



## International Students

# Student Progress, Attendance and Course Duration Policy

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### **Rationale**

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.

### **Course Progress**

- The school will monitor, record and assess the course progress of each student for the course in which the student is currently enrolled.
- The course progress of all students will be assessed at the end of each study period or semester of enrolment according to Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School's course assessment requirements.
- Students who have begun part way through a study period / semester will be assessed according to Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School's course assessment requirements after completing one full study period or semester.
- To demonstrate satisfactory course progress, students will need to obtain:

### Primary School Studies

Students in Kindergarten to Year 6 will need to demonstrate a commitment to their studies each study period that allows them to remain on track for progression to the next year level. Students will need to achieve a minimum pass grade of C in 50% or more of the subjects studied per semester. Students will also need to show a willingness to participate in academic and cocurricular activities. If the student's effort is at least "satisfactory", despite not passing all subjects studied, the School may consider the student to have achieved "satisfactory" course progress.

### Junior Secondary Studies

Students in Years 7 to 10 must demonstrate a minimum pass grade of C in 50% or more of the subjects studied per semester.

### Senior Secondary Studies

Students in Years 11 and 12, must demonstrate a minimum pass grade of C in 50% or more of the units attempted per semester. The objective of this criterion is that the student avoids the possibility of not being issued a Higher Schools Certificate at the conclusion of Year 12.

- If at the end of a study period, a student does not achieve satisfactory course progress as described above, the Dean of Students will formally contact the parent(s) by telephone and/or email 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) other intervention strategies as deemed necessary
- A copy of the student's individual strategy for academic improvement and any relevant progress reports will be forwarded to parents.
- The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following study period by the Dean of Students and records of student response to the strategy will be kept. Parents will be kept informed by way of regular email updates of the student's academic progress while the student is receiving formal intervention.
- If the student does not achieve satisfactory course progress by the end of the next study period, Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School 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 Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School, he/she may contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman at no cost. Please see Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School's Complaints and Appeals Policy for further details.
- The school 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 days, or the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School in writing, or
  - b) the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of the school.

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

- As noted previously, the school will monitor, record and assess the course progress of each student for the course in which the student is currently enrolled.
- 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.
- The school 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:
  - a) the student can provide evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances (see Definitions below)
  - b) the student has, or is, participating in an intervention strategy as outlined in 1.e.
  - c) an approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.

- Where the school decides to extend the duration of the student's study, the school 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 Home Affairs to seek advice on any potential impacts on their visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.

### **Monitoring Course attendance**

- Satisfactory course attendance is attendance of 80% of scheduled course contact hours.
- Student attendance is:
  - a) checked and recorded daily
  - b) assessed regularly
  - c) recorded and calculated over each study period.
- Late arrival at school will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.
- All absences from school will be included in absentee calculations and should be accompanied by a medical certificate, an explanatory communication from the student's carer or evidence that leave has been approved by the Principal/Head of School.
- Any absences longer than 5 consecutive days without approval will be investigated.
- Student attendance will be monitored every day over a study period to assess student attendance using the following method:
  - a) Calculating the number of hours the student would have to be absent to fall below the attendance threshold for a study period e.g. number of study days x contact hours x 20%. For example, a 20 week study period with 5 contact hours a day would equal 500 contact hours. 20% of this is 100 hours.
  - b) Attendance for any period of exclusion from class will be assessed under Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- Parents of students at risk of breaching Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School's attendance requirements will be contacted by the Dean of Students by email and students will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have absences totalling 10% in any study period.
- If the calculation indicates that the student has passed the attendance threshold for the study period, Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School will assess the student against the provisions below. Where the student has failed to meet the minimum attendance requirement, and compassionate or compelling circumstances does 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.
- The school will notify the ESOS agency via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course attendance as soon as practicable where:
  - a) the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 days
  - b) the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School in writing
  - c) the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of the school.

- Students will not be reported for failing to meet the 80% attendance threshold for a study period where:
  - a) 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
  - b) the student's attendance has not fallen below 70% for the study period.
- The method for calculating 70% attendance is the same as that outlined in f. above with the following change; number of study days x contact hours x 30%.
- If a student is assessed as having nearly reached the threshold of 70% attendance for a study period, the Principal will assess whether a suspension of studies is in the interests of the student as per Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- If the student does not obtain a suspension of studies under Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School 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 above.

### 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) where the school was unable to offer a prerequisite unit
- f) 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.
- **School day** - any day for which the school has scheduled course contact hours.
- **Study period** - Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School defines a "study period" for the purposes of monitoring course attendance and progress as a *semester*.

### Policy Administration

This policy will be reviewed periodically, or in the event of any information or incident that indicates the need for a review, or following relevant legislative or organisational change.

INTN003 Progress, Attendance and Course Duration Policy	
Policy Version	Version 2
Date of Formulation	June 2019

<b>Date of Last Review</b>	Aug 2024
<b>Date of Next Review</b>	Aug 2027
<b>Person Responsible</b>	Jenaya Mulley
<b>Position</b>	Head of Enrolments and International Development
<b>Approved by the Head of Lindisfarne International</b>	