

*Overseas Students:  
Course Progress and Attendance Policy*

CRICOS 01256A



ST ANDREWS  
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

INSPIRED BY  
FAITH

DISTINGUISHED BY  
CHARACTER

LEADERS BY  
INFLUENCE



# Overseas Students: Course Progress and Attendance Policy

## PREAMBLE

All policy, protocols and procedures flow from the St Andrews Christian College Mission Statement:

*“To educate our students so that they are well skilled, understand life on the basis of biblical truth, and are motivated to walk with God and serve Him in their lives, so that they will be a positive Christian influence in the world.”*

## POLICY DOCUMENT INFORMATION

**TITLE:** Overseas Students: Course Progress and Attendance Policy

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

**PURPOSE:** To provide policy and direction for all the College Community.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS:**

Overseas Students: Complaints and Appeals Policy

Overseas Students: Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy

Overseas Students: Welfare and Student Support Services Policy

## KEY DATES

**ISSUE DATE:** August 2016

**REVIEW DATE:** 2019



## 1. 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 semester of enrolment.
- Students who have begun part way through a semester will be assessed after one full semester of attendance.
- To demonstrate satisfactory course progress, students will need to achieve competency in at least 50% of units in any study period.
- If a student does not achieve competency in at least 50% of units studied in an assessment period, the year level co-ordinator will meet with the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement. This may include:
  - Additional supervised study periods.
  - Tutorial assistance.
  - Other intervention strategies as deemed necessary.
- A copy of the student's individual strategy and progress reports in achieving improvement will be forwarded to parents.
- The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following semester by the year level co-ordinator and records of student response to the strategy will be kept.
- If the student does not improve sufficiently academically and achieve satisfactory course progress by the end of the next assessment period, St Andrews Christian 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 school will notify DEST via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course progress as soon as practicable where:
  - The student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 days, or
  - Withdraws from the complaints and appeals process, or
  - The complaints and appeals process results in favour of the school.

## 2. COMPLETION WITHIN EXPECTED DURATION OF STUDY (*Course Progression*)

- As noted above, 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 course within the expected duration of the course.
- The school will only extend the duration of the student's study where the student will not complete their course within the expected duration due to:
  - Compassionate or compelling circumstances.
  - Student participation in an intervention strategy.
  - An approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with the school's Overseas Students: Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.



- Where the school decides to extend the duration of the student's study, the school will report via PRISMS and / or issue a new CoE if required.

### 3. COURSE ATTENDANCE

- Satisfactory course attendance is attendance of 80% of scheduled course contact hours.
- Student attendance is:
  - Checked and recorded daily.
  - Assessed regularly.
  - Recorded and calculated over each semester.
- Late arrival at school will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.
- All absences from school 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 Section.
- Any absences longer than 5 consecutive days without approval will be investigated.
- Student attendance will be monitored by the year level co-ordinator regularly over a semester to assess student attendance using the following method:
  - Calculating the number of hours the student would have to be absent to fall below the attendance threshold for a semester (e.g. number of study days x contact hours x 20%).
  - Any period of exclusion from class will not be included in student attendance calculations.
- Students at risk of breaching the school's attendance requirements will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have absences totalling 20 hours during any assessment period.
- If the calculation above indicates that the student has passed the attendance threshold for the study period, the school will 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 except in the circumstances outlined in Definitions below.
- The school will notify DEST via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course attendance as soon as practicable where:
  - The student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 days.
  - The student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process.
  - The complaints and appeals process results in a decision for the school.
- Students will not be reported for failing to meet the 80% threshold where:
  - The student produces documentary evidence clearly demonstrating compassionate or compelling circumstances (e.g. medical illness supported by a medical certificate), and
  - Has not fallen below 70% attendance.
- The method for calculating 70% attendance is the same as that outlined 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 for 70% attendance, the Principal will assess whether a suspension of studies is in the interests of the student as per the school's Overseas Students: Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- If the student does not obtain a suspension of studies under the school's Overseas Students: Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy, and falls below the 70% threshold for attendance, the process for



reporting the student for unsatisfactory attendance (breach of visa condition 8202) will occur as outlined above.

## 4. OVERSEAS STUDENT INTERVENTION STRATEGY

- If a student does not achieve competency in at least 50% of units studied in a given semester, the year level co-ordinator will meet with the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement.
- The intervention strategy may include:
  - Additional supervised study periods
  - Tutorial assistance
  - Other intervention strategies as deemed necessary
- For students in Years 7-10, a set curriculum with fixed subjects is offered and there is no opportunity to reduce or alter an individual student's program.
- If, after one semester from the commencement of an intervention strategy, the student does not achieve competency in at least 50% of units studied, the student will be informed in writing that he / she will be reported, through PRISMS, for unsatisfactory course progress.
- *See also St Andrews Christian College Overseas Students: Complaints and Appeals Policy.*

## 5. 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:
  - 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.
  - 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).
  - 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.