

ARTICULATIONS 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:

The purpose of this policy is to govern the establishment, approval, monitoring and management of Articulation Arrangements.

This policy distinguishes Articulation Arrangements from credit awarded as the result of advanced standing in recognition of prior learning.

Audience:

Staff, students, partner organisations, public

Objectives:

- To ensure the University does not disadvantage students in achieving the required course learning outcomes or compromise the integrity of courses.
- To ensure that Murdoch University creates equivalent opportunities for academic success regardless of student's backgrounds.
- To support the establishment of sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships.
- To ensure the University meets the credit and recognition of prior learning requirements of the *Higher Education Standards*, and the *Australian Qualifications Framework Qualifications Pathways Policy*.

Definitions:

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

- "Articulation Arrangement" is a formal agreement with a partner organisation to admit students to a Murdoch University course upon meeting defined criteria. An Articulation Arrangement may provide automatic entry to or credit towards an Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF) qualification offered by Murdoch University.
- "Block Credit" describes a circumstance where a student is given credit points to use towards a course of study in recognition of prior learning, and the amount of credit points is enough to replace more than one Unit.

Policy:

1. Murdoch University is committed to maintaining its academic standards, the quality of the student learning experience and the reputation of its awards.
2. The Academic Council of the University has delegated oversight of the policy and procedures governing Articulation Arrangements to the Academic Courses and Admissions Committee.
3. Murdoch University is strongly committed to access and social justice and believes in creating equivalent opportunities for academic success regardless of student's backgrounds. The University recognises learning regardless of how, when and where it was acquired. We maintain multiple pathways into and between qualifications for all students and to work with a wide range of partners to remove unnecessary barriers to student progression.
4. Murdoch University systematically enters into Articulation Arrangements with both state funded and private institutions to maximise the Credit available for eligible students. The selection of partner organisations takes into account the following to ensure that the quality and sustainability of their provision is assured:
 - 4.1. The track record of the partner in the delivery of taught programs including the quality of supervision of students;
 - 4.2. The partner's approach to academic integrity;
 - 4.3. The legal and financial status of the partner entity; and
 - 4.4. The regulatory and/or accreditation status of the partner entity.
5. No individual Articulation Arrangement shall be approved without the endorsement of the relevant Head of Discipline.
6. Where an Articulation Arrangement is assessed for eligibility as an entry pathway, evaluation shall establish equivalence with the University's published entry requirements.
7. The University may award Block Credit for a course in the same or a related discipline where the prior study is credibly assessed as being at, or approaching, the *Australian Qualifications Framework* (AQF) level of the course award. The University will only award Block Credit where:
 - 7.1. students are not disadvantaged in progressively and coherently achieving all required learning outcomes of the course;
 - 7.2. the integrity of the course and qualification is maintained;
 - 7.3. the students have prior learning that demonstrates advanced knowledge and inquiry consistent with the level of study and required course learning outcomes;
 - 7.4. full information about the prior learning is considered, including the form the learning took, the volume of learning, the course content, and how the learning was approached and assessed;
 - 7.5. the prior learning provided sufficient foundations of learning;
 - 7.6. students still have equal opportunities for successful transition into and through a course of study;

- 7.7. the decision is academically defensible, informed by evidence, it is fair, equitable and transparent, and the consequences of the decision are evaluated;
- 7.8. the prior learning is not out-of-date;
- 7.9. it is awarded in accordance with Coursework Regulations requirements; and
- 7.10. there are no conflicting professional accreditation requirements.
- 8. The University must apply Articulations Arrangement decisions consistently and decisions may be subject to appeal and review.
- 9. The University must not award excessive amounts of Block Credit that could compromise a student's ability to achieve all intended course learning outcomes or compromise the integrity of a course. As such:
 - 9.1. The University should offer up to 36 credit points for an Advanced Diploma or Associate Degree linked to a three or a four year Bachelor Award Course;
 - 9.2. The University should offer up to 24 credit points for a Diploma linked to either a three or a four year Bachelor Award Course;
 - 9.3. The Credit awarded for study outside of the University must not account for more than two thirds of credit points for an Award Course except:
 - 9.3.1. in the case of discrete Bachelor Honours Award Courses, where a maximum of six credit points can be awarded for study outside of the University; or
 - 9.3.2. where a variation has been approved for an Award offered in collaboration with other universities.
- 10. It is recognised that course structures differ widely, so holistic evaluation of the curriculum and learning outcomes is conducted rather than a unit by unit comparison.
- 11. The Credit offered and remaining requirements for achievement of the qualification shall be clearly defined as part of the Arrangement.
- 12. Where assessment results in a determination that block credit of fewer than 24 points at undergraduate level or 12 points at postgraduate level may be awarded, the *Advanced Standing Policy* shall apply.
- 13. Articulation Arrangements are regularly reviewed at intervals not normally exceeding three years. The review process shall include evaluation of the effectiveness of the articulation in collaboration with the partner organisation (this will include progression and retention of students).
- 14. Murdoch University is committed to efficient, effective and transparent processes and procedures. To this end:
 - 14.1. The evidence and supporting documentation required are purposeful, succinct and consistent;
 - 14.2. Decisions regarding Articulation Arrangements are made in a timely manner;

- 14.3. Articulation Arrangements are formally documented on a register, approved, and are clear and transparent to students; and
 - 14.4. Students admitted to the University under an approved Articulation Arrangement shall not be subject to any additional assessment for the purposes of admission or meeting prerequisite requirements, except:
 - 14.4.1. all Articulation Arrangements shall include the requirement for students to meet the University's English language competency requirements.
 - 14.5. A list of approved Articulation Arrangements shall be made publicly available in a timely manner.
15. The University must correctly record credit granted on a student's individual record.
16. The University must correctly record credit granted on a student's academic transcript.

Performance Indicators:

- The number of students entering Murdoch University on Articulation Arrangements and successfully completing an award and meeting all required learning outcomes of a course.
- The University meets the credit and recognition of prior learning requirements of the *Higher Education Standards*, and the *Australian Qualifications Framework Qualifications Pathways Policy*.

Related Documents:

[Advanced Standing Policy](#)

[Admissions \(Coursework\) Policy](#)

[Australian Qualifications Framework](#)

[Australian Qualifications Framework Qualifications Pathways Policy](#)

[Coursework Regulations](#)

[Higher Education Standards Framework 2015](#)

[Student Appeals Policy](#)

[Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency \(TEQSA\) Guidance Note: Credit and Recognition of Prior Learning](#)

Approval and Implementation:

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| Approval Authority: | Academic Council |
| Responsible Officer(s): | Manager Partnerships |
| Approval Authority for supporting procedures: | Academic Courses and Admissions Committee |

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| Approval Authority for supporting guidelines: | Academic Courses and Admissions Committee |
| Approval Authority for supporting standards: | There are no supporting standards |
| Contact Officer: | Manager Partnerships |

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