

INTERNATIONAL TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY



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1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 This policy provides a framework for the management of international transnational education (TNE) collaborative partnerships, campuses and offshore operations to ensure quality outcomes, alignment with CQUniversity strategic goals, and compliance with the [Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#) (Cwlth), the [Standards for Registered Training Organisations \(RTOs\) 2015](#) (Cwlth) and other applicable regulatory and quality assurance obligations such as course accreditation and in-country standards and regulations.

2 SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy applies to the CQUniversity community, including Council members, students, employees, consultants, controlled entities and all persons participating in University activities whether as a visitor, adjunct appointee, emeritus appointee, service provider, contractor or volunteer.
- 2.2 The policy applies to offshore partners and CQUniversity entities where they are involved in delivering or supporting the delivery of CQUniversity courses.
- 2.3 The following services and partnerships are excluded from this policy:
- online and mixed mode education services delivered without a collaborator
 - Regional (Australia) contracting, where CQUniversity courses are delivered through a collaborator on behalf of the University (e.g. Geraldton and Regional University Centres)
 - articulation arrangements involving students who are not CQUniversity-enrolled students and are covered by the [Articulation Policy and Procedure](#)
 - joint doctoral programs and consultancy agreements with assurance of delivery provided by the Research Division, and
 - collaborative joint award courses offered solely within Australia with another Australian educational institution, where the award is issued in joint names (refer to collaborative courses within the [Higher Education Qualifications Policy and Procedure](#)).

3 POLICY STATEMENT

- 3.1 The University is committed to the delivery of education in international locations based on successful, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships.
- 3.2 University academic policy documents apply across all offshore locations.
- 3.3 International partnership and collaboration agreements that involve offshore delivery of education and student support and services will include operational obligations for both parties including compliance, quality assurance, marketing and student administration and management. For University controlled entities this may be in the form of a Service Level Agreement.
- 3.4 New and existing collaborative partnerships and services within the scope of this policy will be assessed and managed in accordance with this policy.
- 3.5 Future collaborations under this policy shall be guided by the University's [Strategic Plan](#) and associated international strategies.
- 3.6 Deans, Deputy Deans Learning and Teaching and Heads of College will ensure that courses and units delivered offshore will be aligned to University policy documents. Courses offered at offshore locations will ensure equivalence with the same or equivalent offerings at Australian campuses, with contextualisation of content and delivery as appropriate for the host country. Offshore provision will meet the University's standard requirements for approval and review.
- 3.7 TNE collaborative partnerships and arrangements will be reviewed annually, in alignment with the University's academic review frameworks and committee delegations.
- 3.8 Offshore locations will be regularly reviewed to ensure ongoing alignment strategically and academically for all locations. This review will include an annual review of the quality of course delivery and student experience at the offshore location, which will be under the leadership of the Tertiary Education Division and will typically involve a site visit as required.
- 3.9 Employees involved in TNE collaborations are encouraged to have completed cross-cultural training prior to teaching units that involve offshore locations.
- 3.10 Services delivered with a collaborative partnership (including approval of contracts, financial systems and quality assurance) will be coordinated through the Global Development Division. Formal negotiations will be managed by the nominated representative of the Vice-President (Global Development) as the lead with any other negotiations considered void. Deans of School shall provide input and support as appropriate to the partnership.
- 3.11 The Global Development Division will support the coordination and administration of offshore course delivery with the School nominated Manager to ensure the delivery of collaborative education services. Where a University controlled entity is responsible for the day-to-day delivery and management of offshore locations, a nominated representative of this entity will also work with the School, the International Directorate and Students Directorate to ensure academic and operational requirements are delivered.

4 RESPONSIBILITIES

Compliance, monitoring and review

- 4.1 This policy aligns with the requirements and expectations of the Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) and RTO Standards, by ensuring the University meets the relevant tertiary education regulatory requirements when delivering courses through collaborative offshore arrangements or directly through University controlled entities and arrangements.
- 4.2 Quality assurance for academic delivery and operational activities will be aligned to existing University policy documents and systems regarding the monitoring and review of academic quality, to ensure that academic standards are maintained for University courses delivered offshore.

- 4.3 Programs delivered through a collaborative partnership and services agreement will be compliant with host country accreditation, registration and regulatory requirements and applicable laws.
- 4.4 The Vice-President (Global Development) is responsible for implementing, monitoring, reviewing and ensuring compliance with this policy.
- 4.5 The following delegates are responsible for the implementation and compliance monitoring of this policy in their business areas:
- Deputy Vice-President (Students) and University Secretary
 - Director Educational Quality and Integrity
 - Director International
 - Deans of School, and
 - Associate Vice-President (or equivalent) for offshore operation as employed by the University or controlled entity.

Reporting

- 4.6 Where offshore collaborative programs are delivered in conjunction with a University controlled entity, appropriate reporting obligations will be met by:
- the University in relation to Australian government and regulatory requirements, and
 - the entity on behalf of the University in relation to the government and regulatory requirements for that country.

Records management

- 4.7 Employees must manage records in accordance with the [Records Management Policy and Procedure](#). This includes retaining these records in a recognised University recordkeeping information system.
- 4.8 University records must be retained for the minimum periods specified in the relevant [Retention and Disposal Schedule](#). Before disposing of any records, approval must be sought from the Records and Privacy Team (email records@cqu.edu.au).

5 DEFINITIONS

- 5.1 Terms not defined in this document may be in the University [glossary](#).

Terms and definitions

Collaborative partnership: a University course delivered offshore with delivery occurring using infrastructure (e.g. teaching accommodation, library and information and communications technology services, administrative and teaching support, marketing support) either in whole or in part by a TNE Collaborative Partner.

Students study with this partner in the host country and will graduate with a CQUniversity degree. Delivery may be on-campus or combination of online or on-campus study. A collaborative partnership agreement is required regardless of any mode of delivery offshore.

Collaborative partner agreement: an agreement that defines obligations and quality requirements of the University and the collaborative partner to deliver University courses, including quality assurance mechanisms, registration requirements in both countries, and delivery and operational requirements including teaching, administrative support, marketing and financial arrangements. Agreements will be subject to ongoing governance and review requirements in accordance with the [Partnerships Policy and Procedure](#).

Collaborative services: education services (including teaching, supervision, examinations, professional development, training, moderation, education support and student services) provided to international students who are studying at a University Offshore Campus or TNE Partner, with these services targeted to students at that offshore location.

Licensing agreement: arrangements whereby the University's intellectual property is provided on an ongoing basis to a third-party provider for a regular fee. Students who complete a course where the curriculum has been licensed from the University will not be issued with a University qualification or be eligible to receive a University degree.

Offshore: a location or based outside of one's national boundaries.

Offshore campus: a University approved and branded campus located outside Australia.

Transnational education (TNE): "All types of higher education study programs, or sets of courses of study, or educational services in which the learners are located in a different country from the one where the awarding institution is based" (UNESCO/Council of Europe, 2001 p.1). This definition includes non-collaborative arrangements such as branch campuses or corporate or international institutions, where degree courses, study, or other educational services are provided directly by an awarding institution.

Transnational education (TNE) collaborative partner: *(to distinguish between a campus and a teaching location not branded as the University or operated by a University controlled entity)* An offshore partner institution and or private tertiary and professional institution who works with the University to deliver a University course or program offshore, and who provides infrastructure (eg teaching accommodation, library and information and communications technology provision, administrative and teaching support) either in whole or in part.

6 RELATED LEGISLATION AND DOCUMENTS

[Articulation Policy and Procedure](#)

[Australia's Foreign Relations \(State and Territory Arrangements\) Act 2020](#) (Cwlth)

[Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000](#) (Cwlth)

[Education Services for Overseas Students \(ESOS\) Manual](#)

[ELICOS Standards 2018](#) (Cwlth)

[English Language Proficiency Requirements Policy and Procedure](#)

[Guidance Note: Third-Party Arrangements](#) Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)

[Higher Education Qualifications Policy and Procedure](#)

[Higher Education Standards Framework \(Threshold Standards\) 2021](#) (Cwlth)

[National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018](#) (Cwlth)

[National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Regulations 2011](#) (Cwlth)

[Non-Award Courses and Micro-Credentials Policy and Procedure](#)

[Partnerships Policy and Procedure](#)

[School Review Policy and Procedure](#)

School TNE Operations Manual

[Standards for Registered Training Organisations \(RTOs\) 2015](#) (Cwlth)

[Strategic Plan](#)

[Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency Act 2011](#) (Cwlth)

[VET Product Registration Policy and Procedure](#)

7 FEEDBACK

7.1 Feedback about this document can be emailed to policy@cqu.edu.au.

8 APPROVAL AND REVIEW DETAILS

Approval and Review	Details
Approval Authority	Vice-Chancellor and President
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Administrator	Vice-President (Global Development)
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Notes	

Acknowledgement

CQUniversity gratefully acknowledges its use of information from the Council of Europe (2001). [Code of Good Practice in the Provision of Transnational Education](#).