

Trinity Lutheran College Student progress, attendance and course duration policy

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 College 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 Trinity Lutheran College's course assessment requirements.
- c) Students who have begun part way through a study period / semester will be assessed according to Trinity Lutheran College's course assessment requirements after completing one full study period/semester.
- d) To demonstrate satisfactory course progress, students in Years 11-12 must remain eligible for a QCE.

To demonstrate satisfactory course progress, students in Years 7-10, students will need to achieve a minimum a Sound (C) grade in all of their core subjects; with no more than 1 elective below a Sound (C), after a settling-in time of 1 study period.

To demonstrate satisfactory course progress, students in Primary School will need to

- demonstrate a commitment to their studies,
- continue to meet achievement standards to progress to the next year level, and
- show a willingness to participate in academic and co-curricular activities

- e) If at the end of a study period or Unit (Years 11-12) a student does not achieve satisfactory course progress as described above, the Principal will formally contact the parent(s) to advise that the student is at risk of breaching the course progress requirement and that there will be a meeting with the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement. This may include:
 - After hours tutorial support
 - Subject tutorial support in class time
 - Mentoring
 - Additional ESL support
 - Change of subject selection, or reducing course load (without affecting course duration)
 - Counselling – time management
 - Counselling -academic skills
 - Counselling - personal
 - other intervention strategies as deemed necessary
- f) A copy of the student's individual strategy for academic improvement and any relevant progress reports will be forwarded to parents.
- g) The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following study period or Unit by the International Student Liaison Officer and Head of Studies 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 or Unit, Trinity Lutheran College will advise the student in writing 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. This notification will occur following the formal reporting process of that finished study period or Unit. The notification of intention to report will be issued to the student prior to the commencement of the next semester or Unit. 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 Trinity Lutheran college, he/she may contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman at no cost. Please see Trinity Lutheran 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:
 - 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 Trinity Lutheran College in writing, or
 - the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of the College.

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 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 be able to complete their course by the expected date because:
 - the student can provide evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances (see Definitions below)
 - the student has, or is, participating in an intervention strategy as outlined in 1.e.
 - an approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with Trinity Lutheran College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- d) Where the College decides to extend the duration of the student's study, the College 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 hours.
- b) Student attendance is:
 - checked and recorded daily
 - assessed regularly
 - recorded and calculated over each study period no less than 4-6 times.
- c) Late arrival at school will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.
- d) All absences from school will be included in absentee calculations 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 Campus.
- e) Any absences longer than *3 consecutive* days without approval will be investigated.
- f) Student attendance will be monitored by International Liaison Officer every 7 days over a study period to assess student attendance using the following method:
 - i. Calculating the number of hours which the student would have to be absent to fall below the attendance threshold for a study period
$$\frac{\text{Total College days in a semester} - \text{no. days absent}}{\text{Number of days in semester}} \times 100$$
 - ii. Attendance for any period of exclusion from class will be assessed under Trinity Lutheran College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- g) Parents of students at risk of breaching Trinity Lutheran College's attendance requirements will be contacted by Email or phone and students will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have absences totalling *10 %* in any study period.
- h) If the calculation at 3.f) indicates that the student has passed the attendance threshold for the study period, Trinity Lutheran College will assess the student against the provisions of Item 3.j) (below). Where the student has failed to meet the minimum attendance requirement, and Item 3.j), does not apply, the College 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 College's internal complaints and appeals process

- i) The College will notify the ESOS agency via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course attendance as soon as practicable where:
 - the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 days
 - the student withdraws from the complaints and appeals process by notifying the Principal of Trinity Lutheran College in writing,
 - the complaints and appeals process results in a decision in favour of the College.
- j) Students will not be reported for failing to meet the 80% attendance threshold for a study period where:
 - the student produces documentary evidence clearly demonstrating compassionate or compelling circumstances e.g., medical illness supported by a medical certificate or as per Definition, below, and
 - the student's attendance has not fallen below 70% for the study period.
- k) The method for calculating 70% attendance is the same as that outlined in 3.f)
- l) If a student is assessed as having nearly reached the threshold of 70% attendance for a study period, the Principal will assess whether a suspension of studies is in the interests of the student as per Trinity Lutheran College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- m) If the student does not obtain a suspension of studies under Trinity Lutheran College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy, and falls below the 70% threshold for attendance for the study period, 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

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:

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

Further Definitions

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.

School day – any day for which the College has scheduled course contact hours.

Study period – Trinity Lutheran College defines a “study period” for the purposes of monitoring course attendance and progress as a **semester**.