

Student Transfer Policy

Purpose

The ESOS Act 2000 and The National Code 2018 impose obligations on registered providers of education services to overseas students studying in Australia on a student visa (international students). Under Standard 7 of the The National Code 2018, registered providers are restricted from enrolling a student on to a course of study, where that student is transferring from another provider and has not yet studied six months of their principal course of study.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure PARAGON POLYTECHNIC meets the requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000 and Standard 7 of the National Code of Practice 2018 (The National Code) in respect of managing requests from international students who seek to transfer between CRICOS registered providers of education and training services (registered providers).

Scope

This policy is applicable to all students and staff of PARAGON POLYTECHNIC.

Policy

All decisions made by PARAGON POLYTECHNIC with regard to student transfer requests will be made in accordance with this policy and procedure, will be fair and take into account the student's individual circumstances and any other relevant factors.

1. Transferring from another registered provider

PARAGON POLYTECHNIC will not knowingly enrol a student wishing to transfer from another registered provider's course prior to the overseas student completing six months of his or her principal course unless one or more of the following conditions apply:

- the releasing registered provider or the course in which the student is enrolled has ceased to be registered;
- the releasing registered provider has had a sanction imposed on its registration by the ESOS agency that prevents the student from continuing his or her principal course at that registered provider;
- the releasing registered provider has agreed to the overseas student's release and recorded the date of effect and reason for release in PRISMS;
- any government sponsor of the student considers the change to be in the student's best interest and has provided written support for that change.

2. Transferring to another registered provider

For PARAGON POLYTECHNIC students seeking to transfer to another registered provider's course of study prior to completing six months of their principle course, the transfer request will be assessed and granted in any of the following circumstances:

- the student will be reported because they are unable to achieve satisfactory course progress at the level they are studying, even after engaging with PARAGON POLYTECHNIC's intervention strategy to assist the overseas student in accordance with Standard 8 (Overseas student visa requirements).
- there is evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances.
- PARAGON POLYTECHNIC fails to deliver the course as outlined in the student agreement.
- there is evidence that the student's reasonable expectations about their current course are not being met.
- there is evidence that the student was misled by PARAGON POLYTECHNIC or an education or migration agent regarding PARAGON POLYTECHNIC or its course and the course is therefore unsuitable to their needs and/or study objectives.
- an appeal (internal or external) on another matter results in a decision or recommendation to release the student.

A transfer to another course will not be granted where:

- The transfer may jeopardise the student's progression through a package of courses.
- The student has recently started studying the course and the full range of support services are yet to be provided or offered to the student. In this case, the student will be requested to wait a further 4 weeks before applying for a transfer to another registered provider during which time the full range of support services will be provided to the student.

- The student is trying to avoid being reported to DET for failure to meet the provider's attendance or academic progress requirements.
- There are no legitimate compassionate or compelling circumstances.

In order for a request for transfer to be considered and a letter of release provided, students must provide a valid offer of enrolment from another registered provider.

The outcome of the student's application for course transfer will be provided in writing within 10 working days of receipt of application.

Where a student's application is refused, the reasons for this will be communicated plus the right to access the complaints and appeals process as outlined below.

There is no cost in releasing students. However, where a student transfers to another registered provider, any refund of course fees, where applicable, will be paid in accordance with PARAGON POLYTECHNIC's *Fees and Refunds Policy and Procedures*.

3. Transferring to another course offered by PARAGON POLYTECHNIC

Students may transfer to another course offered by PARAGON POLYTECHNIC in the following circumstances:

- Where it is considered that the course that the student wishes to transfer to;
- better meets the study capabilities of the student; and/or
- better meets the long term goals of the student, whether these relate to future work, education or personal aspirations; and/or
- Or, where the student claims or can provide evidence that his or her reasonable expectations about the current course are not being met.

A transfer to another course within PARAGON POLYTECHNIC will not be granted where:

- The transfer may jeopardise the student's progression through a package of courses.
- The student has recently started studying the course and the full range of support services are yet to be provided or offered to the student.
- The student is trying to avoid being reported to DET for failure to meet the provider's attendance or academic progress requirements.
- In order for a request for transfer to be considered, students must complete an Internal Course Transfer Application Form.

The outcome of the student's application for course transfer will be provided in writing within 10 working days of receipt of application.

Cost involved in transferring to another course plus any refund of course fees paid for the student's current course will be in accordance with PARAGON POLYTECHNIC's *Fees and Refunds Policy and Procedure*.

Other Aspects relating to course transfer:

1. Visa advice

All students who are either considering a course transfer, or have had their transfer request approved, will be advised that they must contact DHA to seek advice on whether a new visa is required. To find out more about visa requirements, students will be advised to contact DHA on 131881 or visit the following website: <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud>

2. Complaints and Appeals

Where the decision is made to refuse a course transfer or PARAGON POLYTECHNIC does not respond to the request in the timeframe set out in this Policy, the student may appeal against the decision by accessing PARAGON POLYTECHNIC's Complaints and Appeals process within 20 days. If the appeal finds in favour of a student wishing to transfer, a letter of release will be granted.

The refusal status will not be finalised in PRISM until the complaints and appeals process is finalised within the 20 working day period or the student withdraws from the course.

3. Records

All records relating to course transfers will be kept for two years after the student ceases to be an enrolled student. This includes requests for release, the assessment of the request and the decision.

4. Publication

This policy is provided to students in the International Student Handbook, which is provided to students prior to or upon commencement of a course, and also via PARAGON POLYTECHNIC's website

Management action & Responsibility

Academic Manager is responsible for verifying and maintaining a student's enrolment status on PRISMS.

Marketing Manager is responsible for reviewing and approving all the requests and appropriate delegations for due diligence.

The CEO has overall responsibility for the implementation and review of this policy, including issuance of the release letters.

Definition

eCOE: Refers to an electronic Confirmation of Enrolment. Defined in The National Code 2018 as a document, provided electronically to students, which is issued by PARAGON POLYTECHNIC to international students who intend to study onshore

CRICOS: The Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students. Education providers who wish to provide education services to international students must be formally registered on

CRICOS ESOS Act: The Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000

Letter of Release: A statement issued from a registered provider which confirms approval of a student's request to be released from that provider to study with another provider.

Principal Course of Study: Is defined in The National Code 2018 as the "main course of study" that is, or is due to be undertaken by an international student. This is generally the final program or highest qualification in a package of courses

Registered Provider: An organisation that is registered as a provider of education and training services to international students on CRICOS.

Legislative Context

The legislative base for this policy is as follows:

- National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011 (Cth)
- The ESOS Act 2000
- The National Code 2018
- ESOS Regulations 2001
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- Equal Opportunity Act 1995

Policy Control

Version	Date	Changes / Updates	Approved
1.0	Aug 2020	RTO Policy and Procedure of PARAGON POLYTECHNIC	CEO