

# Transnational Education via Partnerships Policy

*Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy in the Policy and Procedure Manager (PPM), the electronic policy management system (EPMS), to ensure you are referring to the latest version.*

## **Purpose:**

This policy governs transnational education activities via partnerships.

## **Audience:**

Staff, Students, public

## **Objectives:**

- To ensure that TNE courses provide comparable, or more opportunities to students as onshore courses.
- To ensure that transnational courses are developed and delivered in a manner consistent with the University's policies and procedures.
- To safeguard the reputation of Murdoch University.

## **Definitions:**

*Any defined terms below are specific to this document. The definition of common terms appears in the Murdoch University Dictionary of Terms.*

There are no terms.

## **Policy Statement:**

This policy covers the delivery of courses in international locations via partnerships. Transnational education (TNE) offerings contribute to the achievement of Murdoch University's strategic goals and should not expose Murdoch University to undue financial or reputational risk.

Murdoch University students and staff are governed by University legislation and policy, irrespective of location. TNE students are Murdoch students in all respects, and as such, TNE students are entitled to benefits comparable to those enjoyed by onshore students.

### **1. Approval of TNE Contracts and Courses**

- 1.1. Parties that represent Murdoch University by providing TNE are bound by formal contracts.
- 1.2. Prior to the negotiation of TNE contracts and contract renewals, the relevant college(s) must be consulted regarding academic requirements and key business parameters. This requirement applies to new offerings with existing partners at existing locations, and planned offerings with new partners or at new locations, and aims to ensure that any course is delivered successfully and profitably, with minimum risk.

1.3. TNE courses must only be approved if:

- 1.3.1. teaching facilities will be at an appropriate standard to support the proposed activity, and this determination is based on relevant external benchmarking;
  - 1.3.2. library services will be at an appropriate standard to support the proposed activity, and this determination is based on relevant external benchmarking;
  - 1.3.3. IT facilities and support will be adequate and at an appropriate standard to support the proposed activity;
  - 1.3.4. the supervision of student experiences will meet Murdoch's quality standards;
  - 1.3.5. the student experience is comparable to that offered domestically;
  - 1.3.6. the provision of the TNE course would meet *Higher Education Standards Framework* requirements; and
  - 1.3.7. the *TNE Course Offerings with Partners Procedure* has been complied with.
- 1.4. Courses offered transnationally need not be limited to the same courses offered domestically.
- 1.5. A language of instruction other than English can be approved however consideration must be given to the additional support requirements for delivery and administration of the course. Quality assurance standards and mechanisms must also be identified to ensure the experience and learning outcomes are comparable to offerings with an English language of instruction.

## **2. Course Entry**

2.1. The University Handbook must:

- 2.1.1. specify the language of instruction of the TNE course;
- 2.1.2. specify the location of the TNE course and when the course is offered;
- 2.1.3. indicate any difference between the onshore and TNE versions of a course; and
- 2.1.4. make clear if units are offered as part of a formal offshore course agreement.

2.2. The University must provide students with equivalent opportunities for successful transition into their course of study, irrespective of whether the course is offered in a domestic or international location.

## **3. Academic Management**

- 3.1. The Dean Academic Operations or delegate will approve the appointment of all affiliate staff for their college's transnational unit offerings, in consultation with the relevant unit coordinator. Affiliate staff must have adequate qualifications and academic background in the discipline to meet current higher education standards, and be fluent in the language of instruction.
- 3.2. The Deans Singapore and Dubai must ensure the University's policies and procedures are complied with at locations within their portfolio of responsibility.
- 3.3.** The TNE Liaison Team must prepare an appropriate teaching calendar to suit the transnational partner and onshore teaching requirements. This calendar must be developed annually in consultation with the Secretary to Academic Council and must be approved by Academic Council.

## **4. Risk and Contractual Management**

- 4.1. The Pro Vice Chancellor (Transnational Education) (PVC TNE) must develop and review a risk management plan for TNE locations on an annual basis.

- 4.2. The Office of the PVC TNE is responsible for managing TNE contracts and must ensure there is always an agreement in effect for each TNE course offered by the University, in accordance with the *TNE Contract Management Procedure*.
- 4.3. The University is responsible for monitoring the performance of TNE partners and ensures prompt corrective action is taken in the event or likelihood of misrepresentation or unethical conduct.
- 4.4. The University must have contingency plans in the event of a failure of third party agreement.

## **5. Curriculum**

- 5.1. A unit offered both onshore and transnationally must have comparable unit content leading to equivalent learning outcomes, across all locations. See the *Units Policy*.
- 5.2. A unit offered both onshore and transnationally must have comparable contact time, pattern of classes (lectures and workshops) and class sizes, unless specifically approved in accordance with the *Curriculum Policy*. Any variation must ensure that equivalent learning outcomes are achieved.
- 5.3. The University must provide students with equivalent opportunities for successful progression through their course of study, irrespective of whether the course is offered in a domestic or international location.

## **6. Teaching**

- 6.1. Unit evaluations will be administered at transnational locations in accordance with University policy. The results of surveys shall be reported to the Unit Coordinator, the Dean of the TNE location, the Deans Learning and Teaching and affiliate staff with teaching responsibilities.
- 6.2. Teaching evaluations should be available for affiliate staff in the TNE environment.
- 6.3. All Murdoch staff identified as having TNE involvement in their current role must be provided with appropriate professional development.

## **7. Learning Resources and Environment**

- 7.1. Secure access to electronic information and adequate electronic communication services, including training, must be made available to students and staff.
- 7.2. Learning resources must not present unexpected barriers, costs, or technology requirements for TNE students.
- 7.3.** The Director Student and Library Services is responsible for assessing the availability of appropriate IT and library resources offered at each transnational location, and advising the TNE Liaison Team of these requirements.
- 7.4. The Dean Academic Operations or delegate is responsible for assessing specific course related resources required for their TNE courses and for advising the TNE Liaison Team and/or the Director Student and Library Services of these requirements.
- 7.5. The learning environment and activities must support academic interactions among students outside of formal teaching.
- 7.6. Teaching facilities are reviewed at annual contract renewals, in four yearly cycles, and with biennial site visits.

## **8. Student Support**

- 8.1. TNE students will have ongoing access to teaching staff, regardless of the student's location, with the first point of contact being the local affiliate lecturer. Both Murdoch staff and affiliate staff will be responsible for making known their

availability to TNE students. Where necessary, the Unit Coordinator will provide guidance to local teaching staff in regard to student support.

- 8.2. The Dean of the TNE location, in consultation with the partner, will ensure the TNE students have access to student learning support services in areas including but not limited to, mental health and wellbeing, access to emergency services, health, counselling, financial and legal advice, accommodation, welfare services, and safety and security on campus.

## **9. Quality Assurance**

- 9.1. The University will remain fully accountable for a unit or course of study when it is offered by another party on behalf of the University.
- 9.2. The PVC TNE will conduct an annual review to monitor compliance with the terms of each offshore course agreement and compliance with Higher Education Standards.

## **Performance Indicators:**

1. TNE courses provide equivalent, or more opportunities to students as onshore courses.
2. TNE courses are developed and delivered in a manner consistent with the University's policies, procedures and practices.

## **Related Documents:**

[Academic Due Diligence Procedure](#)

[Advanced Standing Policy](#)

[Assessment Policy 2016 August 01](#)

[Award Nomenclature, Certification and Issuance Policy](#)

[College Regulations](#)

[Coursework Regulations: Effective from 1 January 2018](#)

[English Language Policy](#)

[Graduate Attributes \(refer to <https://goto.murdoch.edu.au/GraduateAttributes>\)](#)

[Higher Education Standards Framework 2015](#)

[Internationalisation Policy](#)

[Language of Instruction Procedure](#)

[Quality Assurance and Improvement Policy](#)

[Recordkeeping Policy](#)

[Student Appeals Policy](#)

[Student Code of Conduct](#)

[Student Disability Policy](#)

[TEQSA Guidance Note: Third-Party Arrangements](#)

[TNE Contract Management Procedure](#)

[TNE Course Offerings with Partners Procedure](#)

[TNE Financial Management Procedure](#)

[Units Policy](#)
**References:**

There are no references.

**Approval and Implementation:**

<b>Approval Authority:</b>	Academic Council	
<b>Responsible Officer(s):</b>	Secretary to Academic Council	
<b>Approval Authority for supporting procedures:</b>	Academic Due Diligence Procedure	Pro Vice Chancellor International
	Language of Instruction Procedure	Chair of University Education Committee
	TNE Course Offering with Partners Procedure	PVC TNE
	TNE Contract Management Procedure	PVC TNE
	TNE Financial Management Procedure	Chief Financial Officer
<b>Approval Authority for supporting guidelines:</b>	There are no supporting guidelines.	
<b>Approval Authority for supporting standards:</b>	There are no supporting standards.	
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Secretary to Academic Council	

**Revision History:**

Approved/ Amended/ Rescinded	Date Approved	Effective Date	Next Review Date	Resolution No. (if applicable)
Administrative amendments	11/08/2020			
Approved	29/01/2020			AC/06/2020
Additional amendments approved by PAC	28/03/2019			AC/16/2019(ii)
Approved by AC	12/03/2019		12/03/2022	AC/16/2019(ii)
Administrative amendments	31/05/2018		05/11/2017	

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Approved	05/11/2014		05/11/2017	AC/147/2014(i)
Rescinded AC/171/2011(i)	05/11/2014			AC/147/2014(ii)
Postponed Review Date	25/07/2013		01/01/2014	LTC/28/2013(i)
Approved	09/11/2011		01/01/2013	AC/171/2011(i)
Rescinded AC/11/2010(i)	09/11/2011			AC/171/2011(ii)
Approved	27/01/2010			AC/11/2010(i)