

Offshore Policy

Abstract

This Policy provides a framework for the development and administration of offshore activities to enable the University to meet its statutory and regulatory requirements.

Dates	Policy approved	22/02/2012
	Policy takes effect	07/03/2012
	Policy is due for review (up to five years)	03/2017
	Policy amendment approved	11/12/2014
	Policy amendment takes effect	05/03/2015
Approved by	Council Meeting 12/1, 22 February 2012 Resolution COU/12-1/06-6	
	Latest amendment: Director, Governance Support Unit (see change history for details)	
Implementation Officer	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Advancement)	
Relevant to	Students and staff	
Related documents	Admissions Policy Award Course Approval and Reaccreditation Policy and Procedures Commercial Activities Policy Course Name and Award Title Nomenclature Policy Credit Recognition Policy Offshore Teaching and Learning Activities Vice-Chancellor's Directive Offshore Teaching and Learning Activities Vice-Chancellor's Directive for Offshore Programs Delivered in Modern Standard Chinese Privacy Vice-Chancellor's Directive Short Courses Policy Statement of course equivalence (PDF) (restricted access: Staff Connect)	
Legislation	All UTS offshore courses and activities will comply with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements of Australia and	

	the country in which the offshore activities take place.
File number	UR05/884
Superseded documents	Policy on UTS Offshore Activities

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1. Purpose

The Offshore Policy has been developed to provide an effective and efficient framework for the development and administration of offshore activities to enable the University to meet its statutory and regulatory requirements. It emphasises the need for, and importance of, appropriate academic and other relevant quality assurance standards and practices in respect to offshore activities delivered by UTS or its international partners.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to all activities where UTS or operates beyond the borders of Australia. These may include:

- research cooperation
- research training opportunities
- the delivery of programs of teaching and learning
- the supply of teaching and learning services
- academic arrangements that provide entry to UTS programs of teaching and learning in Sydney
- provision of professional consultancy.

This Policy does not apply to:

- programs of study organised under the UTS International Exchange Student Scheme
- programs of In-country Study organised as part of the International Studies Program (leading to the BA or MA in International Studies)
- agency arrangements for marketing and the recruiting of international students managed through UTS International and its terms of business.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Policy, the following words shall have the meanings given below.

Admission means the process of applying for, being made an offer to, accepting the offer of admission and being admitted to an award course or a program of study at the University of Technology Sydney.

Award course means a set of requirements, subjects and/or supervised research which when satisfactorily completed by a student normally qualifies that student for a formal award of the University.

International student means a student who is not a citizen or permanent resident of Australia and includes but is not limited to those who have student visas, provisional residency, temporary residency and bridging visas.

Offshore activity means an activity where UTS engages in an agreement or operates beyond the borders of Australia, either on its own or in cooperation with one or more international partners.

Offshore partner means an institution (usually a higher education provider) with whom UTS cooperates in an offshore activity.

Offshore program means a UTS award course or program of study approved for delivery to students at a location outside Australia through cooperation with an international partner.

Offshore student means a person who has been admitted to an award course or a non-award course and has an active enrolment in subjects or time-based study in that course which is offered offshore.

Program of study means a collection of academic subjects which may or may not be integrated, and do not in themselves lead to a UTS award of degree, diploma or certificate.

Quality assurance means the review and improvement of processes and outcomes to ensure a high level of quality is maintained.

Student means a person who has been admitted to an award course or a non-award course and has an active enrolment in subjects or time-based study in that course. A person is not a student if the person has:

- completed the requirements of the course, or
- withdrawn from the course, or
- withdrawn temporarily from the course for a period of at least one semester through approved leave of absence, or
- no active enrolment in subjects or in time-based study in a particular semester, or
- had their enrolment in the course discontinued, cancelled, suspended or terminated in accordance with the Rules, or
- been excluded from the course or from the University in accordance with the Rules.

UTS International means the UTS unit responsible for marketing and coordinating admissions of all international students to award courses, study abroad and programs.

4. Policy principles

All decisions concerning the establishment, enhancement, continuation and discontinuation of UTS offshore activities must be guided by the following principles, values and considerations:

- (a) the extent to which the activity fulfils the mission, values and strategic plans of the University in furtherance of the object and functions of the University

- (b) the degree to which the activity embodies and maintains high academic and professional standards, consistent with those of other UTS programs and activities regardless of their location
- (c) the prospects for the activity to be afforded official recognition and accreditation in the host country. It is preferable that where appropriate and possible UTS programs of teaching and learning delivered offshore are accredited at the highest possible level and obtain national approval in the higher education system of the host country
- (d) the extent to which the activity is, or is likely to become financially viable and sustainable
- (e) the extent to which the project is, or is likely to, reflect favourably on, and promote and enhance the academic reputation of UTS
- (f) the ability of the offshore activity and the relevant partners to meet the requirements of UTS principles and procedures for academic endeavour
- (g) the development of a UTS offshore teaching and learning activity should not occur at the expense of onshore activities
- (h) UTS offshore partners will usually be institutes of higher education with high educational reputations and academic standing. Any other partners must be of such an academic standing and reputation to satisfy the Vice-Chancellor that they are appropriate UTS offshore partners.

In order to ensure achievement of these objectives and functions, assessment of a new or continuing offshore activity will include an assessment of the extent to which the activity meets one or more of the following:

- assisting UTS to leverage its international research opportunities
- attracting high quality students to undertake postgraduate research degrees at UTS
- raising the UTS profile
- developing cohorts of students who will complete their UTS degree in Sydney
- aiding in the recruitment of international students to onshore programs, encouraging international student mobility
- enabling UTS to expand its capacity for growth beyond the physical limits imposed onshore
- contributing to Australia's provision of pro bono aid and assistance and the work of international governmental organisations in developing countries or countries undergoing major political and social change, and
- providing opportunities for UTS staff development.

5. Policy statement

UTS conducts offshore activities of an appropriate nature, quality and standing to further the objects and functions of the University in one or more of the following ways:

- promote the development of international communities of knowledge, professional practice, and learning
- build and sustain strategic alliances with international institutions of higher education, learned bodies and industry groups that adds value to the learning experience of all UTS students
- provide opportunities for international students to complete a UTS program while staying in their home country or region
- promote internationalisation of the curriculum and build the intercultural capabilities of our students and staff.

6. Roles and responsibilities

Accountable Officer

The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for the effective implementation of the principles outlined in this document. The Vice-Chancellor may issue principles on any aspect of offshore activities consistent with this document. The Vice-Chancellor may authorise specific offshore activities that would otherwise not be in conformance with the requirements set out in this document where the Vice-Chancellor:

- (a) determines it would be in the best interests of the University and in furtherance of its objectives and functions, and
- (b) advises Council of the nature and scope of each activity and the reasons for authorising it.

Implementation Officer

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Advancement) has responsibility for coordinating all UTS offshore activities and for ensuring that they are conducted in conformity with this Policy.

Other positions and committees

The **Director, UTS International** provides executive support to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International and Advancement) in implementing the Policy.

The **Deans** of the faculties that offer offshore courses are responsible for the overall delivery, academic management and quality assurance of the respective courses offered offshore.

7. Acknowledgements

There are no acknowledgements for this Policy.

8. Version control and change history

Date	Version	Approved by, resolution no. (date)	Amendment
15/08/2005	1	Council, COU/05/086	
07/03/2012 (effective date)	2	Council, COU/12-1/06-6 (22/02/2012)	Amendments and change of policy title to Offshore Policy
05/03/2015 (effective date)	2.1	Director, Governance Support Unit (GSU) (11/12/2014)	Changes (approved under Delegation 3.17) to implement 2014 Senior Executive restructure.