

Overseas Students Policy	Last Review and Approved	January 2023
	Next Review Due	2024

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The College has policies to facilitate the resolution of complaints and appeals.
- 1.2. A copy of this policy will be provided to the student (or parent(s)/legal guardian if the student is under 18) at a reasonable time prior to a written agreement being signed, and again within 7 days of the commencement of student attendance of the enrolled course.
- 1.3. A copy of this policy is located on the College's website<sup>1</sup> and in the Overseas Student Handbook.

### 2. Scope of the Policy

- 2.1. This policy applies to college staff, agents, overseas students and their parents/legal guardians.

### 3. Policy

#### 3.1. Purpose

- a) The purpose of the College's Complaints and Appeals Policy is to provide a student or parent(s)/legal guardian with the opportunity to access procedures to facilitate the resolution of a dispute or complaint involving the College, or an education agent or third party engaged by the College to deliver a service on behalf of the College.
- b) The internal complaints and appeals processes are conciliatory and non-legal.
- c) Complaints against other students - Grievances brought by a student against another student will be dealt with under the College's Student Code of Conduct Policy.

#### 3.2. Informal Complaints Resolution

- a) In the first instance, the College requests there is an attempt to informally resolve the issue through mediation/informal resolution of the complaint.
- b) Students should contact the class teacher, the Head of Student Care or Head of Year in the first instance to attempt mediation/informal resolution of the complaint.
- c) If the matter cannot be resolved through mediation, the matter will be referred to the Head of School and/or Principal. The College's internal formal complaints and appeals handling procedure will be followed.

#### 3.3. Formal Complaints Handling Procedure

- a) The process of this complaints and appeals procedure is confidential and is a matter between the parties concerned and those directly involved in the complaints handling process.
- b) The student must notify the College in writing of the nature and details of the complaint or appeal. The Overseas Student Complaint form is located on the College website at <https://citipointe.qld.edu.au/international/policies/>.
- c) Written complaints or appeals are to be lodged with the Head of School and then the Principal.
- d) Where the internal complaints and appeals process is being accessed because the student has received notice by the school that the school intends to report him/her for unsatisfactory course attendance, unsatisfactory course progress or suspension or cancellation of enrolment, the student has 20 working days from the date of receipt of notification in which to lodge a written appeal.
- e) Complaints and appeals processes are available to students at no cost.
- f) Each complainant has the opportunity to present his/her case to the Principal.
- g) Students and/or the College may be accompanied and assisted by a support person at all relevant meetings.
- h) The formal internal complaints and appeals process will commence within 10 working days of lodgement of the complaint or appeal with the Principal and will be finalised within 20 working days or as soon as practicable.
- i) For the duration of the internal complaints and appeals process the student's enrolment will be maintained, as required under the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 and the student must continue to attend classes. However, if the Principal deems that the student's health or well-being, or the well-being of others is at risk he/she may decide to suspend or cancel the student's enrolment before the

<sup>1</sup> <https://citipointe.qld.edu.au/international/policies/>

complaints and appeals process has been accessed or fully completed. In such cases, the student may still lodge a complaint or appeal, even if the student is offshore.

- j) Once the Principal has as come to a decision regarding the complaint or appeal, the student will be informed in writing of the outcome and the reasons for the outcome, and a copy will be retained on the student's file.
- k) If the complaints and appeals procedure finds in favour of the student, the College will immediately implement the decision and any corrective and preventative action required and advise the student of the outcome and action taken.
- l) Where the outcome of a complaint or appeal is not in the student's favour, the College will advise the student within 10 working days of concluding the internal review of the student's right to access the external appeals process. However, the College is only obliged to await the outcome of an external appeal if the matter relates to a breach of course progress or attendance requirements. For all other issues, the school may take action (including making changes to the student's enrolment status in PRISMS) in accordance with the outcome of the internal appeal.

#### 3.4. External Appeals Processes

- a) If the student is dissatisfied with the conduct or result of the internal complaints and appeals procedure, he/she may contact and / or seek redress through the Commonwealth Ombudsman at no cost. Please see: <http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/How-we-can-help/overseas-students> or phone 1300 362 072 for more information.
- b) If the student wishes to appeal a decision made by the College that relates to being reported for a breach of course progress or attendance requirement (under Standard 8), the student must lodge this appeal with the Commonwealth Ombudsman's office within 10 working days of being notified of the outcome of his/her internal appeal.
- c) If the student wishes to appeal a decision made by the College that relates to:
  - i. refusal to approve a transfer application (under Standard 7), or
  - ii. suspension or cancellation of the student's enrolment (under Standard 9)Any choice to lodge an external appeal with the Commonwealth Ombudsman is at the student's discretion. The school need not await the outcome of any external appeal lodged, before implementing the outcome of the internal appeal.

#### 3.5. Other legal redress

- a) Nothing in the School's Complaints and Appeals Policy negates the right of an overseas student to pursue other legal remedies.

#### 3.6. Definitions

**Working Day** - any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday during term time

**Student** - a student enrolled at the College or the parent(s)/legal guardian of a student where that student is under 18 years of age

**Support person** - for example, a friend/teacher/relative/agent not involved in the complaint/appeal

### 4. Legislative Provisions and Related Documentation

#### Legislative Provisions

- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cth)
- Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2017 (Qld)
- National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (Cth)
- Education (Overseas Students) Act 2018 (Qld)

This policy is to be read in conjunction with other policies and College guidelines i.e.

- [5.1 Privacy of Information](#)
- [6.1.9 COVID-19 Return to On-Campus Learning Compliance](#)
- [7.1 Student Protection Policy](#)
- [10.3 11.6 Anti-Discrimination Policy](#)
- [11.4 Grievances Disputes and Complaints](#)
- [Overseas Student Conditions of Enrolment](#)
- [Overseas Student Critical Incident Policy](#)

- [Overseas Student Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy](#)
- [Overseas Student Homestay Policy](#)
- [Overseas Student Intervention Strategy for Failure to Meet Progress, Attendance and Completion Within Expected Duration](#)
- [Overseas Student Progress Attendance and Course Duration Policy](#)
- [Overseas Students Refund Policy](#)
- [Overseas Student Requirements for Entry Policy](#)
- [Overseas Student Transfer Policy](#)
- [Overseas Student Welfare and Accommodation Policy](#)

## **5. Policy Review**

5.1. This policy will be reviewed annually unless otherwise advised.