



Partnership and Articulation Policy

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Contact Officer	Head of Academic Support and Student Services
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Related Documents	Partnership and Articulation Procedure Quality Assurance Framework Academic Quality and Governance Framework Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Advanced Standing Policy Advanced Standing Procedure

1. Purpose

This Policy is to set out the principles and processes which apply to the development, approval, monitoring and review of educational partnerships with external organisations.

2. Principles

Key principles informing this Policy and the associated Procedure are:

- The Institute will actively seek alliances with key institutions domestically and abroad who can contribute to supporting the Institute's identified goals and objectives;
- The Institute will only enter into partnerships that after due diligence is conducted;
- All partnerships will be established as a documented agreement;
- Consistency of process in the development of partnerships is maintained through alignment to the Institute's policies and procedures compliance with required legislation;
- Articulation arrangements will be accessible to students and maximise opportunities for students to progress into and between qualifications; and
- Academic integrity is ensured through transfer credit evaluation and equivalency determination by academic experts.

3. Context

This Policy has been developed in order to aid the development of meaningful and productive engagements with external partner(s).

4. Scope

This Policy applies to:

- All staff responsible for developing and maintain educational partnerships;
- All institutions or entities wishing to establish an educational partnership including:
 - Benchmarking partnerships;

- Student exchange partnerships;
- Academic co-operation partnerships (teaching and learning, and training);
- Articulation/pathways agreements or Memorandums of Understanding;
- Internships and student placement partnerships; and
- Other third party educational delivery arrangements.

This policy does not apply to business agreements for the delivery of services to the Institute on a commercial or employment basis, including:

- procurement arrangements for the supply of goods or services;
- education agent agreements;
- employment or consultancy arrangements; and
- Property transactions or leases.

5. Definitions

See the *AIH Glossary of Terms* for definitions.

6. Policy details

6.1 Requirements for establishing a partnership

Before a partnership can be established the Institute must assess the appropriateness of the proposed partnership taking into consideration the following:

- The legal status of the prospective partner;
- Is the prospective partner registered with the required accrediting bodies and are there any conditions placed on their registration;
- Are any relevant courses accredited with the required accrediting bodies and are there any conditions place on the accreditation;
- If the prospective partner has an acceptable record of partnership with other institutions;
- If the prospective partner has appropriate access to resources (physical and staffing); and
- If the prospective partners goals and objectives align with the Institute's.

A feasibility record must be completed as outlined in the *Partnership and Articulation Procedure*.

6.2 Approving authority for partnerships

All partnerships must be approved by:

- The Principal (for all partnerships);
- The Academic Board and/or the relevant sub-committees (only where there is an academic issue to ensure academic integrity);
- The Board of Directors (for all partnerships).

6.3 Review and monitoring of partnerships

Educational partnerships are monitored in a range of ways to ensure on-going quality and standards and to ensure that any issues identified are addressed in the appropriate manner. Monitoring can occur through:

- An annual review;
- An analysis of progression and attrition from pathway/articulation providers;
- Results of students studying with a partner or coming to the Institute from a partner;
- Feedback from students;
- Complaints and appeals in relation to partnerships.

Any serious issues of concern which arise through any of the monitoring and review processes can prompt a full review of the partnership.

6.4 Suspension and termination of a partnership

All agreements must be for a specified period of time.

If a partner has breached an agreement or there are serious concerns regarding quality assurance, the partnership can be suspended or terminated at the discretion of the approving authority.

Any partners who are suspended or terminated will be notified in writing in the timeframe outlined in the partnership agreement.

7. Legislation

This Policy and the associated Procedure comply with Higher Education Standards Framework Standard 5.4 (Delivering with Other Parties), which specifies that:

1. Work-integrated learning, placements, other community-based learning and collaborative research training arrangements are quality assured, including assurance of the quality of supervision of student experiences.
2. When a course of study, any parts of a course of study, or research training are delivered through arrangements with another party(ies), whether in Australia or overseas, the registered higher education provider remains accountable for the course of study and verifies continuing compliance of the course of study with the standards in the Higher Education Standards Framework that relate to the specific arrangement.

The Policy and the associated Procedure also complies with the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF) Pathways Policy, which specified (in summary) that:

- All issuing organisations are to have clear, accessible and transparent policies and processes for qualifications pathways and credit arrangements for students. The policies and procedures must be made publicly available.
- Credit granted as part of an articulation agreement must be academically defensible and take into account the students' ability to meet the learning outcomes of the qualification successfully.
- Giving credit into or towards an AQF qualification should not impinge upon the responsibility of issuing organisations to make decisions on admission, prerequisites or programs of study, and the students' likely successful completion of the qualification.

8. Version Control

This Policy has been endorsed by the Australia Institute of Higher Education Academic Board as at June 2017 and is reviewed every 3 years. The Policy is published and available on the Australian Institute of Higher Education website <http://www.aih.nsw.edu.au/> under 'Policies and Procedures'.

Change and Version Control				
Version	Authored by	Brief Description of the changes	Date Approved:	Effective Date:
2017-1	Registrar	New Policy	7 June 2017	13 June 2017
2019-1	Principal	Minor Update: Title changes.	20 November 2019	21 November 2019