

Blackheath and Thornburgh College Course Progress and Attendance Policy

- 1) Course Progress
 - a) The School will monitor, record and assess the course progress of each student for the course in which the student is currently enrolled.
 - b) The course progress of all students will be assessed at the end of each semester of enrolment.
 - c) Students who have begun part way through a semester will be assessed after one full period of attendance.
 - d) To demonstrate satisfactory course progress, students will need to achieve at least a 'C' grade in 60% of their subjects studied in a study period.
 - e) If a student does not pass in at least 60% of the subjects studied in a study period, the Principal, will meet with the student to develop an intervention strategy for academic improvement. This may include;
 - i) additional supervised study periods
 - ii) tutorial assistance
 - iii) other intervention strategies as deemed necessary
 - f) A copy of the student's individual strategy and progress reports in achieving improvement will be forwarded to parents.
 - g) The student's individual strategy for academic improvement will be monitored over the following semester by the Dean of Studies and records of student response to the strategy will be kept.
 - h) If the student does not improve sufficiently academically and achieve satisfactory course progress by the end of the next assessment period, Blackheath and Thornburgh College will advise the student in writing of its intention to report the student for breach of visa condition 8202, and that he/she has 20 working days in which to access the school's internal complaints and appeals process. Following the outcome of the internal process, if the student wishes to complain or lodge an external appeal about a decision made or action taken by Blackheath and Thornburgh College, he/she may contact the Overseas Student Ombudsman at no cost. This must be done within 2 weeks Please see Blackheath and Thornburgh College's Complaints and Appeals Policy for further details.
 - i) The school will notify National ESOS Authority via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course progress as soon as practicable where
 - i. the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within

20 days

- ii. withdraws from the complaints and appeals process, or
- iii. the complaints and appeals process results in favour of the school

2) Completion within expected duration of study (course progression)

- a) As noted in 1.a., the school will monitor, record and assess the course progress of each student for the course in which the student is currently enrolled.
- b) Part of the assessment of course progress at the end of each semester will include an assessment of whether the student's progress is such that they are expected to complete their course within the expected duration of the course.
- c) The School will only extend the duration of the student's study where the student will not complete their course within the expected date because of:
 - i. compassionate or compelling circumstances
 - ii. student participation in an intervention strategy as outlined in 1.e.
 - iii. an approved deferment or suspension of study has been granted in accordance with Blackheath and Thornburgh College Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.
- d) Where the School decides to extend the duration of the student's study, the school will report via PRISMS and/or issue a new COE if required within 14 days.

3) Monitoring Course attendance

- a) Satisfactory course attendance is attendance of 80% of scheduled course contact hours.
- b) Student attendance is:
 - i. checked and recorded daily
 - ii. assessed regularly
 - iii. recorded and calculated over each semester.
- c) Late arrival at School will be recorded and will be included in attendance calculations.
- d) All extended absences from School should be accompanied by a medical certificate, an explanatory communication from the student's carer or evidence that leave has been approved by the Principal.
- e) Any absences longer than 5 consecutive days without approval will be investigated.

- f) Student attendance will be monitored by Dean of Students every 2 weeks over a semester to assess student attendance using the following method.
- i. For example, a 20 week study period with 5 contact hours a day would equal 500 contact hours. 20% of this is 100 hours.
 - ii. Any period of exclusion from class will not be included in student attendance calculations. [See Standard 13 – Deferring, suspending and cancelling enrolment for an explanation of this item]
- g) Parents of students at risk of breaching Blackheath and Thornburgh College’s attendance requirements will be contacted by [email / ‘phone] and students will be counselled and offered any necessary support when they have absences totalling 10% any study period.
- h) If the calculation at 3.f. indicates that the student has passed the attendance threshold for the study period, Blackheath and Thornburgh College will advise the student of its intention to report the student for breach of visa condition 8202, and that he/she has 20 working days in which to access the school’s internal complaints and appeals process except in the circumstances outlined in 3.j.
- i) The school will notify National ESOS Authority via PRISMS of the student not achieving satisfactory course attendance as soon as practicable where:
- i. the student does not access the complaints and appeals process within 20 days
 - ii. withdraws from the complaints and appeals process
 - iii. the complaints and appeals process results in a decision for the school
- j) Students will not be reported for failing to meet the 80% threshold where:
- i. the student produces documentary evidence clearly demonstrating compassionate or compelling circumstances e.g., medical illness supported by a medical certificate, and
 - ii. has not fallen below 70% attendance.
- k) The method for calculating 70% attendance is the same as that outlined in 3.f. with the following change; number of study days x contact hours x 30%.
- l) If a student is assessed as having nearly reached the threshold for 70% attendance for a study period, the Registrar will assess whether a suspension of studies is in the interests of the student as per Blackheath and Thornburgh College’s Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy.

m) If the student does not obtain a suspension of studies under the Blackheath and Thornburgh College's Deferment, Suspension and Cancellation Policy, and falls below the 70% threshold for attendance for the study period, the process for reporting the student for unsatisfactory attendance (breach of visa condition 8202) will occur as outlined in 3.h. – 3.i

4) Definitions

- a) Compassionate or compelling circumstances - circumstances beyond the control of the student that are having an impact on the student's progress through a course. These could include:
- i. serious illness, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes
 - ii. bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents (with evidence of a death certificate if possible)
 - iii. major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring their emergency travel that has impacted on their studies
 - iv. a traumatic experience which has impacted on the student (these cases should be where possible supported by police or psychologists' reports)
 - v. where the school was unable to offer a pre-requisite unit
 - vi. inability to begin studying on the course commencement date due to delay in receiving a student visa

For other circumstances to be considered as compassionate or compelling, evidence would need to be provided to show that these were having an impact on the student's progress through a course.

- b) Expected duration – the length of time it takes to complete the course studying full-time. This is the same as the registered course duration on CRICOS.
- c) School day – any day for which the school has scheduled course contact hours
- d) Study period – a discrete period of study within a course which cannot exceed 24 weeks. Blackheath and Thornburgh College defines a "study period" for the purposes of monitoring course attendance and progress as a semester.