

Deferral, Suspension and Cancellation of Study Policy – International Students

1. POLICY STATUS AND DETAILS

Policy Number	NAC03
Approving Authority	Academic Board
Date Implemented	August 2022
Current Version	3.1
Date of Review	February 2027
Contact Officer	Director Learning and Innovation
Related Policies, Procedures and Documents	NIDA Student Charter and NIDA Student Student Misconduct Policy Academic Complaints and Appeals Policy Non-Academic Complaints and Appeals for Students Policy International Student Transfer Policy Fee Policy – International students Student Handbook Admissions Policy Student Support and Academic Intervention Policy Privacy Policy

2. DEFINITIONS

Term	Definition
Accredited course	A program 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

3. SCOPE

This policy and procedure covers any deferral, suspension, or cancellation of enrolment in an accredited course actioned by NIDA or an international student.

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

4. PURPOSE

To set out the framework, responsibilities, and consequences for changes to an international student's enrolment in their NIDA course.

5. PRINCIPLES

The principles underlying the Deferral, Suspension, and Cancellation of Study – International Policy are that policies and procedures are:

- Compliant with the National Code and the ESOS Act 2000.
- Compliant with the Higher Education Standards Framework.
- Designed to maintain the integrity and reputation of NIDA's accredited courses.
- Fair and equitable.

6. POLICY

6.1 Successful international applicants and deferral of an offer

- 6.1.1 Deferral of the offer of a place is not permitted. Successful applicants unable to take up an offer must re-apply for admission the following year. There is no guarantee of the offer of a place in a future year.

6.2 Deferral – enrolled and studying international students

- 6.2.1 Enrolled international students who have commenced their studies may be permitted to defer their studies under compassionate or compelling circumstances. Compassionate and compelling circumstances may include:

- Protracted illness.
- Family reasons.
- Obligations to military or extended jury service.

Compassionate or compelling circumstances are unusual or uncommon and could not be foreseen before the census date.

If students believe they meet the criteria for these circumstances, they must fill in an application to Defer stating reasons for deferring and include any relevant supporting documentation.

- 6.2.2 Deferments may only be granted for a maximum period of one year. No further deferrals will be granted if a student has already deferred admission for the maximum period of one year.

6.3 Approval of deferral can only be granted by the NIDA CEO or their nominated delegate.

6.4 Withdrawal from NIDA to transfer to another registered provider

6.4.1 Withdrawal to transfer timeframe

An international student may not withdraw to transfer to another registered provider within the first six (6) months of the commencement of the course without requesting a release letter. The International Student Transfer Policy covers the process of withdrawing to attend studies at another registered provider.

6.4.2 Withdrawing before the census date

Students must complete the Withdrawal Form on the NIDA website. All fees, loans and fines must 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 and receive a refund of any tuition fees for which they are eligible.

6.4.3 Withdrawing after the census date

- If a student withdraws after the census date, the student is responsible for the tuition fees for the study period. Students that have withdrawn after the census date are not eligible for a refund, unless a refund is applied for in accordance with the Fee Policy – International.
- A student 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.

6.4.4 PRISMS Reporting

All international student enrolment status changes will be reported via PRISMS and may impact a student's visa. Students must contact the Department of Home Affairs to seek advice on their Student Visa status.

6.5 Maximum time to complete and course cancellation

- 6.5.1 International students must complete their program of study within the time frame published in the relevant Course Regulations, this being the period for which their Student Visa has been issued.
- 6.5.2 Failure by international students to complete their program of study within the time frame published and without compassionate or compelling circumstances may result in the cancellation of their enrolment and their Student Visa.

6.6 Abandoning your course and course cancellation

- 6.6.1 International students who fail to attend without communication for five (5) working days will be considered at risk of being determined to have abandoned their course.
- 6.6.2 International students at risk of being determined to have abandoned their course will be issued a Show Cause request to explain why they should be allowed to return to studies.
- 6.6.3 International students who have abandoned their course will have their enrolment cancelled by NIDA.
- 6.6.4 International students who do not respond to a Show Cause Request within 10 working days or provide adequate Show Cause will be deemed to have abandoned their course and will be reported through PRISMS. NIDA will notify the Department of Home Affairs of the course cancellation. Students must contact the Department of Home Affairs and Immigration to seek advice on their Student Visa status.
- 6.6.5 Applications for a refund from students determined to have abandoned their course will only be considered for the current study period and only in compassionate or compelling circumstances.

6.7 Expulsion

- 6.7.1 International students who are expelled under NIDA's Misconduct Policy and Procedure and do not participate in or are unsuccessful in an appeals process will have their course enrolment cancelled. This will be reported through PRISMS. NIDA will notify the Department of Home Affairs of the course cancellation. Students must contact the Department of Home Affairs and Immigration to seek advice on their Student Visa status.
- 6.7.2 International students who have had their enrolment cancelled are not eligible for a refund.

6.8 Appeals

- 6.8.1 An international student can appeal any decision around deferral approval, suspension, or cancellation of enrolment by submitting a Non-Academic Complaints and Appeal form. This appeal process is managed in line with Non-Academic Grievances and Appeal Policy.

7. 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:

- AFTRS
- UNSW
- Sydney University
- University of Wollongong

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](#)

8. CHANGE HISTORY

Date	Change Description	Reason for Change	Author	TRIM/CM
July 2026	Update to rules for withdrawing after census date	Student experience	Head of Quality and Compliance	3.1
December 2025	Editorial update to review date and policy titles	Approval of new policy review schedule by Academic Board October 2025	Academic Compliance Manager	2.1
May 2025	Reviewed and updated in accordance with Policy Register	Quality Assurance Review	Director, Learning and Innovation	NAC03
May 2022	Reviewed and reworked to align with new policies and processes	Quality Assurance review of all P&P	SSQA	
2014		Review	Student and Staff Services	14/0674
2011	Development of Policy	Policy Creation	Student and Staff Services	