

# Indigenous Students Policy and Procedure

## 1. Purpose

The Institute acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the traditional owners and custodians of our land – Australia and its islands. We pay our respects to the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional Aboriginal owners of the land on which the Melbourne Campus of the Institute is located and the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation the traditional owners of the land on which the Sydney campus of the Institute is located and pay our respect to their elders past, present and emerging.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the first Australians and have the longest continuous cultures in human history. All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students need to be encouraged and supported to reach their full potential and to embrace their culture and identity. All students should understand, acknowledge and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories and cultures and contribute to reconciliation for all Australians.

The Institute supports the Australian Government *National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy*, 1989 that aims to improve the availability, responsiveness and effectiveness of education services as a means of achieving equity of access to and participation in education, and equitable and appropriate educational outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## 2. Scope

This policy and procedure applies to all staff, students, third parties (partners, contractors, consultants, etc.) and visitors to the Institute.

## 3. Definitions

Terms	Definition
Indigenous (Australian)	<p>means (as adopted by the Commonwealth of Australia for administrative purposes) any person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• is of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent;</li><li>• identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and</li><li>• is accepted by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in which they live as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.</li></ul>

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## 4. Policy

4.1 The Institute makes the following commitments in relation to the education and research of Indigenous Australians:

- specific consideration is given to the recruitment, admission, participation, and completion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
- to respect the values and views of Indigenous Australians acknowledging the wisdom and diversity of Indigenous knowledge systems;
- to respect the right of Indigenous Australians to self-determination and engagement in decision making that impacts on their own lives and maintaining, controlling, protecting and developing their heritage and culture;
- to encourage the contribution of Indigenous students in the on-going development of the Institute's education and research, including the opportunity to participate in decision making bodies;
- to include Indigenous education in all major strategies and plans;
- to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of Indigenous perspectives, culture and issues;
- to provide campuses that are welcoming, respectful, supportive, non-discriminatory and free of harassment for Indigenous students and staff;
- to seek research opportunities designed and conducted in accordance with international and national requirements for Indigenous Australians; and
- To follow best practice of higher education providers to improve support for Indigenous education, and research.

4.2 The Institute will ensure Indigenous Australian government-specific funding supports Indigenous student success and will provide additional financial support, where possible.

## 5. Procedure

5.1 The Institute will assist with Indigenous students' transition to higher education by providing:

- admission pathways to Indigenous students.
- socio-economic, cultural and academic support to achieve parity in the access, participation, retention, completion and success of Indigenous students.

5.2 The Institute will promote an understanding and appreciation of Indigenous Australian culture, views and traditional heritage to its students and staff by providing cultural competency training.

5.3 The Institute staff will be supported to ensure that learning and teaching materials and assessments encourage Indigenous students to progress into teaching, learning and research positions within the Institute.

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- 5.4 To ensure the Institute can meet the needs of Indigenous Australians as an education provider, each Indigenous student will be encouraged to collaborate in the development and implementation of a personal Learning Plan to support their learning and cultural needs, with such Learning Plans to be reviewed annually.
- 5.5 The Institute research program will:
- Recognise Indigenous Australians' systems of knowledge and views are important when shaping Indigenous Australians' education and research;
  - Preserve, promote, protect and appropriately attribute Indigenous Australians' knowledge;
  - Support Indigenous Australian research and research projects that improve the lives of Indigenous Australians;
  - Ensure Indigenous Australian research and research with Indigenous Australians is culturally appropriate, safe and ethical;
  - Provide appropriate supervision to Indigenous students, including co-supervision arrangements; and
  - Design and conduct research in accordance with current Indigenous research guidelines.

## 6. Responsibilities

The principles contained within this policy underpin the Institute's approach to Indigenous learning, teaching and research. All members of the Institute are jointly responsible for the implementation of these principles.

## 7. Implementation and Communication

The policy and procedure will be implemented and communicated throughout the Institute via:

- the Institute's webpage;
- Internal circulation to staff and students.

### Supporting documents

Ethical Research: Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies, AIATSIS

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Torres Strait Islander Education Policy, 1989  
Australian Government

National Best Practice Framework for Indigenous Cultural Competency in Australian Universities,  
Universities Australia

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

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