

Attendance Policy

Document Name	Attendance Policy		
Approved by	PEO	Date	29/05/2019
Responsible Officer	Director Studies		
This policy is used by	ECA College and APIC Foundation (RTO Code 45012; CRICOS Provider Code 02644C) Australasian College of Care Leadership and Management (RTO Code 40829, CRICOS Provider Code 03637E) ECA Graduate Institute (RTO Code 91423)		
Related Documents	Student Handbook Student Attendance Procedure		
References and Legislation	Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015 The National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 Standard 8		
Version	Change description	Approved	Effective Date
v19.0	Updated for new logo and alignment with ECA Group.	PEO	1/06/19
v19.1	Reviewed in line with ESOS and VET Standards	PEO	2/07/19

1. Purpose

This policy is to ensure that all domestic and international student attendances are recorded, monitored and actioned to facilitate best student outcomes. It defines the expected level of attendance and any action to be taken if a student does not meet the expected level. ECA Group believes attendance is a requirement of satisfactory course completion, promotes educational quality and monitors attendance for these reasons. Students with low attendance are counselled.

2. Scope

This policy applies to international and domestic student (potential or actual) who are enrolled in Education Centre of Australia Pty Ltd (ECA Group) educational institutions including ECA Graduate Institute (EGI), ECA College (ECAC) and Australasian College of Care Leadership and Management (ACCLM).

3. Definitions

Item	Definition
Assessment	The process of collecting evidence and making judgements on whether competency has been achieved, to confirm that an individual can perform to the standard expected in the workplace, as expressed by the relevant endorsed industry/enterprise competency standards of a training package or by the learning outcomes of an accredited course.
Course/Unit	A Unit of Competency from Training Packages and/or a Module from curriculum-based courses.

Learner	An individual, enrolled with the RTO, who is receiving, responding to and processing information in order to acquire and develop competence. This incorporates the processes of preparing and presenting for assessment.
Program	A structured and integrated program of education or training consisting of a number of units of competency or modules or an accredited short course, usually leading to the award of a qualification.
Satisfactory course progress	Attending scheduled classes and successfully completing all assessments and obtaining a (C) Competency in all the units in the prescribed study period
Study Period	Where the course duration is of one year or more, the study period is defined as a term, usually of 10 weeks duration.

4. Policy

- 4.1. ECA Group ensures that the expected duration of study specified in the overseas student's CoE does not exceed the CRICOS registered duration.
- 4.2. ECA Group has and implements as part of this Policy and associated Procedures mechanisms for monitoring the attendance of overseas students if the requirement to implement and maintain minimum attendance requirements for overseas students is set as a condition of ECA's registration by an ESOS agency. Where ECA Group has an ESOS agency that requires it to monitor overseas student attendance as a condition of registration, the minimum requirement for attendance is 80 per cent of the scheduled contact hours for a course. Where an ESOS agency requires ECA Group to monitor overseas student attendance, this Policy and associated Procedures for monitoring and recording attendance of an overseas student that specifies:
 - the method for working out minimum attendance requirements
 - processes for recording course attendance
 - details of the intervention strategy to identify, notify and assist overseas students who have been absent for more than five consecutive days without approval, or who are at risk of not meeting attendance requirements before the overseas student's attendance drops below 80 per cent
 - processes for determining the point at which the overseas student has failed to meet satisfactory course attendance.
- 4.3. ECA Group will ensure that all student attendances are recorded on the ECA attendance record. All attendance records will be signed by the student and the ECA staff member conducting the session. ECA Group will implement an intervention strategy to support students with poor attendance or participation levels.
- 4.4. ECA Group will monitor all student's attendance and participation to ensure poor attendance or participation levels are identified and an early intervention strategy can be implemented if needed.
- 4.5. Where an overseas student is assessed as not meeting course progress or attendance requirements, overseas students are provided with written notice as soon as practicable which:
 - notifies the overseas student that there is an intention to report them for unsatisfactory course progress or unsatisfactory course attendance
 - informs the overseas student of the reasons for the intention to report
 - advises the overseas student of their right to access ECA's complaints and appeals process, within 20 working days.
- 4.6. ECA will only report unsatisfactory course progress or unsatisfactory course attendance in PRISMS in accordance with section 19(2) of the ESOS Act if:
 - the internal and external complaints processes have been completed and the

- decision or recommendation is supported by ECA, or
 - the overseas student has chosen not to access the internal complaints and appeals process within the 20 working day period, or
 - the overseas student has chosen not to access the external complaints and appeals process, or
 - the overseas student withdraws from the internal or external appeals processes by notifying ECA in writing.
- 4.7. ECA may decide not to report the overseas student for breaching the attendance requirements if the overseas student is still attending at least 70 per cent of the scheduled course contact hours and:
- the overseas student provides genuine evidence demonstrating that compassionate or compelling circumstances apply; or
 - the student is maintaining satisfactory course progress.
- 4.8. ECA will not extend the duration of the overseas student's enrolment if the overseas student is unable to complete the course within the expected duration, unless:
- there are compassionate or compelling circumstances, as assessed by ECA on the basis of demonstrable evidence, or
 - ECA has implemented, or is in the process of implementing, an intervention strategy for an overseas student because the overseas student is at risk of not meeting course progress requirements, or
 - an approved deferral or suspension of an overseas student's enrolment has occurred under Standard 9 (Deferring, suspending or cancelling the overseas student's enrolment).
- 4.9. If ECA extends the duration of the student's enrolment, the college will advise the student to contact Immigration to seek advice on any potential impacts on their visa, including the need to obtain a new visa.
- 4.10. ECA does not deliver courses exclusively by online or distance learning to overseas students.
- 4.11. No more than one-third of the units (or equivalent) of a VET course is delivered by online or distance learning to an overseas student.
- 4.12. ECA ensures that in each compulsory study period for a course, an overseas student is studying at least one unit that is not by distance or online learning, unless the student is completing the last unit of their course.
- 4.13. Any online or distance learning is in addition to minimum face-to-face teaching requirements approved by the relevant designated State authority or ESOS agency as part of the registration of the course if applicable.
- 4.14. ECA takes all reasonable steps to support overseas students who may be disadvantaged by additional costs or other requirements, including for overseas students with special needs, from undertaking online or distance learning; or inability to access the resources and community offered by ECA, or opportunities for engaging with other overseas students while undertaking online or distance learning.
- 4.15. All records of attendance and participation are stored appropriately.
- 4.16. All intervention documentation is stored appropriately.
- 4.17. This Policy and associated Procedures enables ECA to identify, notify and assist an overseas student at risk of not meeting course progress or attendance requirements where there is evidence from the overseas student's assessment tasks, participation in tuition activities or other indicators of academic progress that the overseas student is at risk of not meeting those requirements.
- 4.18. ECA has this Policy and associated Procedures to assess course progress that includes:

- requirements for achieving satisfactory course progress, including promoting and upholding the academic integrity of a registered course and meet the training package or accredited course requirements, and processes to address misconduct and allegations of misconduct
 - processes for recording and assessing course progress requirements
 - processes to identify overseas students at risk of unsatisfactory course progress
 - details of ECA's intervention strategy to assist overseas students at risk of not meeting course progress requirements in sufficient time for those overseas students to achieve satisfactory course progress
 - processes for determining the point at which an overseas student has failed to meet satisfactory course progress
- 4.19. All ECA Group staff are made aware of this Policy and Procedure through induction.
- 4.20. All students are informed of the attendance and participation requirements pre-enrolment, on enrolment and orientation, and throughout the program.
- 4.21. All students receive a Student Handbook detailing safety tips for arriving at and leaving training sessions delivered by ECA Group.
- 4.22. Students are notified of their opportunity to access ECA Group's support services through pre-enrolment information, at enrolment and orientation and throughout the program:
- English language support for oral and written comprehension
 - Assistance with academic skills such as essay and report writing, meeting assessment requirements and research skills
 - Counselling services in order to address personal issues
 - Changing courses from evening to daytime or vice versa
 - Mentoring by a trainer
 - Reassessment
- 4.23. ECA Group determines minimum attendance by recording course attendance; intervention strategies to identify, notify and assist overseas students who have been absent for more than five consecutive days without approval, or who are at risk of not meeting attendance requirements before the overseas student's attendance drops below 80 per cent; and processes for determining the point at which an overseas student has failed to meet satisfactory course attendance.
- 4.24. ECA Group monitors and records attendance of the overseas student in relation to:
- the described minimum attendance requirements
 - the processes for recording course attendance
- 4.25. ECA Group's intervention strategy to identify, notify and assist overseas students who have been absent for more than five consecutive days without approval, or who are at risk of not meeting attendance requirements before the overseas student's attendance drops below 80 per cent processes for determining the point at which the overseas student has failed to meet satisfactory course attendance.