

International Student Handbook

Alpha Institute

02 7229 1539

info@alphainstitute.edu.au

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WELCOME

We invite you to join us for your journey into study in Australia.

Our business courses endeavour to break down the classroom walls that shadow course content from the real world of business. We do this by integrating excursions and case studies of real organisations into our delivery. Whilst we fastidiously follow the prescribed competencies, knowledge, skills and other conditions in the official course 'training package', we use anecdotal examples of real organisations and practical observation of real-world activity to demonstrate concepts.

Furthermore, we endeavour to adopt delivery strategies that reflect the needs of our students and their career goals.

On occasions we have special tuition rates and multiple course rates to assist international students with the financial burden associated with study in Australia. Please contact our office for information.

We congratulate you on making the first step towards study in Australia and welcome you to explore our Academy and our courses.

Reazul Azim

Chief Executive Officer

Sydney Campus

Level 6, 51 Druitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000, Australia

Phone: +61 2 7229 1539

Canberra Campus

17 Oatley Ct

Belconnen, ACT, 2617, Australia

Phone: +61 2 5134 2966

Our Parramatta campus conveniently located close to Parramatta CBD, restaurants, shopping centres and a wide range of sporting and recreational facilities, the Parramatta campus is only 23km away from Sydney CBD.

Car parking is available. Fees are generally charged for parking, visit [Wilson Parking](#) website.

STUDYING THROUGH ALPHA INSTITUTE

The Alpha Institute is committed to the success of its international students. The Academy offers a wide range of support services for students throughout their studies at Alpha Institute. Computer are available on site with access to on-line library resources. A small book library is also available.

Orientation Sessions

Many students find life in Australia quite different from life in their home country so Alpha Institute organises orientation activities to help students become familiar with Australian culture and customs and to introduce students to the Academy and its services. All students will attend an orientation information session. This session details many aspects of living and studying in Sydney and introduces students to life in Australia. Orientation sessions include information about enrolment, facilities and services available at Alpha Institute, Australian culture and customs, safety in Sydney and how to find employment. Orientation sessions are a great way of meeting other students.

Wireless @ Alpha Institute

Alpha Institute offers good quality and reliable wireless connectivity across its campus for both staff and students. Wireless connectivity provides users with internet traffic only and is available for access seven days a week.

Cost of Living

Sydney is a reasonably priced city providing good quality and affordable accommodation. Students will need \$21,041 per year (excluding tuition) to cover living expenses including accommodation, food, transport, entertainment, clothing and books. For partners coming with you, students would need additional \$7,362 and for a child coming with you, students would also need additional \$3,152 per year.

Accommodation costs range from \$90 to \$440 per week. Food costs about \$80 to \$280 per week and transport can cost \$30-60 per week. More information, please visit Living costs in Australia website:

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/living-costs>

Medical Services

Doctors and medical rooms are available in the Sydney Central Business District (CBD). Appointments should be made for consultations with doctors. However, medical emergencies may also be directed to the emergency departments of the major hospitals. There may be a charge depending on student's Health Insurance. Contact Medical Centres directly for details.

Overseas Student Health Cover

As an international student, it is a condition of your student visa that you have Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the entire duration of the stay in Australia. OSHC provides access to out of hospital and in hospital medical services to help maintain the health of students whilst studying in Australia.

Counselling Services

A Counsellor is available to assist international students with personal and study problems and to provide educational and vocational counselling. Students receive full assistance to achieve their study goals in Australia including transfers from and to Alpha Institute. Most in-house counselling services at Alpha Institute are at no extra cost. However, some external services may attract a fee. Please contact student support office.

Student Banking

International Students can now open a bank account before they arrive in Australia. Most leading banks offer a comprehensive range of personal, business and institutional banking products and services. By choosing a major Australian bank, students can be assured their money is safe; and bank branches, ATMs and other banking services are conveniently accessible.

For further information on how to open a bank account online, simply visit any of the major four banks listed below or one of the smaller banks:

Commonwealth Bank of Australia <https://www.commbank.com.au/personal/can/moving-to-australia.html>

Westpac Bank

<http://www.westpac.com.au/personal-banking/student-banking/s-international-students/organise-australian-bank-acc/>

ANZ Bank

<http://www.anz.com/personal/bank-accounts/banking-for-life-changes/international-students/>

National Australia Bank (NAB)

<https://www.nationalaustraliabank.com/nabglobal/en/banking/migrant-banking/study-in-australia>

Smaller Banks

There are also a number of other banks, including, Citi Bank, Adelaide Bank, Bank of Queensland, Bank of Sydney, Bankwest, Bank SA, Bendigo Bank, St George Bank, ME Bank and Suncorp Bank.

Further information may be sourced at 'Studies in Australia':

<http://www.studiesinaustralia.com/studying-in-australia/banking-in-australia>

Cafeterias

Cafeterias are situated all over Sydney CBD within walking distance of our Campus.

Education and Childcare

Students who are coming to Australia with family members need to be aware of the costs associated with education and childcare in Sydney. Students are advised to research the resources available prior to arrival in Australia. The following websites offer detailed information:

- Study Sydney (NSW) - this website provides information on the services offered in Sydney, NSW and has plenty of information for international students: <https://www.study.sydney/live>
- Find and Early Childhood Service or School: mychild.gov.au

My School: www.myschool.edu.au

Our Vision

Our vision is to offer courses to that meet the expectations of students with flexibility of study, work focused material and assessment and reasonable cost.

Our Mission

We encourage our students to pursue meaningful study that will foster a strong contribution to their community within Australia and their home countries and to build a foundation for lifelong learning. We encourage free and open thinking, critical evaluation of knowledge and information and balanced opinion and conclusion.

Alpha Institute operates under the ESOS Act 2000. For details, you can visit:

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/regulatory-information/pages/regulatoryinformation.aspx>

OUR OBLIGATION AS AN RTO AND CRICOS EDUCATION PROVIDER

As a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) and CRICOS Education Provider registered with Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), we have an obligation to ensure the quality of the nationally recognised training and assessment we deliver. We must comply at all times with the Standards for RTOs 2015, which are part of the VET Quality Framework, as well as the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 and the National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018 (National Code).

To ensure compliance we have developed comprehensive internal policies, procedures and systems that guide our compliant operations and we must participate in audits with ASQA upon their request. In addition, we must ensure that any third parties that we work with who have any involvement in your training and assessment comply as well. This includes our training partners, marketing brokers and sales people where applicable.

As the RTO we have the responsibility to issue your AQF certification documents in line with our issuance policy as outlined in this Handbook.

If at any time you feel we have not met our obligations as an RTO, you have the right to make a complaint following our Complaints and Appeals Policy outlined further on in this Handbook.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Alpha Institute - Main Contact Details

Canberra Campus address: 17 Oatley Ct, BELCONNEN, ACT, 2617

Sydney Campus address: Level 6, 51 Druitt St, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: 0272291539

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm

International Student Support Officer:

Noora GAO

Contact: info@alphainstitute.edu.au

Emergency Telephone Numbers: 0451952116

Police, Fire, Ambulance – Dial 000

Department of Home Affairs (DHA)

Dial 131 881

COURSES PROVIDED BY ALPHA INSTITUTE

Alpha Institute currently offers the following courses:

Course code and title

- General English
- BSB50215 Diploma of Business
- BSB40520 Certificate IV in Leadership and Management
- BSB50420 Diploma of Leadership and Management
- BSB61015 Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management
- BSB80615 Graduate Diploma of Management (Learning)

Please refer to the International Student Prospectus document for all the information pertaining to each course listed above.

COURSE LOCATIONS

Third Party Arrangements Sydney Campus

Level 6, 51 Druitt St, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

Phone: +61 2 72291539

Canberra Campus

17 Oatley Ct

Belconnen, ACT, 2617, Australia

Phone: +61 2 5134 2966

Our Sydney campus conveniently located in the Sydney City, restaurants, shopping centres and a wide range of sporting and recreational facilities.

Car parking is available. Fees are generally charged for parking, visit [Wilson Parking](#) website.

SELECTION AND ENROLMENT

Alpha Institute accepts applications from all students who meet the entry requirements published in the course information. Applications are accepted on a first come, first served basis but if a course is full, you will be offered a place in a course starting at a later date.

To apply to enrol in a course, you must complete an Application Form first. Please contact admissions@alphainstitute.edu.au to obtain an Application Form and all the required documents that you need to send to Alpha Institute.

If you are applying for Course Credit you should indicate this on your enrolment and supply certified copies of your transcripts so we can assess your application for Credit. See the section on Credits in this Handbook below.

Once you have completed your Application Form and gathered all the necessary evidence, send it to admissions@alphainstitute.edu.au. You will be contacted within 10 working days to let you know the status of your application/ enrolment and to confirm your details.

UNIQUE STUDENT IDENTIFIER (USI)

Unique Student Identifier (USI)

A Unique Student Identifier (USI) is a reference number made up of numbers and letters that creates a lifetime record for an individual of all the nationally recognized training that has been completed. Under the Unique Student Identifiers Act 2014, all RTOs must ensure they have a valid USI for any student that enrolls in nationally recognised training from 2015. This means (unless you have an exemption issued by the USI registrar) that as a student you must either:

- Provide us with your USI, or
- Provide us with permission to access or create your USI on your behalf.

For information about exemptions for individuals please review this webpage:

<https://www.usi.gov.au/training-organisations/training-organisation-requirements/exemptions-individuals/how-apply>

If you are providing us with permission to access or create your USI we will need a valid form of identification. The ID that you provide for this purpose will be destroyed once we have used it for this purpose.

If you would like to create your own USI, please visit: <http://www.usi.gov.au/Students/Pages/default.aspx>

We are unable to issue a qualification or a statement of attainment unless we have a valid USI or a notice of exemption from the registrar.

CREDITS

A credit is formal recognition of the previous studies you have completed for the purpose of reducing the units or modules that you are required to complete in the course you are enrolled in with us.

Alpha Institute can grant you credit towards your course for units of competency or modules that you have already completed with another RTO or authorised issuing organisation. We can also grant you Credit for subjects or units you have completed where equivalence can be established between the unit/ module in your course, and the subject or unit you have completed.

To apply, fill in the Credit Application Form and submit it as part of your enrolment/application. You can apply for Credit at any time however it is best you do this as part of your enrolment so that Credits are known upfront and you are not required to do any work that you otherwise may not have needed to do.

Make sure you attach certified copies of transcripts from your previous study. In some cases, we may ask for additional information about the subject or unit you previously studied so we can determine equivalence. Your Credit Application may be returned to you if you don't provide the required information.

In some cases, Credits may lead to a reduction in the course fees as there is less work involved in offering your course. This will be advised to you in writing.

You will be advised in writing of the outcome of your Credit Application.

VISAS

Once you receive your electronic Confirmation of Enrolment, you will need to apply for your visa. Information about applying for a visa can be found at:

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud>

This document explains the process for application, evidence that you must provide (including a valid passport), information on student visa conditions, permission to work, Overseas Student Health Cover and charges associated with the visa application. You may wish to use a registered migration agent to assist you with the process of applying for a course to arrival at Alpha Institute and including assistance with visas.

Ensure that you allow enough time between lodging your application and the start of your course, as applying for a visa can be a lengthy process.

If your visa is not approved, you will receive a refund for the fees that you have paid except the enrolment fee.

VISA CONDITIONS

If you are granted a visa, you must abide by its conditions. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in the cancellation of your visa. See more information at the following link:

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud>

Conditions include (but are not limited to) that you must:

- Satisfy attendance and/or course progress requirements and maintain a valid enrolment for your chosen course of study.
- Only work if you have been given permission to do so as part of your visa grant.
- Maintain approved Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) while in Australia
- Notify your training provider of your Australian address and any subsequent changes of address within 7 days.
- Complete the course within the duration specified in the CoE.
- If you are a student visa holder under 18 years of age who is neither being accompanied nor staying with a relative who is at least 21 years of age, you must not change your accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements without the written approval of your education provider.
- Remain with the principal education provider for 6 months unless you are issued with a letter of release from the education provider to attend another institution.

ARRANGING TRAVEL AND DOCUMENTS TO BRING

Costs of travelling to Australia are not included in your course fees and you will need to arrange and pay for your travel to Australia. You should plan to arrive in Canberra/Parramatta campus at least 2 weeks before your course orientation to give you time to settle in.

You will need to prepare a folder of official documents to bring with you to Australia including:

- Valid passport including a valid student visa
- Your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)
- Insurance policies
- Original or certified copies of documents such as your birth certificate, medical records and educational qualifications as advised by Alpha Institute at the time of confirmation of enrolment.

If you are travelling with your family you will need to include their documents as well. Keep all documents in your carry-on luggage. In case you lose the originals, make copies that can be left behind with family and sent to you.

ENTRY INTO AUSTRALIA

When you arrive in Australia, you will need to show your passport and incoming passenger card at a Customs and Immigration checkpoint. You may be asked questions about your stay before your passport is stamped and handed back.

Once you have passed through the Immigration checkpoint, you should collect your bags ensuring that you check your baggage and check that nothing is missing or damaged. If something is missing or you notice damage, go to the baggage counter and advise them of your problem. Staff at the baggage counter will help you to find missing baggage or lodge a claim for damage to your belongings.

Once you have your luggage you will go through customs where your luggage may be checked. Australia has strict quarantine laws to stop people from bringing in certain food and plant items. You should declare any items that you are bringing in on the form given to you on the plane. If customs officers decide that the item you are bringing in is not safe, they will be confiscated and destroyed. If you fail to declare or dispose of any quarantine items, or make a false declaration, you may receive a fine or be prosecuted. All international mail is also screened and checked by customs.

If you want further information, visit the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) website at www.aqis.gov.au

ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA

Getting from Location airport to your accommodation

Keeping in contact

Before you leave home, you should provide your family and friends, and your education provider in Australia, with details of your flights to Australia and where you will be staying when you arrive. (Do not change these details without informing them.) Once you have arrived in Australia, you should then let your family and friends know that you have arrived safely. For safety reasons, always let someone know where you are.

Arranging your finances

The currency of Australia is the Australian Dollar. Ideally, you should change your money into Australian dollars before you arrive but if you haven't you will need to change some as soon as you arrive – you will usually be able to do this at the airport.

Once you have arrived into Canberra/Parramatta campus you can also change more money into Australian dollars at any bank or currency exchange. Note, however, that banks are not open on the weekend and while airport currency exchanges are generally open, the rate is usually not as good as with a bank.

You should not carry large sums of money with you and it is best to only have the money that you will need for the first few days and then arrange to have the rest of the funds transferred to you in Australia.

The amount you will need to bring with you will depend on whether you have already paid for your accommodation before you arrive. Think about how much money you will need to last you for a couple of weeks.

Find out more about money matters by visiting <http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/en/Living-in-Australia/Money-Matters>

HEALTH

Emergencies

For emergencies such as fire, ambulance or police, phone 000. When you dial 000, you will be asked whether you want fire, ambulance or police and why you want this assistance. You will also be asked for your name and address and telephone number.

Australia police protect people and properties, detect and prevent crime, and preserve peace for everyone. They are not connected to the military or politics. The police can help you feel safe.

Fire

The fire brigade extinguishes fires, rescues people from fires in cars and buildings, and helps in situations where gas or chemicals become a danger. As soon as a fire starts call 000 no matter how small or large the fire may be.

Ambulance

Ambulances provide immediate medical attention in an emergency and emergency transportation to hospital. To access an ambulance, call 000.

Medical assistance

Emergency medical treatment is available 24 hours a day at the emergency or casualty department of a public hospital, or at some medical centres. Public and private hospitals are listed in the White Pages telephone directory under 'Hospitals' and you can also find them by searching on the internet. If you need to go to hospital, remember to bring your health insurance card and any medicines you are currently taking. For anything other than an emergency, seek medical help from a general practitioner (GP) or local medical centre.

Overseas Student Health Cover

Australia has a special system of health cover for international students called Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC). You will need to buy OSHC before you come to Australia to cover you from when you arrive. The Department of Home Affairs (DHA) requires you to maintain OSHC for the duration of your time on a student visa in Australia.

You can choose to take out OSHC with a provider recommended by us, or with the Australian OSHC provider of your choice. There are five providers of OSHC in Australia. Visit these websites to find detailed information on what they cover and to decide which provider is right for you.

- Australian Health Management OSHC www.ahmoshc.com
- BUPA Australia www.overseasstudenthealth.com
- Medibank Private www.medibank.com.au/Client/StaticPages/OSHCHome.aspx
- OSHC Worldcare www.oshcworldcare.com.au
- NIB OSHC www.nib.com.au/home/newtonib/overseasstudents

Your OSHC will help you pay for any medical or hospital care you may need while you're studying in Australia, and it will contribute towards the cost of most prescription medicines, and an ambulance in an emergency.

LIVING COSTS IN AUSTRALIA

Migration regulations in Australia require international students to show evidence that they can contribute to the cost of living and studying in Australia. This helps to ensure students are better able to make the most of their studies and have a safe and enjoyable experience in Australia.

While international students are able to supplement their income with money earned through part-time work in Australia, the 'living costs' requirement helps to support the success of students in their studies by ensuring that they don't have to rely on such work to meet all their expenses.

Students must demonstrate that the funds they are relying upon to meet the costs of studying in Australia will be genuinely available to them during their stay in Australia.

The following web site includes information about average living costs in Australia:

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/living-costs>

Carefully review the information at the web site link noting that the figures provided are average only and that costs can vary significantly depending on where you live in Australia. You should be prepared in case your living costs are greater than the indicated figures.

BUDGETING

Once you've settled in, you should ideally work out a budget that covers costs including clothing, food, accommodation, transport and entertainment, travel costs and child care, if applicable.

Costs associated with living in Australia are included at:

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/living-costs>

It is important to be aware of how much money you spend and where you are spending it. Sticking to a budget will ensure you are on top of where your money goes.

Read more about budgeting at www.understandingmoney.gov.au

WORKING IN AUSTRALIA

Most student visa holder can work up to 40 hours a fortnight during term time and as many hours as you like during holidays. Before you undertake any paid work you need to make sure your visa allows you to work. Find out more at the <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud>

You should also visit the following website to find out more about working in Australia, including your employment rights and conditions.

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/working>

If you require any further information about your workplace rights and obligations, for example, resolving a workplace dispute, visit the Fair Work Ombudsman site at www.fairwork.gov.au

YOUR SAFETY

Australia is a safe country. However, its always best to take precautions. Read the information at the following web site about personal safety tips:

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/english/live-in-australia/health-and-safety/personal>

You should also review the section in this Handbook about health and safety and remember to listen carefully to all of the information provided to you at your orientation.

If an incident occurs that has a significant impact on your well-being, please speak to us immediately at the contact numbers provided. An incident may be both physical or psychological.

SHOPPING

All Australian major town centres and capital cities shopping facilities with opening hours generally 9.00am to 5.30pm seven days a week, with late night shopping until 9.00pm on Thursdays or Fridays. Some supermarkets are open 24 hours a day seven days a week.

Mainstream grocery stores in Australia include Coles, Woolworths, Foodworks, IGA and Aldi. Major department stores in Australia include Myer and David Jones, Big W, Kmart and Target.

CLOTHING

While there are no set rules on clothing in Australia, however many workplaces, restaurants, clubs and bars have a dress code. Australian people generally dress in modern clothing influenced by personal taste, status, place of work, lifestyle and location.

The cost of clothing in Australia can vary. There are a number of quality variety stores such as K-Mart and Big W where you can find low cost clothing and shoes of all varieties. Department and specialty stores such as Myer and David Jones carry more expensive higher end clothing labels.

For more information about the cost of living, visit the Study in Australia website at:

<http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/global/live-in-australia/living-costs>

COURSE ORIENTATION SESSION

The below may differ depending on your delivery mode and offering. Adjust accordingly.

At the start of your course will be provided with an orientation. The orientation will provide you with specific details about your course requirements, important dates and will be an opportunity to meet your trainer and the other students in your course.

As an international student you will also be provided with information on:

- details of internal and external support services available to assist in the transition into life and study in Australia. Such services include welfare services, accommodation services, academic and career advice, IT support, and student learning assistance, English language support and social inclusion activities.
- legal, emergency and health services
- safety and awareness relevant to life in Australia
- information on how to seek assistance for and report an incident that impacts significantly on your well-being, including critical incidents
- facilities and resources
- organisational policies and procedures including course progress, deferral, suspension and cancellation, course transfer and complaints and appeals.

- any student visa conditions relating to course progress and attendance.

The orientation session will also provide you with important information about health and safety requirements including emergency evacuation procedures, critical incidents and incident reporting (see section in this handbook on health and safety), as well as a range of other important matters relating to your rights and responsibilities as a student.

The orientation also provides an opportunity for you to ask any questions you might have about studying with us. During this session, we also make sure that we have all the required forms and paperwork filled in.

At your orientation you will receive your first set of learning materials so that you can start on your learning journey.

General housekeeping arrangements are also discussed as stated in the section below.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Student Rights

All students are expected to abide by this Code of Conduct during their participation in their course with Alpha Institute. Students who do not abide by this Code of Conduct will be followed up through the disciplinary procedures

1. Students' rights

All students have the right to:

- Be treated fairly and with respect by all students and staff.
- Learn in a supportive environment which is free from harassment, discrimination and victimisation.
- Learn in a healthy and safe environment where the risks to personal health and safety are minimised.
- Have their personal details and records kept private and secure according to our Privacy Policy.
- Access the information Alpha Institute holds about them.
- Have their complaints and appeals dealt with fairly, promptly, confidentially and without retribution.
- Make appeals about procedural and assessment decisions.
- Receive training, assessment and support services that meet their individual needs.
- Be given clear and accurate information about their course, training and assessment arrangements and their progress.
- Access the support they need to effectively participate in their training program.
- Provide feedback to Alpha Institute on the client services, training, assessment and support services they receive.
- Be informed of any changes to agreed services, and how it affects them as soon as practicable.

2. Students' responsibilities

All students, throughout their training and involvement with Alpha Institute, are expected to:

- Treat all people with fairness and respect and not do anything that could offend, embarrass or threaten others.
- Not harass, victimise, discriminate against or disrupt others.
- Treat all others and their property with respect.
- Respect the opinions and backgrounds of others.
- Follow all safety policies and procedures as directed by staff.

- Report any perceived safety risks as they become known.
- Not bring into any premises being used for training purposes, any articles or items that may threaten the safety of self or others.
- Notify us if any of their personal or contact details change.
- Provide relevant and accurate information to Alpha Institute in a timely manner.
- Approach their course with due personal commitment and integrity.
- Complete all assessment tasks, learning activities and assignments honestly and without plagiarism or infringing on copyright laws.
- Hand in all assessment tasks, assignments and other evidence of their work with a completed and signed cover sheet.
- Make regular contact with their Trainer/Assessor.
- Prepare appropriately for all assessment tasks, visits and training sessions.
- Notify Alpha Institute if any difficulties arise as part of their involvement in the program.
- Make payments for their training within agreed timeframes, where relevant.

3. Legislation

This Student Code of Conduct is informed by the following pieces of legislation, with which all students must comply.

Commonwealth

- Age Discrimination Act 2004
- National Vocational Education and Training Regulator Act 2011
- Privacy Act 1988
- Copyright Act 1968
- Age Discrimination Act 2004
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 – Education Standards 2005
- Sex Discrimination Act 1984
- Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986

New South Wales

- Corporations (Queensland) Act 1990
- Anti-Discrimination Act 1991
- Education and Training Legislation Amendment Act 2011
- Education Legislation Amendment Act 2009
- Fair Trading Act 1989
- Fair Trading Regulation 2001
- Fair Work (Commonwealth Powers) and Other Provisions Act 2009
- Industrial Relations Act 1999
- Industrial Relations Amendment Act 2009
- Information Privacy Act 2009
- Right to Information Act 2009
- Vocational Education, Training and Employment Act 2000
- Work Health & Safety Act 2011

COURSE EXPECTATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

The training and assessment offered by Alpha Institute focuses on providing you with knowledge and skills required to the standard of performance required in the workplace. This is known as competency-based training and assessment. Each of the components of your course is a “unit of competency”. You may either be studying one or a few units of competency or a set of units that make up a total qualification. Each unit of competency is linked to specific skills and knowledge required in the workplace.

Our course outlines include the details of how we deliver the training to you as well as the assessment methods that will be used to assess whether you have reached the required standard of performance.

Assessment methods vary from course to course but usually include knowledge questions and project portfolios.

ATTENDANCE AND HOMEWORK REQUIREMENTS

If you are enrolled in a class-based course, it is an expectation that you attend every class so as to not fall behind. Please notify your trainer at least 30 minutes prior to class if you are unable to attend for some reason.

There will also be an expectation that you complete a certain amount of homework each week in order to finish learning and assessment tasks required for completion of your course. Your trainer will guide you on what to do during this time and how much is expected. This is also outlined on the Course Outline.

ASSESSMENT ARRANGEMENTS

At the beginning of each unit, your assessor will go through the arrangements for assessment with you and you will be given all the details about the assessment requirements.

At this time, you will:

- Be provided with detailed assessment instructions for each task/requirement which includes the criteria that you'll be assessed against.
- Be informed of relevant due dates or timing of assessments to be conducted

Your assessor will go through all of the arrangements with you and you can ask them any questions you have.

Submitting your assessments

You must submit written assessment tasks with a completed and signed Assessment Task Cover Sheet. The cover sheet asks you to make a declaration that the work is your own. Written tasks will not be accepted without a signed cover sheet.

Assessments can be submitted directly to the trainer/assessor or sent by registered mail to:

Canberra Campus: 17 Oatley Ct, BELCONNEN, ACT, 2617

Sydney Campus: Level 6, 51 Druitt St, Sydney, NSW, 2000

You must keep a copy of all tasks that you submit as we are not able to return copies because we must keep them as evidence in your file. Additionally, we will not be held responsible for any items that go missing in the post. If this occurs, you will be asked to re-submit the work.

Written work will be marked within 30 days of receipt. Your assessor will provide you with written feedback and confirm the outcome of the task on the Task Cover Sheet.

Assessment outcomes

Each assessment task will be given an outcome of either Satisfactory (S) or Not Satisfactory (NS). You must complete all tasks for a unit satisfactorily to achieve an overall outcome of Competent (C) for a unit. If one or more of your tasks are assessed as Not Satisfactory, you will be given an overall outcome for the unit of Not Yet Competent (NYC). You can have 2 further attempts to complete the task and achieve a Satisfactory outcome. You will be given a timeframe for your resubmission and advised what you must include in your resubmission.

If, after the third attempt, you are still assessed as Not Satisfactory for a task, you will need to complete additional training and assessment to support you in achieving a Competent outcome. This may incur an additional fee for self-funded students as identified in the fees and charges information.

Reasonable adjustment in assessment

Some students may need modifications to assessments due to disability, illness or special considerations – this is called reasonable adjustment.

Reasonable adjustment can involve:

- Making training and assessment resources and methods more accessible e.g. providing learner workbooks in an audio format or on different coloured paper.
- Adapting physical facilities, environment and/or equipment e.g. setting up hearing loops.
- Making changes to the assessment arrangements e.g. more time allowed for assessments.
- Making changes to the way evidence for assessment is gathered e.g. written questions asked orally

Please speak to your assessor if you think that you may need an adjustment made. Note these adjustments are made at the discretion of your assessor based on your identified needs.

Appealing assessment decisions

If you do not agree with any assessment decision, you can lodge an assessment appeal. Please refer to the Complaints and Appeals section in this handbook for information about how to lodge an appeal.

STUDENT PLAGIARISM, CHEATING AND COLLUSION

Alpha Institute has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism, cheating and collusion. Students are expected to act with integrity at all times and only submit work that is their own or that has been appropriately referenced and includes acknowledgements of all resource materials used in the preparing the work.

When you submit your assessments, you will be required to sign a declaration that the work provided is your own and that you have not cheated or plagiarised the work or colluded with any other student/s.

If you are found to have plagiarised, cheated or colluded, you will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. If you are found to have plagiarised, cheated or colluded, we will be required to take disciplinary action which is likely to require you to complete the assessment again.

SUPPORT SERVICES

We are committed to ensuring that you get all the support you need to be successful in your studies. You may not have studied for a while and or you might need help with study skills. You may also need assistance with skills such as reading, writing and maths.

The enrolment form you complete will help us to identify any support you need and depending on the course you are enrolling in, you may also be required to complete a test that assesses your language, literacy and numeracy skills. Based on the information you provide in your enrolment and/or the results of your language, literacy and numeracy test, we will contact you to discuss your support needs.

Your support needs can also be discussed during the induction to your course.

Services that we can offer to you include:

- One to one support from our trainers/assessors including providing you with their phone and email contact details
- Classes to assist with study skills.
- Study groups where you can work with your fellow students.
- Referral to relevant external services.
- Personal counselling

Contact us at studentsupport@alphainstitute.edu.au to discuss your support needs.

WELFARE SERVICES

We can also offer you a range of welfare services to help with the mental, physical, social and spiritual well-being of international students. These services may include, through direct provision or referral, information/advice about: accommodation, counselling, crisis services, disabilities and equity issues, financial matters, legal issues, medical issues, mental health, peer mentoring, programs promoting social interaction, religious and spiritual matters, and stress-management. It may also include advice on academic and study issues.

Contact us at studentsupport@alphainstitute.edu.au for details about welfare services we can offer.

EXTERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES

For students requiring additional support with their studies, work or life, Alpha Institute provides the following referrals to community organisations who may be able to assist you. Please note that some of these services may attract a fee which is payable by you.

Reading and Writing Hotline

Telephone: 1300 655 506

Website: <http://www.literacyline.edu.au/index.html>

For the price of a local call anywhere in Australia, the Hotline can provide you with advice and a referral to one of 1200 providers of courses in adult literacy and numeracy.

Lifeline

Telephone: 13 11 14

Anyone can call Lifeline. The 13 11 14 service offers a counselling service that respects everyone's right to be heard, understood and cared for. They also provide information about other support services that are available in communities around Australia. If you feel that you might need telephone counselling, you can call about anything that might be troubling you.

Kids Help Line

Telephone: 1800 55 1800 Website: www.kidshelpline.com.au

If you're under 18 years of age you may consider contacting who provide access to telephone, web and email counselling.

Fair Work Australia

Telephone: 1300 799 675 Website: www.fwa.gov.au/index.cfm

Fair Work Australia is the national workplace relations tribunal. It is an independent body with power to carry out a range of functions relating to minimum wages, employment conditions, termination of employment and other workplace matters.

Reach Out

Website: www.reachout.com.au

Reach Out is a web-based service that inspires young people to help themselves through tough times, and find ways to boost their own mental health and wellbeing. Their aim is to improve young people's mental health and wellbeing by building skills and providing information, support and referrals in ways they know work for young people.

MAINTAINING YOUR ENROLMENT AND COURSE PROGRESS

You must meet course progress requirements in order to satisfy the conditions of your visa. These course progress requirements will be clearly explained to you during the orientation program.

Alpha Institute will assist you to meet course progress requirements by monitoring your progress and providing you with the relevant support at an early stage. Alpha Institute uses a range of methods to monitor course progress including review of participation in tuition activities and assessment tasks. Where we consider you are at risk not meeting course progress requirements, we will issue you with a first warning letter inviting you attend a meeting to discuss why you are not meeting course progress requirements and support that you required. We can provide you with a range of support from extra time to complete tasks or a reduced study load to study skills programs to meet course progress requirements. Agreed support will be documented in an Intervention Plan that both you and the Director of Studies will sign.

Following the provision of this support, if your progress is still unsatisfactory, you will be sent a second warning letter and again inviting you to a meeting to discuss why you are not still not meeting satisfactory course progress requirements and to discuss new or revised support arrangements.

Where you continue not to meet course progress requirements, you will be reported to DHA for not meeting course progress requirements. DHA will make the final decision on whether your visa will be cancelled because of your unsatisfactory course progress.

You may appeal Alpha Institute decision to report you to DHA. However, an appeal will only be considered if Alpha Institute has not recorded or calculated the student's marks correctly, has not provided appropriate support as set out in this policy, has not implemented other policies such as assessment and feedback which could impact on the student's results or there are compassionate or compelling reasons which have

contributed to the unsatisfactory progress. Circumstances that are considered to be compassionate or compelling circumstances include (but are not limited to):

- Serious illness or injury, where a medical certificate states that the student was unable to attend classes;
- Bereavement of close family members such as parents or grandparents
- Major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring emergency travel and this has impacted on the student's studies.
- A traumatic experience which has impacted on the student and which could include involvement in, or witnessing of a serious accident; and witnessing or being the victim of a serious crime. These cases should be supported by police or psychologists' reports); or
- Where Alpha Institute is unable to offer a pre-requisite unit.
- Where the student is unable to begin studying on the course commencement date due to delay in receiving a student visa.

Where your study load is reduced due to difficulties with meeting course progress requirements, this may mean that you will need to do additional subjects in future sessions to complete your course in the time specified in your student visa.

DEFERRAL, SUSPENSION AND CANCELLATION

Please refer to Deferral, Suspension and Cancellation Policy of Alpha Institute. This can be requested through student services or can be accessed via Alpha Institute website.

CHANGE IN VISA STATUS

Deferment, suspension or cancellation of a student's visa may affect the student's visa. When a student's enrolment is deferred, suspended or cancelled, Alpha Institute will notify the Department of Education and Training via the Provider Registration and International Student Management System (PRISMS) of the change in enrolment status.

Students are to refer to the DHA web site at <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/stud> or telephone 31 881 for information and their local DHA office for advice on how the potential change to enrolment status may impact upon his or her visa.

Regardless of whether the suspension of enrolment is the result of a student request for suspension or a suspension imposed by Alpha Institute, the period of suspension of enrolment (as entered in PRISMS) will not be included in attendance monitoring calculations.

Where a suspension of enrolment is granted, Alpha Institute will suspend an enrolment for an agreed period of time - to a maximum of 12 months. If the suspension is required for longer than 12 months the student shall have to re-apply once the initial suspension period has expired

If a student's enrolment is suspended for a period of 28 days or longer, the student must return home (unless special circumstances exist). Students will be referred to DHA via the DHA helpline on 131 881 regarding whether they may remain in Australia during a period of suspension of enrolment.

Alpha Institute will always use its professional judgement to assess each student's case on its individual merits when determining whether compassionate or compelling circumstances exist.

In cases, where a student's enrolment is cancelled, the student must leave Australia, obtain enrolment in an alternative course or apply for a different visa within 28 days of cessation. If the student leaves Australia, the student's visa will be cancelled. A student who has left Australia and wishes to return to his or her studies must apply for a new student visa.

YOUR FEEDBACK

Your feedback is important to us and assists in ensuring that our services meet your needs. We use feedback from students and employers to contribute to our continuous improvement processes so we are always striving to do better.

All students and employers will be provided with a Quality Indicator Survey issued by the National Centre for Vocational Education and Research (NCVER) that they are required to complete. Please help us by completing the surveys that are provided to you by your trainer/assessor. Some may also be mailed or emailed to you from our office.

We also welcome feedback from you at any time by email: info@alphainstitute.edu.au or phone: 0272291539

ACCESS TO YOUR RECORDS

You may access or obtain a copy of the records that Alpha Institute holds about you at any time. This includes personal information and records of participation and progress.

If you want to access or obtain a copy of records, you must make a request in writing to the academics@alphainstitute.edu.au using the Access to Records Request Form outlining which records you wish to access.

Access to records may be provided by:

- making copies of the records held in a file
- providing a time for you to review your file

Amendment to records

If a student considers the information that Alpha Institute holds about them to be incorrect, incomplete, out of date or misleading, they can request that the information be amended.

Where a record is found to be inaccurate, a correction will be made. Where a student requests that a record be amended because it is inaccurate but the record is found to be accurate, the details of the request for amendment will be noted on the record.

NOTIFYING CHANGES

As an RTO under the VET Quality Framework and CRICOS Education Provider under the National Code, we must notify you promptly if there are any changes to our RTO, the course, or the arrangements for training and assessment.

This would include if there were any changes of ownership, and any new third party arrangements or changes to third party arrangements that relate to your enrolment, or if we were unable to provide the services you agreed to in your Student Agreement because we are no longer able to deliver the course you have enrolled in, or no longer operating as an RTO.

If this occurs, Alpha Institute will devise a strategy to minimise impact on you and notify you of the changes and how you will be affected as soon as practicable.

Depending on the type of change, we may send a letter to your home address; send you an email, or an SMS message.

Please make sure we always have your most current home address, email address, mobile number and emergency contact on file so we can notify you of any changes if applicable.

You can let us know of any changes to your details by using the Change of Details Form. As an international student, you are required to provide this form to us within 7 days of any change occurring,

LEGISLATION AND YOU

As a student, you have both rights and responsibilities under applicable legislation.

Education Services for Overseas Students

The Australian Government wants overseas students in Australia to have a safe, enjoyable and rewarding place to study. Australia's laws promote quality education and consumer protection for overseas students. These laws are known as the ESOS Framework and they include the Education Services for Overseas (ESOS) Act 2000 and the National Code 2007. For more information about your rights and responsibilities under the ESOS Framework, visit the following website:

<https://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/global/australian-education/education-system/esos-act>

If you are unable to access this information, contact us via email or phone and we will provide the information to you.

You also have certain rights and responsibilities under the following legislation as discussed below.

Workplace Health and Safety

Under the Workplace Health and Safety Act 2011, Alpha Institute must provide a safe environment for both staff and students, as well as providing information to staff and students in relation to health and safety and welfare. Alpha Institute has policies and procedures in place to ensure your safety and on commencement of your course you will be provided with information about health and safety.

As a student you also have a responsibility to follow instructions and rules and to behave in ways that are safe and do not endanger the health and safety of others. Always ensure that you:

- Immediately report hazards to your trainer/assessor.
- Seek assistance from a member of staff if you become ill or injured on campus.
- Only assist another person who is ill or injured if it is safe to do so. If you're not sure, call on a member of staff for assistance.
- Complete an incident report as required.
- Ensure you are familiar with Alpha Institute emergency evacuation procedures and in the case of an emergency, follow the instructions given to you.
- Do not leave bags or personal belongings lying around where someone else could trip over them.
- Do not smoke or drink alcohol on the premises.
- Observe basic hygiene practices such as hand washing before handling and eating food and leaving toilets and wash basins clean and tidy, etc).

Harassment, victimisation or bullying

Organisation> is committed to providing all people with an environment free from all forms of harassment, victimisation and bullying. Alpha Institute will not tolerate any behaviour that harms, intimidates, threatens, victimises, offends, degrades or humiliates another person.

Anti-discrimination law defines harassment as any form of behaviour that you do not want, that offends, humiliates or intimidates you and that creates a hostile environment. Examples of harassment are making fun of someone, spreading rumours, offensive jokes, ignoring someone, etc.

Victimisation is where a person is treated unfairly because they have made a discrimination complaint.

Bullying is verbal, physical, social or psychological abuse by a staff member or student. Bullying falls under health and safety legislation.

If you at any time feel that you are being harassed, victimised or bullied by a staff member or student, you should follow these steps.

If you feel that you are being harassed, victimised or bullied, ideally you should tell the person that you don't like the behaviour and ask them to stop. However, if you are not comfortable doing this, you should lodge a complaint as per Alpha Institute Complaints and Appeals procedure and detailed in this Handbook.

Equal opportunity

The principles and practices adopted by Alpha Institute aim to ensure, that current and prospective students, clients and other stakeholders are treated fairly and equitably in their dealings with Alpha Institute.

All people will be treated courteously and expeditiously throughout the process of enquiry, selection and enrolment and throughout their participation in a course.

Alpha Institute provides equity in access to the level of training and support required by each student. All students are supported in a manner that enables them to achieve their full potential and success in their training outcomes. All students are provided with opportunities to develop and successfully gain skills, knowledge and experience through education and training.

National VET Regulator Act 2011

As a student in Australia's vocational education and training (VET) sector, you should expect high-quality training in your area of interest, leading to a qualification that improves your prospects of gaining the job you want or provides a pathway to further study.

As a Registered Training Organisation registered with the Australian Skills Quality Authority, we are required to comply with the National VET Regulator Act 2011. This involves meeting a series of Standards that ensure that the training and assessment and support services are provided to you in accordance with nationally mandated standards.

Student Identifiers Act 2014

Under this Act, we are required to ensure that all students have a USI. We are unable to issue a qualification of a statement of attainment for any student if we don't have a USI on file.

If you're studying nationally recognised training in Australia from 1 January 2015, you will be required to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI). Your USI links to an online account that contains all your training records and results (transcript) that you have completed from 1 January 2015 onwards. Your results from 2015 will be available in your USI account in 2016.

For students and training organisations, the main benefits of the USI are:

- Students will be able to get a complete record of their Australian-wide VET achievements from a single, secure and accurate online source.

- There will be immediate access to VET records. This means they can be quickly given to employers, other training organisations etc as proof of VET achievements.
- It will be easier for training organisations to assess students' pre-requisites, credit transfers and Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

For more information about the USI please refer to <http://www.usi.gov.au/About/Pages/default.aspx>

PRIVACY POLICY

In collecting your personal information Alpha Institute will comply with the requirements set out in the Privacy Act 1988, the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2001 and the relevant state privacy legislation.

This means that we will:

- Inform you of the purpose for which the information is collected.
- Only use the personal information that you provide to us in relation to your study with us.
- Ensure your personal information is securely handled and stored.
- We will inform you of any organisation and the type of organisation to which we disclose personal information e.g. the Australian Government or the National Centre for Vocational Education Research, as well as the purpose of disclosing this information e.g. for statistical purposes..
- We will not disclose your personal information to another person or organisation unless:
 - We have made you aware that information of that kind is usually passed to that person or organisation.
 - You have given written consent;
 - We believe that the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to your life or health or that of another person;
 - The disclosure is required or authorised by or under law; or
 - The disclosure is reasonably necessary for the enforcement of the criminal law or of a law imposing a pecuniary penalty, or for the protection of the public revenue.

A full copy of our Privacy Policy is available at Alpha Institute website.

COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Please refer to Complaints and Appeals Policy of Alpha Institute. This can be requested through student services or can be accessed via Alpha Institute website.

ISSUING OF CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTS

On completion of your course and payment of all relevant fees, we will issue you with a qualification (testamur/certificate) and record of results within thirty (30) days. The record of results will show the units of competency achieved in the course and corresponding results.

Where a student withdraws or partially completes a course, a Statement of Attainment will be issued within thirty (30) days of withdrawal as long as all relevant fees have been paid. A record of results will only be provided with a statement of attainment where requested.

Alpha Institute reserves the right to with-hold the issuance of qualifications and Statements of Attainment until all fees related to the course or qualification have been paid, except where Alpha Institute is not permitted to do so by law.

Alpha Institute must have a valid USI on file for the student for a qualification or Statement to be issued.

Re-Issuing Statements and Qualifications

Records of qualifications and unit achievement are kept on record for a period of at least thirty (30) years. Students can request copies of any of these statements or qualifications at any time for an additional charge.