Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure

Navitas Professional Institute

Document

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Document I.D.</th>
<th>NPI 00 [22] 11P Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy Owner</td>
<td>Registrar; Quality and Accreditation Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Issue Date</td>
<td>19 December 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Endorsed by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Endorsed</th>
<th>03 August 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee and Academic Board</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Approved</th>
<th>03 September 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Initial Approver

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Initial Approval</th>
<th>19 December 2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Version Control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Date:</th>
<th>Summary of Changes</th>
<th>Review Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 December 2005</td>
<td>Initial approval</td>
<td>December 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03 September 2010</td>
<td>V4.0 New version</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01 September 2011</td>
<td>V4.1 minor amendments</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 October 2012</td>
<td>V4.2 minor amendments</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 March 2014</td>
<td>V4.3 minor amendments</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04 April 2015</td>
<td>V4.4 minor amendments</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23 November 2015</td>
<td>Administrative update to new template and update related laws and regulations</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 January 2016</td>
<td>Administrative update to include internal contact details</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 April 2016</td>
<td>Administrative update to include revised external appeal contact details</td>
<td>June 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. Purpose and Scope

The College operate on the basis that academic decisions (for example, in relation to assessment, course progression, teaching quality, curriculum, etc.) are entrusted to academic staff in accordance with established College procedures.

It is recognised that from time to time disputes may arise with respect to academic matters. The College is committed to resolving academic disputes between students and the College and its staff as quickly and as sensitively as possible.

This policy and procedure has been put in place to assist all parties to resolve academic issues that arise and reflects College expectations and responsibilities of the College, staff and students in resolving student academic grievances, complaints and appeals.

i) This policy applies to the College and its staff and students, or persons who have demonstrated an intention to enrol as a student in the College (hereafter referred to where ever “a student” is referenced), regardless of the location of the campus of the College at which the grievance or complaint has arisen, the student’s place of residence or the student’s mode of study.

ii) A student who has ceased enrolment with the College will be considered under this policy and procedure for a period of up to 3 calendar months after their enrolment has ceased.

iii) The policy and procedure set out in this document does not:

   a) replace or modify procedures or any other responsibilities which may arise under other external vocational education and training and higher education provider policies or under statute or any other law; or

   b) remove the student’s right to take further action under Australia’s Consumer Protection Laws, nor circumscribe the student’s right to pursue other legal remedies.

iv) This policy and procedure is one of several internal dispute resolution policy mechanisms of the College. These are as follows:

   a) For a dispute with respect to assessment appeals, students should initially follow the College’s processes for appealing an assessment result or final result, before perusing the procedure described in this Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure;

   b) For a dispute with respect to non-academic matters refer to the College Non-Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure. Non-academic matters generally include those matters which do not relate to student progress, assessment, curriculum and awards in a course of study and includes complaints in relation to personal information that the College holds in relation to the student;

   c) For a dispute with respect to academic matters refer to this Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure. Academic matters generally include student progress, assessment (apart from initial assessment appeal(s) as indicated at item iv(a) directly above), curriculum, and awards in a course of study;

   d) For a grievance, complaint or appeal with respect to a refund of an upfront payment made direct to the College refer to the Refund Policy; and

   e) For a grievance, complaint or appeal concerning the reimbursement of FEE-HELP Assistance for a module or unit refer to the FEE-HELP Review and Appeals Procedures

The policies and procedure above are available from the policy page on the College website.

v) The above mentioned internal dispute resolution mechanisms extend to make available external dispute resolution processes should the internal dispute resolutions process be exhausted. For details on available external appeal options and contacts refer to “Stage 4: External Appeals”, herein.

vi) A student who is unsure which policy mechanism relates to the nature of their grievance or complaint should seek advice from their Course Coordinator or the College Student Services Team.
2. Principles

The following principles underpin student grievance, complaint and appeals resolution processes against academic decisions:

i) **Availability**

This Policy is freely available to all students and staff. It is made available through several mechanisms, which include, but are not limited to:

- publication on the College public website
- reference in the domestic and international student guides, which is provided to all intending and/or applying international students;
- provision to international students before they enter into a Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) agreement or pay any financial amount for their registered course enrolment, whichever happens first;
- provision to domestic and international students at orientation and/or within 5 working days after the student starts attending a College course in which he or she is enrolled, whichever happens first; and
- reference in the orientation procedures for permanent and casual academic and administrative College staff.

ii) **Timeliness**

It is College intention that any dispute will be resolved without undue delay. Deadlines prescribed in this policy and procedure should normally always be followed, unless exceptional circumstances prevail. If the deadline is to be exceeded by staff, the student must always be informed of the length of and reason for the delay. If the deadline is to be exceeded by the student, the student must ensure the staff member is always informed of the length of and reason for the delay.

iii) **Confidentiality**

Student grievances, complaints and appeals will be treated confidentially at all stages of the process. Access to information about a grievance, complaint or appeal shall be strictly limited to those staff that “have a need to know” in order to deal with the grievance, complaint or appeal.

iv) **Without disadvantage**

The fact that a complaint has been made under this policy will not disadvantage the complainant and/or respondent in any way, especially by way of victimisation or discrimination. That said, the fact that a student has had to complain may of itself cause disadvantage, for example, delay in finalising a final result for a module or unit.

v) **Procedural fairness**

Grievances, complaints and appeals will be handled in accord with the College *Principles of Procedural Fairness*, which can be accessed from the policy page on the College website.

vi) **Continuation of College and module or unit enrolment**

Whether a student's College enrolment will be maintained throughout a student's participation in an internal or external appeals process depends on the type of appeal.

**Domestic Students internal and external grievances, complaints and appeals process**

A domestic student’s enrolment will be maintained throughout the student’s participation in the internal and external grievance, complaint and appeals process for all types of grievances, complaints or appeals, until the matter has been decided.

**International Students internal and external grievances, complaints and appeals process and reporting to relevant Australian Government departments**

An international student’s enrolment will be maintained throughout the student’s participation in the internal grievance, complaint and appeals process for all types of grievances, complaints or appeals, and the College will not report the student to the relevant Australian Government departments unless extenuating circumstances relating to the welfare of the student apply.
If the internal appeals process is complete and has supported the student’s case, the student’s enrolment will continue to be maintained, and the College will not report the student to the relevant Australian Government departments.

If the internal appeals process is complete and has supported the College’s decision to defer, suspend or cancel an international student’s enrolment, but evidence shows that there are compassionate or compelling circumstances concerning the student’s case, the College will provide ongoing support to the student through the College’s Academic Intervention Strategy, continue to maintain the student’s enrolment, and will not report the student to the relevant Australian Government departments.

If the internal appeals process is complete, and has supported the College’s decision to defer, suspend or cancel an international student’s enrolment, and evidence does not support that compassionate or compelling circumstances surround the student’s case, and:

- if the appeal concerned any matter other than the student’s unsatisfactory course progress or unsatisfactory course attendance, then the College is obliged to notify the relevant Australian Government department through PRISMS of the change to irrespective of whether or not the student has commenced an external appeal process; or
- if the appeal concerned the student’s unsatisfactory course progress or unsatisfactory course attendance, then the student’s enrolment, the College will not notify the relevant Australian Government department through PRISMS of the change to the student’s enrolment until the external complaints/appeals process is complete and has supported the College’s decision to defer, suspend or cancel an international student’s enrolment.

Once the relevant Australian government departments have been notified of a suspension or cancellation of the student’s enrolment, the student has 28 calendar days in which to leave Australia, or show the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) a new Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE), or provide the DIBP with evidence that he or she has accessed an external appeals process.

vii) Continuation of learning opportunities

While the College will maintain a student’s enrolment, as described above, the College reserves the right to decide whether or not to continue to offer learning opportunities to the student throughout the internal or external grievances, complaints and appeals process on a case by case basis (for example, decide, case by case, whether or not the student will be permitted to continue to attend classes, be excluded from attending classes but permitted to continue to undertake and complete class work outside of the classroom environment, etc).

The College recognises that decisions to deny learning opportunities to a student, whether a domestic, international [see National Code Standard 8], or off-shore student, throughout the formal grievance, complaint and appeals process may disadvantage the student in their subsequent studies should the appeals process find in the student’s favour, and will normally only undertake such action if determined necessary to maintain the College’s duty of care to its students, staff and other stakeholders of the College.

viii) Record-keeping and access to records

a) A staff member in receipt of documentation in stage 2, 3 or 4 of the academic grievance, complaint or appeal procedure, including emails, letters and supporting materials, is responsible for prompt forwarding of the documentation, in an organised, clear and confidential manner, to the Registrar.

b) Records of grievances, complaints and appeals and their outcomes will be kept strictly confidential and filed in a separate file, with a unique folio identifier and stored in the Office of the Registrar for a period of at least five years.

c) The complainant and/or respondent will have a right of supervised access to all documents held by the College concerning his or her grievance, complaint or appeal.

d) The Registrar shall maintain a Register of Formal Grievance, Complaint and Appeal Cases that records the unique folio number of the case, the date the case was first lodged by the student, the policy and procedure/s under which the case was considered, the procedural stages at which the case was considered, and the date the matter was resolved. Senior staff of the College and staff of Commonwealth and State Government agencies, who may not necessarily
have had direct involvement in the formal grievance, complaint and appeal case/s, may access this register if required to do so in their normal work undertakings.

ix) Resolution

Given the nature of many academic grievances and complaints, the College expects that most concerns will be normally resolved at the informal stage (stage 1). This form of resolution provides an ideal opportunity for open and direct dialogue between the student and academic staff member. Additionally, informal resolution normally provides the most time effective mechanism for resolving academic grievances and complaints.

x) Cost

In stages 1 to 3 of the academic grievance, complaint and appeal procedure there will be no charge to the student. At stage 4, where a student elects to lodge a complaint with a mutually agreeable independent external arbiter or regulatory authority, the College may reimburse the student (in part or in full) if the appeal is found in the student’s favour. In stage 4 cases the complainant is responsible for ascertaining whether or not he or she will incur charges at that stage. International students incur no charges for the Australian Government’s Overseas Students Ombudsman service.

3. Policy

i) An academic grievance or complaint may be made against any College academic decision, action or process.

ii) Types of grievances, complaints or appeals against academic decisions

Types of grievances, complaints or appeals against academic decisions normally include, but are not limited, to:

a) student progress decisions;
b) assessment matters;
c) an academic decision of a member of academic staff that affects an individual student or a group of students;
d) content or structure of academic programs or nature of teaching;
e) supervision of practical experience;
f) issues related to authorship or intellectual property;
g) an academic misconduct matter;
h) awards in a course of study.

iii) In seeking to resolve an academic grievance, complaint or dispute, students and staff should normally first exhaust the dispute resolution mechanisms described in this document.

iv) A student who is dissatisfied with a College academic decision, action or process has the right to have the matter or decision reviewed and to appeal the decision.

v) Academic grievances or complaints should normally be lodged up to 10 working days from the date of occurrence of the aggrieved matter.

A student making a grievance, complaint or appeal should clearly and objectively identify the issue, provide evidence in support of his or her grievance or complaint where possible to do so, and organise any evidence in a clear and logical manner.

=Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Concerning an Assessment Result or Final Result

Where the grievance or complaint concerns an assessment result or final result the student must initially follow the College’s processes for appealing an assessment result or final result, which normally includes lodging an Assessment Appeal Form. The grounds for expressing a grievance, complaint or appeal against a result for a module or unit assessment or examination assessment are outlined on the applicable appeals form available from the College website (see www.acap.edu.au; www.ncps.edu.au ➔ policy and forms)
4. Procedure

Stages of the Academic Grievance, Complaint and Appeal Resolution Process

i) There are four stages in the processes associated with the resolution of an academic grievance, complaint or appeal with each stage representing an increase in the level of formality with which the grievance, complaint or appeal is managed. The stages of the process are:

Stage 1. Informal Discussion/Negotiation normally between student and staff member involved, and/or the supervisor of the staff member involved.

Stage 2. Formal Internal Grievance/Complaint/Appeal to either the Regional Director of the campus or Head of School of the faculty in which the student is enrolled.

Stage 3. Formal Internal Appeal to the Dean Academic

Stage 4. External Appeal normally to a person/body nominated by the College as the External Review or the applicable VET or higher education regulatory authority, or for international students the Overseas Students Ombudsman.

ii) When escalating an appeal between and/or within a stage, students must present evidence that the previous determination was lacking in either academic judgement and/or due process. If this is impractical, complainants should communicate with the Registrar.

iii) For each stage of the process, both the complainant and respondent have the right to be represented by a third party.

iv) For each stage of the process, both the complainant and the respondent have the right to a full explanation in writing for decisions and actions taken as part of the procedures.

Stage 1. Informal discussion/negotiation normally between student and staff member involved, and/or the supervisor of the staff member involved.

Normally within 10 working days of the occurrence of the academic grievance or complaint the student should liaise with the staff member concerned and discuss/negotiate their concerns with a view to arriving at a mutually agreeable resolution. Students may contact the staff member in person via email to the staff member’s College email address or by phone and request telephone transfer to the staff member.

ACAP students telephone: 1800 061 199
NCPS students telephone: 1800 783 661
HSA students telephone: 1300 306 886
ATTC students telephone: 1300 730 466

The student is responsible for ensuring in entering this informal discussion/negotiation that they make clear the nature and grounds of the academic grievance or complaint and, where applicable, provide evidence to support any claims.

Following discussion the staff member will investigate the grievance or complaint with procedural fairness, and may consult with relevant academic and administrative staff, as well as students of the Colleges as part of these investigations, and may engage in further informal discussion with the student.

The staff member shall normally respond to the student, normally in writing via email, within 10 working days of the student’s initial raising of their grievance or complaint. This response will briefly outline the nature and grounds of the student’s grievance or complaint and the staff member’s decision on the matter. This response will also include a copy of the College’s Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure.

If the student is satisfied with the response at this stage, no further action is required. If the student is dissatisfied with the response, or the decision outcome or the time taken to resolve the matter, he or she should proceed to Stage 2.

FORMAL RECORDING OF ACADEMIC GRIEVANCES, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS COMMENCES FROM STAGE 2
Stage 2. Formal Internal Grievance/Complaint/Appeal

A student at this stage may:

a) lodge a formal appeal against the outcome concerning his or her academic grievance or complaint that was made by the staff member at Stage 1; or

b) lodge a formal academic grievance or complaint.

The student should normally lodge their formal grievance, complaint or appeal within 10 working days of the grievance or complaint's occurrence or the student's receipt of the staff member's decision at Stage 1, as applicable.

This is the first of the formal grievance, complaint and appeal stages. As such, the student must express the nature and grounds of their grievance, complaint or appeal, in writing, either via email or letter.

Stage 2 grievances, complaints and appeals should be marked to the attention of either the Regional Director of the campus or Head of School of the faculty in which the student is enrolled and sent by mail to Level 5, 11 York Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 or email to:

- ACAP students: complaints@acap.edu.au
- NCPS students: complaints@ncps.edu.au
- HSA students: complaints@healthskills.com.au
- ATTC students: attc.complaints@navitas.com

In this written communication the student should:

a) make clear the nature and grounds for his or her grievance, complaint or appeal;

b) indicate whether or not he or she has pursued Stage 1 of this procedure, and if not briefly make clear the reasons for not doing so;

c) provide the date of the initial decision (if applicable);

d) explain why a reconsideration is being requested (if applicable);

e) attach copies of any written communication between the student and the staff member that took place at Stage 1 (if applicable); and

f) attach evidence that supports his or her grounds for grievance, complaint or appeal, where available (which may include new evidence).

The Regional Director or Head of School (as applicable) will investigate (or oversee the investigation of) the case presented with procedural fairness and may:

a) designate any staff member, at the same organisational level or lower who has not had prior involvement in the case, to assist with the investigation;

b) consult with relevant academic and administrative staff at the same organisational level or lower, as well as students of the College, on matters pertaining to the case; and/or

c) request the student to meet with them in person or via teleconference to discuss the case.

The Regional Director or Head of School (as applicable) will respond to the student, in writing via email or letter, within 20 working days of receipt of the student's written grievance, complaint or appeal.

If the student has lodged an initial grievance or complaint, this response will make clear the decision of the Regional Director or Head of School (as applicable) and the reasons for the decision.

If the student is appealing a decision made by a staff member at Stage 1, this response will make clear whether, as a result of the findings from the investigation, it has been decided to:

a) confirm the original decision; or

b) vary the original decision, stating the details of the variance; or

c) set the decision aside and substitute a new decision, stating the new decision.

This communication will also include a copy of the College’s Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure.

If the student is satisfied with the response at this stage, no further action is required. If the student is dissatisfied with the response, or the decision outcome or the time taken to resolve the matter, he or she should proceed to Stage 3.
Stage 3. Formal Internal Appeal to Academic Appeals Committee

A student may formally appeal a decision made at Stage 2, normally within 10 working days of their receipt of the written response from the Regional Director or Head of School (as applicable).

At this stage, the student must express the nature and grounds of their appeal, in writing. Stage 3 academic grievances, complaints and appeals should be marked to the attention of the Dean Academic and sent by mail to Level 5, 11 York Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 or email to:
- ACAP students: complaints@acap.edu.au
- NCPS students: complaints@ncps.edu.au
- Health Skills Australia students: complaints@healthskills.com.au
- ATTC students: attc.complaints@navitas.com

As part of this communication the student should:

a) make clear the nature and grounds for his or her grievance, complaint or appeal;
b) indicate whether or not he or she has pursued Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 of this procedure, and if not briefly make clear the reasons for not doing so;
c) provide the date of the initial decision (if applicable);
d) explain why a reconsideration is being requested (if applicable);
e) attach copies of any written communication between the student and the staff member that took place at Stage 1 and/or Stage 2 (if applicable); and
f) attach evidence that supports his or her grounds for grievance, complaint or appeal, where available (which may include new evidence).

The Dean Academic will investigate the case presented with procedural fairness.

The Dean Academic may establish an Academic Appeals Committee of two or three members nominated by the Dean Academic, which may include a Head of School and a member of the Academic Board or one of its standing Committees. A Head of School or Regional Director, to whom a formal grievance or complaint was lodged at Stage 2, may not be nominated to be part of the Academic Appeals Committee. In the course of this investigation, the Dean Academic, and any staff designated to be involved in the investigation, has the discretion to:

a) consult with relevant academic and administrative staff, as well as students of the College, on matters pertaining to the case; and/or
b) request the student to meet with the Committee in person or via teleconference to discuss the case.

The student will be advised of the outcome of the appeal, in writing via email or letter, within 20 working days of receipt of the student’s written grievance/complaint/appeal.

This response will make clear whether, as a result of the findings from the investigation, it has been decided to:

a) confirm the original decision; or
b) vary the original decision, stating the details of the variance; or
c) set the decision aside and substitute a new decision, stating the new decision.

This communication will also include a copy of the College’s Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure.

If the student is satisfied with the response at this stage, no further action is required. If the student is dissatisfied with the response to, decision outcome, or the time taken to resolve the matter, he or she should proceed to Stage 4.

Stage 4. External Appeal

Higher education and vocational education and training (VET) students dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal grievance, complaint and appeals process have a number of external appeal options available to them. There may be costs for lodging an external grievance, complaint or appeal. For further details on these costs refer to Section 2, Principles, item 2(x) Costs above.

Higher Education students

Domestic students can elect to take their grievance, complaint or appeal to a mutually agreeable independent external arbiter nominated by the student or the College.
• The College may request an appropriate representative from another tertiary education provider to act as an independent external arbiter.

• There are also a number of professional associations that can assist. One such agency is Leadr, the national association of dispute resolvers. For further information refer to the website at www.leadr.com.au

• Students will be liable for any fees charged by an independent external arbiter (refer to Section 2, Principles, item 2(x) Costs above).

Domestic higher education students seeking to take the matter further to one of the College’s independent review mechanism for complaints should contact the College Registrar by email to registrarsoffice@navitas.com or phone (02) 9964 6394.

International students intending to study or studying on a student visa seeking to take the matter further can elect to take their grievance, complaint or appeal to the Overseas Students Ombudsman. This is a free, independent and impartial Australian Government service for international students. For further details refer to Ombudsman: www.oso.gov.au.

Vocational Education and Training students

VET students seeking to take the matter further can elect to take their grievance, complaint or appeal to Australia’s national VET regulator, the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA). For details refer to http://www.asqa.gov.au/complaints/complaints.html.

The College will implement all recommendations arising out of an External Review within the timeframe specified by the external arbiter or relevant State Registration Authority. Alternatively, if a timeframe is not specified by the external arbiter or relevant State Registration Authority, all recommendations will be implemented by the College within 10 working days. Both the student and the College may seek advice and/or advocacy from a third party at this stage, but this will be at each party’s own expense.
Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure

Flow Chart of Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Procedure

1. Informal Stage
   Student engages in informal discussion/negotiation with relevant staff member, normally within 10 working days of the occurrence of the aggrieved matter. The staff member may, if required, further investigates the matter, and will normally respond to the student with a decision within 10 working days of the student’s first raising of the matter.

Matter unresolved to the student’s satisfaction

2. Formal Internal Appeal to Senior Officer
   Student lodges an appeal against the decision at Stage 1, in writing, either to the Head of School or Regional Director, who then investigate (or oversee an investigation of) the matter. The student is normally notified of the appeal outcome in writing within 20 working days of receipt of his or her written appeal.

Matter unresolved to the student’s satisfaction

3. Formal Internal Appeal to Dean Academic
   Student lodges an appeal against the decision at Stage 2, in writing, to the Dean Academic. The Dean Academic investigates the case, establishing an Academic Appeals Committee as appropriate. The student is normally notified of the appeal outcome in writing within 20 working days of receipt of written appeal.

Matter unresolved to the student’s satisfaction

4. Formal External Appeal
   Student may refer the matter to an external arbiter for final resolution.

MATTER REMAINS INFORMAL
MATTER RESOLVED
RESOLUTION RECORDED BY STAFF MEMBER

MATTER FORMALISED
MATTER RESOLVED
RESOLUTION FORMALLY RECORDED ON COLLEGE’S GRIEVANCES, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS REGISTER

*A separate process initially applies to assessment result of final result appeals (see paragraph 1(iv)(a), page 2).*
5. Responsibilities

The Principal and Executive General Manager and Dean Academic are accountable for the ongoing development, approval, implementation, awareness and effectiveness of this Policy.

The Registrar, oversees the institution’s grievances, complaints and appeals processes formal complaints processes and their effective resolution.

Executive members, Heads of School and functional managers are responsible for ensuring their employees are aware of this Policy and their responsibilities defined herein.

Academic and professional staff are responsible for being aware of, and complying with this Policy.

Students are responsible for being aware of, and complying with this Policy and should seek assistance from appropriate sources in respect of this policy where necessary.

6. Definitions

Unless the contrary intention is expressed in this Policy, the following words (when used in this policy) have the meaning set out below:

Academic staff/teaching staff refers to permanent and casual employees engaged in teaching and assessment of courses at the institution.

Appeal refers to a request to reconsider an academic decision made in the context of this document.

Complaint refers to an expression of dissatisfaction with a decision, action or process within the College in this case regarding academic matters.

Extenuating circumstances relating to the welfare of the student may include, but are not limited to the following. The student:

• is missing;
• has medical concerns, severe depression or psychological issues which lead the provider to fear for the student’s wellbeing;
• has engaged or threatens to engage in behaviour that is reasonably believed to endanger the student or others; or
• is at risk of committing a criminal offence.

Any claim of extenuating circumstances will need to be supported by appropriate evidence.

Grievance has the same meaning as complaint in this case regarding academic matters (refer to complaint above).

Institution (the)/College (the) means the Navitas Professional Institute and its colleges (see registration information below).

International student/Overseas student means a student required to hold a student visa for study in Australia.

National Code refers to a set of nationally consistent standards that governs the protection of international students and delivery of courses to those students by colleges registered on CRICOS - the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students. The National Code is established under the Education Services for Overseas Students (ESOS) Act 2000.

Unit means a unit of study in a higher education course or a unit of study, subject, module and/or unit of competency in a vocational education and training course.

7. Review

This policy is reviewed at a minimum of every 5 years by the policy owner (or designate) to ensure alignment to appropriate strategic direction and its continued relevance to Navitas’ current and planned operations.

The next scheduled review of this document is listed in the Version Control section on Page 1.
8. Records

Records in association with this policy will be kept in accordance with the institution’s Records Management Policy and Records Retention and Disposal Schedule. Confidential files related to the implementation of the policy must be maintained according to relevant privacy processes.

9. Related documents

Principles of Procedural Fairness Policy, Academic Grievances, Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure, Privacy of Student Personal Information Policy, Cultural Awareness Policy, International Student Transfer Between Registered Providers Policy, Disciplinary Policy and Procedure Staff, and Staff Induction Policy.

10. Related legislation


Registration information

The Navitas Professional Institute is a group of colleges in the Navitas Professional and English Programs (PEP) Division of Navitas Limited the colleges being the Australian College of Applied Psychology (ACAP), Navitas College of Public Safety (NCPS), Health Skills Australia (HSA), and the Australian TESOL Training Centre (ATTC) with respect to ATTC’s 39296QLD Graduate Certificate in TESOL and 39297QLD Graduate Diploma in TESOL courses. Navitas Professional Institute Pty Ltd (NPI Pty Ltd), ABN 94 057 495 299, National CRICOS Provider Code 01328A, TEQSA HE Provider Registration Code 12009, RTO 0500. Health Skills Australia Pty Ltd ABN 53 123 479 201, RTO 21646.