

Deferral, Suspension, Withdrawal and Cancellation of Study Policy - Domestic Students

1. POLICY STATUS AND DETAILS

Policy Number	NAC02
Approving Authority	Academic Board
Date Implemented	01/01/2023
Current Version	5.1
Date of Review	February 2027
Contact Officer	Director Learning and Innovation
Related Policies, Procedures and Documents	NIDA Student Charter and NIDA Student Code of Conduct Student Misconduct Policy Student Complaints and Academic Appeals Policy Student Handbook Admissions Policy Fee Policy – Domestic Students Student Support and Academic Intervention Policy Privacy Policy Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy Assessment Policy

2. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Accredited Course	A course that is recognised under the Australian Quality Framework (AQF) and is registered with one of the two main regulatory agencies, being TEQSA (Tertiary Education Quality Standards Authority) for Higher Education and ASQA (Australian Skills Quality Authority) for Vocational programs. An accredited course is one that leads to the conferral of a degree or the award of a vocational certificate or diploma.

Assessment	A systematic process for evaluating student learning. It may be formative or summative, graded or ungraded and includes the design, development and implementation of tasks and the evaluation and recording of a student's performance against the set criteria.
Credit	A process that provides students with agreed and consistent credit outcomes for completed components of a course of study based on identified equivalence in content and learning outcomes between matched courses of study.
Compassionate or Compelling Circumstances	Compassionate or Compelling Circumstances are those that are outside of the control of the student, and which have an impact on the student's course progress or wellbeing. These could include, but are not limited to: • Serious illness or injury, 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 student's home country requiring emergency travel and this has impacted on the student's studies; or • A traumatic experience;
Documentary Evidence	Certified transcripts, portfolios, references, work statements, photographs, Curriculum Vitae, referees.
Good Standing	A student is of good standing if they have complied with all their explicit obligations as a student and have not been subject to any serious form of sanction or disciplinary action for misconduct.
Offer	The written advice to an applicant that NIDA is offering them a place in an accredited program of study
Show Cause	The student is given the opportunity to provide an explanation and provide any supporting evidence they feel is required to explain why they should be given an opportunity to continue their studies or in the case of exclusion to explain how they are ready to return to NIDA studies.
Student	An individual who has enrolled in an accredited course. For the purposes of this policy a domestic student enrolled in an accredited course.

3. SCOPE

This policy and procedure cover any change to enrolment patterns in an accredited course actioned by a domestic student or NIDA.

Undergraduate Courses (BFAs)	Postgraduate Courses (MFAs)	Vocational Diplomas
		

4. PRINCIPLES

The principles underlying the Deferral, Withdrawal, Suspension or Cancellation of Study Policy – Domestic Students are that policies and procedures are:

- aligned to the Higher Education Standards Framework and the Vocational Standards for RTOs.
- that students have agency in making enrolment decisions but with that comes responsibility for being aware of timeframes and responding to and communicating with NIDA.
- designed to maintain the integrity and reputation of NIDA's accredited courses), and
- based on processes of comparable standard and integrity in higher education.

5. POLICY

5.1 Successful applicants

- 5.1.1 Deferral of a place is not permitted. Successful applicants unable to take up places must re-apply for admission the following year. There is no guarantee of the offer of a place in a future year.
- 5.1.2 Only in the most exceptional circumstances will a place be held for late acceptance. If you are under 18, you must have a parent or guardian complete, sign, and return the Parent/Guardian Consent form to enroll. You are a student at NIDA from the time you enroll until you complete your course requirements and graduate; go on a leave of absence; withdraw from your course; or are excluded from a course of study. You can enroll in your course online once you have accepted your offer of a place in the course. If you do not pay the fee and enroll by the specified dates, you will forfeit your place at NIDA. You will re-enroll for each semester on the successful completion of course work from the previous semester.

5.2 Deferral – enrolled students

- 5.2.1 Enrolled students may be permitted to defer their studies under exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances may include:
- protracted illness
 - family reasons
 - obligations to military or extended jury service

Exceptional circumstances are those which are considered unusual or uncommon and which were not able to be foreseen prior to the census date.

5.2.2 If you believe you meet the criteria for exceptional circumstances, then you must fill in an Application to Defer (https://nida.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_4Z2nFnUHYXvQf6m) stating reasons for needing to defer and attaching any relevant documentary evidence.

5.2.3 Only students deemed to be in good standing are eligible to be considered for a deferral.

5.2.4 Approval of an application to defer can only be granted by the NIDA CEO or their nominated delegate.

5.3 Withdrawing from NIDA

5.3.1 A student may withdraw from a course at any time by completing the appropriate Withdrawal Form. These are available on the NIDA website.

5.3.2 All fees, loans and fines need to be paid, all borrowed books and journals returned to the NIDA Library and the University of New South Wales Library, and all equipment returned. The relevant course census date is the last date for students to withdraw from NIDA without incurring a tuition fee liability or a FEE-HELP loan, HECS-HELP loan or VET Student Loan for the period.

5.3.3 Withdrawing before the census date

- 1 If you have obtained FEE-HELP, HECS-HELP or a VET Student Loan and you withdraw before the earliest subject census date in a given semester, your HECS-HELP, FEE-HELP or VET Student Loan debt will be reduced by the full amount of the tuition fee for that study period.

5.3.4 Withdrawing after the census date

- 1 If a student withdraws after the census date, the student is responsible for the tuition fees for the study period. If using FEE-HELP, HECS-HELP or a VET Student Loan, a debt will be incurred. Students may apply for a refund in accordance with the Fee Policy – Domestic.
- 2 For BFA and MFA programs, students will have “Withdrawn” registered on their academic transcript providing the withdrawal takes place on or before the last teaching day for the subject. If a student withdraws after the last day of teaching, the student will be graded according to the normal assessment criteria and will receive a final mark and grade according to the assessment submitted by the student for the subject.
- 3 For Vocational Programs, a student will receive a Statement of Attainment for any Unit of Competency for which they have met the requirements.

5.4 VET Students: Return to study after withdrawal or deferral

5.4.1 A VET student can enroll in a part of an approved vocational course at NIDA in circumstances where the student had earlier withdrawn from a part of the vocational course undertaken at NIDA.

5.5 Maximum time to complete and course cancellation

5.5.1 Domestic students must complete their program of study within the maximum time published in the relevant Course Regulations.

5.5.2 Failure by domestic students to complete their program within the maximum time as outlined in the Course regulation may result in cancellation of your enrolment and forfeiting the opportunity to graduate.

5.5.3 No refunds will be considered if a student fails to complete their course within the maximum allocated completion time frame.

5.6 Abandoning your course and course cancellation

5.6.1 Students who cease to attend without communication for a period of 10 or more working days will be considered to have abandoned their course.

5.6.2 Students at risk of being determined as having abandoned their course will be provided the opportunity to Show Cause as to why they should be allowed to return to studies.

~~5.6.3 Students who do not respond to the request to Show Cause or who do not satisfactorily Show Cause will~~

be determined to have abandoned their course will have their enrollment cancelled by NIDA..

- 5.6.4 Applications for a refund from students who have been determined to have abandoned their course will only be considered for the current study period and only in exceptional circumstances.

5.7 Suspension and Expulsion

- 5.7.1 Domestic students who are suspended under NIDA's Misconduct Policy and Procedure are not eligible for tuition fee refunds and are responsible for any costs associated with repeating a subject they may have not been able to complete because of a suspension.
- 5.7.2 Domestic students who are expelled under NIDA's Misconduct Policy and Procedure will have their course enrolment cancelled. No refunds apply.

5.8 Academic Appeals

- 5.8.1 A domestic student can appeal any decision around the approval of an application for deferral, suspension or cancellation of enrolment in accordance with the Student Complaints and Academic Appeals Policy.

6. CONSULTATION/BENCHMARKING

Benchmarked against policies and practice from a number of higher education providers and other sources.

Relevant policy documents from the following are gratefully acknowledged:

Australian Film Television and Radio School

University of New South Wales

University of Sydney

University of Wollongong

Consultation: NIDA academic and administrative staff and NIDA students.

Legislation and Regulatory Frameworks	Higher Education Threshold Standards 2021
	Higher Education Support Act 2003
	Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000
	National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018
	Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
	National Vocational Education and Training Regulator (Outcome Standards for Registered Training Organisations) Instrument 2025
	ASQA Guidance and Resources

7. CHANGE HISTORY

Date	Change Description	Reason for	Author	TRIM/CM
2026	Update reference to Student Complaints and Academic Appeals Policy	New policy	Head of Quality and Compliance	5.1
2026	Updated information for withdrawal after census date	Student experience	Head of Quality and Compliance	5.0
2025	Editorial update to review date and policy titles	Approval of new policy review schedule by Academic Board October 2025	Academic Compliance Manager	4.1
2025	Reviewed as per Policy Register	Quality Assurance Review	Director Learning and Innovation	4.0
2022	Reviewed and reworked to align with new policies and processes. New title. Revised definitions.	Quality Assurance review of all P&P	SSQA	03
2014		Review	Student and Staff Services	14/067 4
2011	Development of Policy	Policy Creation	Student and Staff Services	