



DEFERRAL, LEAVE
OF ABSENCE,
WITHDRAWAL,
SUSPENSION AND
CANCELLATION
POLICY

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SECTION A - INTRODUCTION

A.1 Purpose

This Policy outlines the conditions under which a student may request a deferral, a leave of absence or withdrawal from an Eynesbury College program of study and the suspension or cancellation of a student due to misbehaviour.

A.2 Scope

This policy covers all students of any of the programs operated by Eynesbury College. It does not cover students in Eynesbury Senior College.

A.3 Definitions

Word/Term	Definition
Appeal	Requesting a review of a previous decision
Attendance	The presence of students in class during scheduled class time
Class	A scheduled teaching block
Counsellor	According to professional standards and required understandings, a <i>counsellor</i> actively listens and works to empower students to desire and bring about change in the way that they experience themselves, their personal circumstances and/or their academic studies
Course	A single unit of study that counts towards completion of a program
Defer or suspend enrolment	Temporarily put studies on hold (adjourn, delay, postpone)
Compassionate or compelling circumstances	Circumstances beyond the control of the student that have occurred since the student accepted an offer at Eynesbury College and have significantly impacted on the student's well-being or progress
Immigration	Department of Home Affairs
International student	A student or applicant for admission to an academic program who is not a citizen of Australia or New Zealand, or who does not hold Permanent Residency status in Australia
Leave of absence	An approved suspension of a student's studies, where the student is currently enrolled in an Eynesbury College program
Medical certificate	A signed statement from a registered medical practitioner, health practitioner or approved health specialist certifying a period of time during which a student is/has been affected by a medical condition impacting on their participation and/or attendance.

A medical certificate may be issued by the following medical and health practitioners registered under the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law*:

- medical practitioner
- psychologist
- chiropractor
- dentist
- optometrist
- osteopath
- physiotherapist
- podiatrist
- other health specialists as approved:
http://www.medicalboard.gov.au/Registration/Types/Specialist-Registration/Medical-Specialties-and_Specialty-Fields.aspx

Program	An approved combination of approved courses in which a student is enrolled
Registered medical practitioner	https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx
Study period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECAE – ten (10) teaching weeks unless a shorter period of study as per the student letter of offer and/or course progressions• EIBT – 13 teaching week trimester• EC - one semester of approximately six months
Withdrawal from course	Formal withdrawal from a single unit of study offered during a study period
Withdrawal from program	Formal withdrawal from the primary award in which the student is enrolled

A.4 Acronyms

Abbreviation	Phrase or Word
DEEWR	Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

SECTION B - POLICY STATEMENT

B.1 Principles

International students can defer commencement of their course or temporarily suspend their enrolment once they have commenced studies in certain limited compassionate and compelling circumstances. Deferral, suspension or cancellation of enrolment may affect the student's visa.

B.2 Policy

1 Leave of absence

- 1.1** Students who are currently enrolled in an Eynesbury College program of study are eligible to apply for Leave of Absence. Leave of Absence is not an automatic entitlement. Each application for leave of absence will be treated on its merits and will depend on the student's academic history and reasons for the application.
- 1.2** Leave of Absence can be granted for up to one study period.
- 1.3** In accordance with the DEEWR requirements and Immigration visa regulations, Eynesbury College will only approve a Leave of Absence request from a student for the following reasons:
 - a) Compassionate or compelling circumstances- such as death or serious illness of a close family member or close friend. Supporting evidence may include a medical certificate or letter (e.g. funeral notice or death certificate) from a registered medical practitioner, psychologist, counsellor, or other appropriate professional;
 - b) Hardship/Trauma- such as the sudden loss of employment, family breakdown, victim of crime/accident. Supporting evidence may include a medical certificate or letter from a registered medical practitioner, or other appropriate professional such as a psychologist, police officer or fire officer etc.
- 1.4** In the absence of documentary evidence, consideration may be given where the student provides a Statutory declaration outlining full details of the exceptional circumstances. In exceptional cases a student may have their leave of absence approved conditional on the receipt of supporting documentation. In the event of a student not supplying the supporting documentation, they will be treated as a withdrawn student from the date of application and cancellation fees will apply.
- 1.5** Eynesbury College will decide what appropriate grounds are for Leave of Absence on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.6** If a student's Leave of Absence application is approved, academic and financial penalties may apply for that study period. Eynesbury College will undertake to ensure that students are fully advised of the implications a Leave of Absence may have on their student visa and their intended return to study.
- 1.7** Students who are granted Leave of Absence must notify their intention to recommence their program of study at the time of application for leave. Students may be granted leave for up to one study period and will be expected to return for the commencement of the following study period.

- 1.8** Failure to recommence at the agreed time will result in the student's enrolment being terminated unless further leave has been applied for and approved. Under these circumstances a student will need to apply for readmission.
- 1.9** Eynesbury College will advise Immigration whereby the student has obtained approval for Leave of Absence but does not return to their studies by the agreed date.

2 Deferral

- 2.1** Students are permitted to defer their course on the following grounds:
- Inability to gain a student visa in time for entry to their proposed course of study;
 - Failure to meet entry requirements (either English or Academic);
 - Compassionate or compelling circumstances
- 2.2** Students who have been offered a place at Eynesbury College but have not yet commenced their course may be eligible for deferral.
- 2.3** Deferrals are not granted automatically and are subject to approval.
- 2.4** Deferral may not be available in every course or may be limited in number, such as where the course has a small intake, or other factors. In some courses deferral may be conditional, requiring the deferring student to meet specific entry requirements.
- 2.5** Students who have already commenced their course are not eligible for deferral. Students who wish to postpone their studies after commencing their first day of classes will be required to apply for a leave of absence.
- 2.6** Eynesbury College will normally only allow students to defer their studies twice. Deferral for a third time will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances.

3 Withdrawal from a program/single course

- 3.1** A student may request to withdraw from their program of study or withdraw from a single course at any time.
- 3.2** Decisions on a request will take into account information provided, circumstances leading to a request as well as regulatory requirements.
- 3.3** Students may be encouraged to attend a meeting with relevant Student Services Staff and/or the relevant Academic Directorate. Depending on the time the request is submitted an academic and financial penalty may apply. To determine the financial penalties refer to the Eynesbury College **Fee Refund Policy**.
- 3.4** Students withdrawing from their studies and leaving Australia must provide a copy of their confirmed airline ticket indicating the date they intend to leave Australia together with their Withdrawal Form.
- 3.5** Where a student is under 18, Eynesbury College also requires written evidence supporting the withdrawal from a parent or legal guardian.
- 3.6** Written approval from the relevant sponsoring body is required for sponsored students.

4 Suspension, cancellation (academic misconduct/misbehaviour)

- 4.1** Eynesbury College has an approved student code of conduct and commits to providing a safe, caring and supportive environment to ensure that students are provided with opportunity to learn. Eynesbury College may initiate a suspension of studies for a student on the grounds of

misbehaviour. Suspension or cancellation may occur as the result of any behaviour identified in the **Student Code of Conduct**.

- 4.2** Students may be reported to Immigration for academic or behavioural misconduct. Refer to the **Academic Integrity Policy** and the **Student Code of Conduct**.
- 4.3** Students notified of Eynesbury College's intention to initiate suspension of studies can access Eynesbury College's Grievances and Appeals process.
- 4.4** A student who has lodged an appeal under the **Student Grievances and Appeals Policy and Procedure** will remain enrolled and attending class until the outcome of the appeal process unless a risk exists to either the student or to others.
- 4.5** If suspended, students must abide by the conditions of their suspension from studies which will depend on the welfare and accommodation arrangements in place for each student.

5 Cancellation of enrolment

5.1 Eynesbury College will report to Immigration any student under the following conditions:

- Failure to pay course fees
- Failure to maintain approved welfare and accommodation arrangements (including the termination of the CAAW)
- Failure to maintain satisfactory course progress
- Failure to maintain satisfactory attendance
- Failure to abide by the Student Code of Conduct

6 Transfer of Provider

6.1 Students approved for deferral, leave of absence or withdrawal will not be granted subsequent approval to transfer

SECTION C - GOVERNANCE

C.1 Responsibility

Identification	Deferral, Leave of Absence, Withdrawal, Suspension and Cancellation Policy
Policy Owner	Manager, Admissions and Student Services
Approving Authority	Eynesbury Executive Group (EEG)
Initial Issue date	May 2012
Directory Location	Student Services, policies

C.2 Version Control

Current Version Number	3.0
Date of Effect	3/2018
Review Date	3/2021
Privilege Level	Public

C.3 Legislative and Organisational Context

Name
ELICOS National Standards
Higher Education Standards
The National Code of Practice 2017
National Foundation Program Standards

SECTION D - PROCEDURE

D.1 Related Procedures

Deferral, Leave of Absence, Withdrawal, Suspension and Cancellation Procedure

D.2 Related Policies

Academic Integrity Policy

Fee Refund Policy

Student Code of Conduct