Support of International Students Policy

EFFECTIVE FROM 01 JANUARY 2026

Purpose and Scope

This policy applies to all staff, students and public.

Objectives

- To ensure that the University is and remains compliant with the *Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000* (ESOS Act) and the *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018* (National Code); and
- To ensure that the university meets its obligations under the Simplified Student Visa Framework (SSVF) system by outlining the governance and management arrangements through which the University will fulfill its responsibilities.

Policy

1. The following defined terms are specific to this document:

   1.1. "Principal Course" is the main course of study to be undertaken by an international student where a student visa has been issued. The principal course of study would normally be the final course of study where the international student arrives in Australia with a student visa that covers multiple courses.

   1.2. "PRISMS" is the Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS). It is the system used to process information given to the Secretary of the Department of Education by Registered Providers.

2. External Legislative Framework

   2.1. The ESOS Act provides the legislative framework for education and training institutions offering courses to international students in Australia on a student visa.

   2.2. Only those education institutions registered under the ESOS Act and listed on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students (CRICOS) may enrol overseas students to study in Australia on a student visa.

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2.3. The National Code is a legislative instrument established under the ESOS Act which defines the standards that govern the protection of overseas students and delivery of courses to those students by providers registered on the CRICOS.

2.4. The National Code is legally enforceable and breaches of the National Code by providers can result in enforcement action under the ESOS Act. This action can include the imposition of conditions on registration or suspension or cancellation of registration, and consequently of the right to recruit international students.

2.5. A provider must demonstrate that it complies with the requirements of the National Code to achieve CRICOS registration or re-registration.

2.6. The Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) is the responsible authority for CRICOS registration.

2.7. Simplified Student Visa Framework is a framework operated by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA), established by an Instrument made under the terms of the Migration Regulations 1994.

2.8. The SSVF system reduces the documentation required by the DHA to assess a student visa application and reduces the length of time taken for an Australian student visa to be issued.

2.9. Murdoch University became part of the SSVF system after opting in and being approved by DHA and is now required to fulfil the obligations it committed to through the opt-in process.

2.10. SSVF processing arrangements include the formal recognition of certain pathway colleges as business partners under the scheme.

3. Murdoch University Status

3.1. Murdoch University is a registered CRICOS provider with number 00125J.

3.2. As such the University must comply with the requirements of the ESOS Act and the National Code.

3.3. The University's CRICOS registration is valid until 9 December 2027.

3.4. Under the University's CRICOS registration the maximum number of international students that may be enrolled is 10,000.

3.5. The limit on international student numbers may be varied by applying to TEQSA and supplying satisfactory supporting evidence.

3.6. For a university to access the SSVF arrangements it must continue to meet the eligibility criteria.

4. Governance arrangements

4.1. The Academic Council of the University has delegated accountability for oversight of the University's responsibilities under the ESOS Act and National Code to the International Committee.

4.2. All courses of study approved by the University and which are open to International Students shall be notified to Director Quality and Standards for the purposes of registration on CRICOS.

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4.3. No course shall be opened to recruitment for international students prior to its registration on the PRISMS database.

5. Audit requirements

5.1. Under the requirements of the ESOS Act, registered providers must undertake an independent external audit once every five years, which must assess the provider's compliance with the National Code and include a full inspection of the premises. The results of the external audit must be presented to TEQSA as the designated authority.

5.2. The University may also undertake internal audits against the requirements of the ESOS Act, National Code and SSVF arrangements as required by its own internal audit and risk management arrangements.

6. Management arrangements

6.1. The Pro Vice Chancellor International has overall responsibility for compliance with the ESOS Act, National Code and SSVF arrangements at the operational level.

6.2. The Pro Vice Chancellor International may allocate responsibility for aspects of the ESOS Act, National Code and SSVF arrangements as required, and shall ensure that any such delegations are clearly defined.

6.3. An International Committee shall be convened by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Global Engagement to ensure effective management oversight.

7. Communication to students

7.1. Students shall be advised of the existence of the ESOS Act, National Code and their responsibilities under their Australian student visa through the Guidelines for International Students provided on the University website.

8. Training

8.1. Director Quality and Standards ensures training regarding the ESOS Act and National Code is provided to relevant staff, with activities and outcomes regularly reported to the International Committee.

9. Safety and Wellbeing

9.1. The University must meet the Commonwealth, state or territory legislation or other appropriate regulatory requirements relating to child welfare and protection.

9.2. The University must ensure international students under the age of 18 are given age and culturally appropriate information on:

9.2.1. Who to contact in emergency situations, including contact numbers of a nominated staff member and/or service provider to the University; and

9.2.2. Seeking assistance and reporting any incident or allegation involving actual or alleged sexual, physical or other abuse (see the *Sexual Harm Policy*, *Student Integrity Regulations* and *Complaints Management Policy*).

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10. Monitoring

10.1. The University must maintain up to date and accurate enrolment information in PRISMS.

10.2. The University must monitor CRICOS to ensure information related to the University's course registration is accurate and up-to-date and notify TEQSA of any required changes.

10.3. The University must allocate appropriate resources to monitor and continuously improve its compliance with ESOS Act and National Code requirements.

11. Review

11.1. This policy, with its supporting procedures and guidelines, shall be considered not less than annually by the Director Quality and Standards to ensure that their currency and clarity is maintained.

11.2. Any change in the relevant legislation, legislative instrument or associated guidance shall result in immediate review and updating of all relevant policies, procedures and guidelines.

11.3. The outcome of internal or external audits shall be addressed by the Pro Vice Chancellor International as required following consideration by the International Committee.

Governance

Approval Authority	Academic Council
Owner	President Academic Council
Legislation mandating compliance	
Category	Primarily academic
Related University Legislation and Policy Documents	*International Student Transfer Procedure*
Date effective	04/11/2026
Review date	01/01/2029

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Revision History

Approved/Amended	Date Approved	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Administrative amendments	04/11/2026	
Approved	13/08/2025	AC/90/2025
Administrative amendments	08/08/2023	
Administrative amendments	09/01/2023	
Administrative amendments	22/09/2021	
Approved	17/03/2021	AC/22/2021(iii)
Administrative amendments	24/06/2020	
Approved	04/05/2020	AC/21/2020(i)
Approved	30/03/2020	AC/21/2020(i)
Approved	12/03/2019	AC/16/2019(ii)
Administrative amendment	31/05/2018	
Approved	16/09/2015	AC/121/2015(i)

Please refer to the electronic copy in the Policy and Procedure Manager to ensure you are referring to the latest version.

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