 in Year 11 or Units 3 and 4 in Year 12)
- e) *Core subjects* – are compulsory and for middle (Junior) school include English, Mathematics, Science, History, Geography, Physical Education and Christian Living. These subjects expose students to important learning experiences in preparation for success in Senior School.
- f) *Elective subjects* in middle (junior) school, such as Food and Textiles, Industrial Technology, Metal work, Creative Art, Drama, Chinese, Digital Technology, Music and Business. These subjects provide an opportunity for students to begin to pursue areas of specific interests in line with their gifts and talents. Our curriculum is structured to gradually progress students from a core-curriculum in Year 7, towards a broader exposure to elective subjects by Year 9.
- g) *QCE* (related to senior school) – Queensland Certificate of Education, is the key qualification to be gained from the Senior Phase of Learning in Queensland. To be eligible for QCE, a pattern of subjects must follow a set pattern of study.
- h) *Learning Options* – the range of subjects and programs as outlined in [Learning Options 1.2.2](#) of the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) QCE and QCIA Handbook.