

## Student Progress, Attendance and Course Duration Policy

### FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

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 (semester) of enrolment according to Freshwater Christian College's course assessment requirements.
- c) Students who have begun part way through a study period (semester) will be assessed according to Freshwater Christian College's course assessment requirements after completing one full study period (semester).
- d) To demonstrate satisfactory course progress, Primary (Prep to Year 6) students will need to achieve a minimum grade of 'Demonstrating' (DEM); Secondary (Year 7 to Year 12) students will need to achieve a minimum grade of 'C' (Satisfactory) in at least 50% of subjects in any study period (semester). Students need to be demonstrating that they are improving and making an effort (ie; participating in class, displaying a good attitude to learning, completing homework).
- e) If at the end of a study period (semester) a student does not achieve satisfactory course progress as described above, the Executive Assistant to Principal will formally contact the parent(s) to advise the student is at risk of breaching the course progress requirement and there will be a meeting with the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement. This may include;
  - i) After hours tutorial support
  - ii) Subject tutorial support in class time
  - iii) Mentoring
  - iv) Change of subject selection, or reducing course load (without affecting the course duration)
  - v) Counselling – time management
  - vi) Counselling – academic skills
  - vii) Counselling – personal
  - viii) other intervention strategies as deemed necessary
- f) A copy of the student's individual strategy and progress reports in achieving improvement will be forwarded to parents.
- g) The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following study period by the Head of Primary and/or the Head of Secondary 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 (semester), the Principal will advise the student in writing of Freshwater Christian College's 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 study period (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 Freshwater Christian College, he/she may contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman at no cost. Please see Freshwater Christian College's Complaints and Appeals Policy for further details.
- i) The school 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 the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of Freshwater Christian College in writing; or
  - ii) the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of the school.

#### 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 study period (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 school will only extend the duration of the student's study where it is clear the student will not 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 outlined in 1.e.
  - iii) an approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with Freshwater Christian 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 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.

### 3) **Monitoring Course attendance**

- a) Satisfactory course attendance is attendance of 80% of scheduled course contact (school) hours.
- b) Student attendance is:
  - i) checked and recorded daily.
  - ii) assessed regularly.
  - iii) recorded and calculated over each study period.
- c) Late arrival at school will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.
- d) All absences from school will be included in the absentee calculation 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.
- e) Any absences longer than 5 consecutive days without approval will be investigated.
- f) Student attendance will be monitored by the Executive Assistant to Principal every 10 weeks over a study period (semester) to assess student attendance using the following method.
  - i) Calculating the number of school hours the student would have to be absent to fall below the attendance threshold for a study period. (For example – a 20 week study period with 6.25 school hours per day would equal 625 hours. 20% of this is 125 hours).
  - ii) Attendance for any period of exclusion from class will be assessed under Freshwater Christian College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- g) Parents of students at risk of breaching Freshwater Christian College's attendance requirements will be contacted by email and students will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have 85% attendance in any study period.
- h) If the calculation at 3.f. indicates that the student has passed the attendance threshold for the study period (semester), Freshwater Christian 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 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 Freshwater Christian College in writing.
  - iii) the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of the school.
- j) Students will not be reported for failing to meet the 80% attendance threshold for a study period (semester) 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 Item 4. Definitions (below), and
  - ii) the student's attendance has not fallen below 70% attendance for the study period (semester).
- k) The method for calculating 70% attendance is the same as that outlined in 3.f with the following change; number of school days x school hours x 30%, or the number of school days x the number of school days per week x 30%.
- l) If a student is assessed as having nearly reached the threshold of 70% attendance for a study period (semester), the Principal will assess whether a suspension of studies is in the interests

of the student as per Freshwater Christian College’s Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.

- m) If the student does not obtain a suspension of studies under Freshwater Christian College’s Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy, and falls below the 70% threshold for attendance for the study period (semester), the process for reporting the student for unsatisfactory attendance (breach of visa condition 8202) will occur as outlined in 3.h. – 3.i.

**4) Definitions**

- a) *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:
  - i) serious illness, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes.
  - ii) bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (with evidence of death certificate if possible).
  - iii) major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring their emergency travel that has impacted on their studies.
  - iv) a traumatic experience which has impacted on the student (these cases should be where possible supported by police or psychologists’ reports).
  - v) where the school was unable to offer a pre-requisite unit.
  - vi) 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.

- 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.  
*Study period* – a discrete period of study within a course which cannot exceed 24 weeks. Freshwater Christian College defines a ‘study period’ for the purposes of monitoring course attendance and progress as a ‘semester’. There are 2 semesters in a school year.

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