

Transfer Between Providers Policy

Policy

This policy is in place to ensure Sydney Metro College meets its obligations with regards to Standard 7 of the National Code 2007. The policy specifies:

- The circumstances in which Sydney Metro College grants transfers to its international students who wish to transfer to another provider (prior to them completing 6 months of their principal course of study)
- The limited circumstances in which Sydney Metro College accepts students from other providers (prior to them completing 6 months of their principal course of study)
- The process for transfer to and from the Institute once the 6 months principal course restriction has been met

1.0 Guidelines for Students seeking to transfer to Sydney Metro College from another provider

1.1 Sydney Metro College will not enroll students wishing to transfer from another registered provider prior to the student completing six months of his or her principal course of study, except where:

- a) The original provider has ceased to be registered or the course in which the student is enrolled has ceased to be registered
- b) The original registered provider has provided a written letter of release
- c) The original registered provider has had a sanction imposed on its registration by the Australian Government or State and Territory Government that prevents the student from continuing study in his or her principal course
- d) 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

1.2 Where students have completed 6 months of study in their principal course, no transfer restrictions will apply. Sydney Metro College will assess student enrolment applications from this cohort of students in line with its Student Entry Requirements, Selection, Enrolment, and Orientation Policy

2.0 Procedure for Students seeking to transfer to Sydney Metro College from another provider (Prior to completing 6 months of their principal course)

- a) The Marketing and Admissions Officer receives an enrolment application from an on-shore International Student who is currently studying at another Institution.
- b) The Marketing and Admissions Officer assesses the application in line with Sydney Metro College Student Entry Requirements, Selection, Enrolment, and Orientation Policy. The Marketing and Admissions Officer will know the Student is currently studying at another provider due to declarations provided by the Student via the Enrolment Form and through PRISMS

- c) Due to the Student being enrolled at the other provider prior to completing 6 months of their principal course, the student must demonstrate how he/she complies with point 1.1 of this policy
- d) Where the Student can demonstrate adherence to point 1.1 a, c, or d, the student's enrolment will progress and the Marketing and Admissions Officer will assess the student for suitability for entry in line with the Institute's Student Entry Requirements, Selection, Enrolment, and Orientation Policy
- e) Where the Student is requesting to enroll based on point 1.1 b and meets other entry requirements specified in Sydney Metro College's Student Entry Requirements, Selection, Enrolment, and Orientation Policy, Sydney Metro College will offer a Conditional Offer Letter, clearly stating that the offer is contingent of the student providing Sydney Metro College with a Letter of Release from their original provider
- f) Where the Student can provide Sydney Metro College with a Letter of Release from his/her original provider, the enrolment process will progress in line with SMC's Student Entry Requirements, Selection, Enrolment, and Orientation Policy
- g) Where the student is unable to meet one of the requirements of 1.1 of this policy, the student will receive a letter stating why their application for enrolment was rejected. This will occur as soon as practicable and no longer than 10 working days from the day the student submits their complete enrolment application

3.0 Procedure for Students seeking to transfer to Sydney Metro College from another provider (After completing 6 months of their principal course)

- 3.1 Where students have completed 6 months of study in their principal course, no transfer restrictions will apply. Sydney Metro College will assess student enrolment applications from this cohort of students in line with its Student Entry Requirements, Selection, Enrolment, and Orientation Policy

4.0 Guidelines for Students seeking to transfer from Sydney Metro College to another provider

- 4.1 Sydney Metro College will grant student transfer requests and will provide written letters of release for its international students (who have not completed 6 months of study in their principal course), where the student has no outstanding fees owing to Sydney Metro College and can clearly demonstrate one of the following circumstances:
 - a) The student wishes to access support services that the other provider has and Sydney Metro College is unable to provide
 - b) The student is experiencing a threat to their physical safety which will be alleviated by studying at the other provider
 - c) The student is not coping in their program, despite participating fully in intervention activities instigated by the Institute (see Course Progress policy)

- d) The program of study is not consistent with what was specified in the student's acceptance agreement and offer letter
- e) The student can provide evidence that he or she was misled by Sydney Metro College or by one of its education agents
- f) The student is able to demonstrate compassionate or compelling circumstances exist in line with the Institute's compassionate and compelling circumstances policy, which necessitate transfer to another provider
- g) Sydney Metro College ceases to be registered or the course in which the student is enrolled ceases to be registered
- h) Sydney Metro College has a sanction imposed on its registration by the Australian Government or State and Territory Government that prevents the student from continuing study in his or her principal course
- i) 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
- j) The student has not commenced studies due to not securing an Australian visa or other compassionate or compelling circumstances in line with the Institute's compassionate and compelling circumstances policy

4.2 Sydney Metro College will NOT grant student transfer requests and will NOT provide written letters of release for its international students (who have not completed 6 months of study in their principal course), where the student has outstanding fees owing to Sydney Metro College and the student falls into one of the following categories:

- a) The student has not provided a valid offer letter from their prospective CRICOS provider
- b) Sydney Metro College believes that the transfer will be detrimental to the student. Specific factors that may be considered detrimental to the student include items listed in point 4.2 (c, d, e, i, and j) of this policy
- c) The student has changed their mind about what program he/she wishes to study and has not discussed the issue with SMC's student support services team
- d) The student is experiencing welfare issues but has not discussed the issues with SMC's student support services team
- e) The student is experiencing academic progress or attendance issues but has not discussed the issues with SMC's student support services team
- f) Sydney Metro College reasonably believes that the student is attempting to avoid being reported to the Department of Home Affairs for failure to meet attendance or course progress requirements
- g) The student has been issued with two or more low attendance or course progress letters in the specific term
- h) The course for which the student intends to enroll with the other provider is similar to or the same as the student's current enrolment and no other compassionate or compelling circumstances exist

- i) The student is experiencing homestay or other accommodation problems but cannot demonstrate how the problems will be rectified as a result of the transfer
- j) The student is experiencing timetabling conflicts about personal, work, or other non-study commitments and has not discussed the issues with SMC's student support services team

4.3 Should a student wish to withdraw from Sydney Metro College to another provider after completing 6 months of their principal course, no transfer restrictions apply. Students must complete Sydney Metro College's Application to Withdraw Form (available at Reception), as well as ensure their fees are up to date in line with their Student Acceptance Agreement and SMC's Student Refund Policy. Students should then follow point 5.0 (b, c, e, f) below.

5.0 Procedure for Students seeking to transfer from Sydney Metro College to another provider (Prior to completing 6 months of their principal course)

- a) Student completes Sydney Metro College's Application to Withdraw Form (available at Reception) and provides supporting evidence to support their claim, including but not limited to:
 - Evidence such as medical or death certificates or other supporting evidence
 - Valid Letter of Offer from the receiving provider
 - Ensuring outstanding fees have been paid in line with the student's Student Acceptance Agreement and SMC's Student Refund Policy
- b) Student submits complete application to the Institute's Manager of Student Services. The Manager of Student Services will provide advice on the requirements of the policy and will issue the student with a written acknowledgment of the complete application within 3 working days of receipt
- c) All applications are considered by the Principal Executive Officer as soon as practicable, and students are provided with the written outcome within 10 working days of submission of their complete withdrawal application
- d) If the withdrawal application is approved, Sydney Metro College will provide a Letter of Release at no cost to the student and the student will be advised to contact DIBP to find out what action, if any, they need to take concerning their student visa
- e) Until the withdrawal application has been approved and the letter of release has been provided, students must continue to attend class, as academic progress and attendance will still be in effect. See the Institute's Student Attendance Policy, Student Course Progress Policy and Student Assessment, Reassessment and Repeating Units of Guidelines Policy
- f) If the withdrawal application is not approved, the student is entitled to appeal the decision in line with the Institute's Complaints and Appeals Policy. During this period, the student must continue to attend class as academic progress and attendance will still be in effect. See the Institute's Student Attendance Policy, Student Course Progress Policy Student Assessment, Reassessment, and Repeating Units of Guidelines Policy. Note that this policy

does not remove the student's right to act under Australia's consumer protection laws or rights to pursue other legal remedies.

6.0 Procedure for Students seeking to transfer from Sydney Metro College to another provider (After completing 6 months of their principal course)

6.1 Should a student wish to withdraw from Sydney Metro College to another provider after completing 6 months of their principal course, no transfer restrictions apply. Students must complete Sydney Metro College's Application to Withdraw Form (available at Reception), as well as ensure their fees are up to date in line with their Student Acceptance Agreement and SMC's Student Refund Policy. Students should then follow point 5.0 (b, c, e, f) above.

7.0 Letter of Release

7.1 If a Letter of Release is granted by Sydney Metro College, it will be provided at no cost to the student.

7.2 Letters of Release will indicate relevant student details, the name of the proposed new provider, and the proposed new course in line with the provider offer letter.

8.0 Refund Policy

8.1 The approval of transfer from Sydney Metro College to another provider does not indicate that the Institute is entitled to provide any refunds to the student.

8.2 Students requesting refunds must provide a separate refund application in line with the Institute's Student Refund Policy

9.0 Record Keeping

9.1 The Manager of Student Services is responsible for ensuring all appropriate records are kept from the Transfer of Providers process, demonstrating compliance with this policy and showing how SMC reached its decision. All Transfer documents, including but not limited to Transfer Application Documents, Supporting Documentation, Letters of Release, Conditional Offer Letters, Offer Letters, Transfer Outcome Letters, etc. will be systematically kept in each student file

Record Documents

- Application to Withdraw Form
- Enrolment Form
- Conditional Letter of Offer
- Letter of Release
- Withdrawal Acknowledgement Letter
- Withdrawal Outcome Letter

Record Policies

- Compassionate and Compelling Circumstances Policy
- Complaints and Appeals Policy
- Student Attendance Policy
- Student Assessment, Reassessment and Repeating Units of Guidelines Policy
- Student Course Progress Policy
- Student Entry Requirements, Selection, Enrolment and Orientation Policy
- Student Refund Policy