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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

To ensure sound judgment and decision making, and to provide the opportunity to potential Australian Polytechnic Institute students to raise issues, concerns and questions prior to commencement of training, Australian Polytechnic Institute makes the Student Handbook available to the learners by providing a copy or accessing through the Australian Polytechnic Institute website, located at: [aupi.edu.au](http://aupi.edu.au)

Australian Polytechnic Institute requires each student to read and understand the information contained in this Student Handbook prior to enrolment or commencement of training.

For any concerns, questions or clarifications please contact Australian Polytechnic Institute at:

**Email:** [info@aupi.edu.au](mailto:info@aupi.edu.au)

**Contact number:** +61 2 7202 1122



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# *Section 1*

## **Introduction**



# INTRODUCTION

This Student Handbook has been designed to brief **Australian Polytechnic Institute** students on relevant information in relation to their course, enabling students to make informed decisions regarding their training. Students are able to contact **Australian Polytechnic Institute**'s student support team regarding any clarification to the information contained in this handbook.

## Mission Statement

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** seeks to provide dynamic, innovative and high-quality content-oriented courses and materials to our learners studying in business certificate course. Our goal is to provide modern, relevant, job-oriented online courses programs that assist individuals wishing to advance or change careers.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute**'s Australian-accredited course programs are designed to be flexible enough to allow students to work whilst working towards the completion of high-demand certificate course.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** aims to provide practical-based training that develops robust work skills through imaginative and collaborative approaches in developing course content and delivering practice-based training and assessment methods as emphasised in the **Australian Polytechnic Institute** model of learning.

It is the goal of **Australian Polytechnic Institute** to become known Australia-wide as by business and industry as a "first port of call" when wishing to upskill their workforce and develop confidence, as well as robust, practical business skills and knowledge in staff that improve and enhance their operations.

## Vision Statement

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** seeks to become an Australia's leading training institute across a broad range of nationally accredited qualifications and courses renowned for developing career and life-enhancing opportunities for its graduates - who are renowned by the business and industry as being highly skilled alumni that develop into leading industry professionals.

## Training Programs

As a registered training organisation (RTO) in the vocational education and training (VET) sector, **Australian Polytechnic Institute** offers the following nationally recognised qualifications and nationally accredited qualifications including:

- **ICT50220 Diploma of Information Technology (Cyber Security and Advanced Networking)**

For more information on the courses **Australian Polytechnic Institute** has on offer, please refer to our website: [api.edu.au](http://api.edu.au)

## Australian Polytechnic Institute Team

Students may contact **Australian Polytechnic Institute** at +61 2 7202 1122.

### Student Support

Students completing a training program will be supported by **Australian Polytechnic Institute**'s Student Support Team. Our knowledgeable team will work with you to help you achieve success in your chosen field.



The Support Team is able to assist students through a variety of activities:

- Assisting with logging in the Student Management System (SMS) and with accessing the resources
- Supporting flexible learning and processing extensions where applicable
- Arranging contact between trainer/assessors and students where required
- Assisting students with finding and understanding their trainer's feedback

### **Trainers**

Your trainers will be qualified industry professionals, ready to guide you through your learning. Their feedback and guidance will ensure that you are job-ready for your chosen industry.

All **Australian Polytechnic Institute** trainers must follow the below requirements as outlined in the Standards for Registered Training Organisation 2015 (SRT0 2015) Clause 1.13 to 1.15:

### **Training and assessment are delivered by trainers and assessors who have:**

1. *vocational competencies at least to the level being delivered and assessed;*
2. *current industry skills directly relevant to the training and assessment being provided; and*
3. *current knowledge and skills in vocational training and learning that informs their training and assessment.*
4. *The RTO's training and assessment is delivered only by persons who have:*
  - TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment or its successor or
  - A diploma or higher-level qualification in adult education
5. *Where a person conducts assessment only, the RTO ensures that the person has:*
  - TAE40116 Certificate IV in Training and Assessment or its successor or
  - A diploma or higher-level qualification in adult education or
  - TAESS00011 - Assessor Skill Set or its successor.

## **Student Selection**

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** conducts recruitment of students at all times in an ethical, fair and responsible manner using various methods.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** is committed to ensuring that all student selection processes are fair, equitable and consistent with workplace performance, competency level and the training package requirements. Therefore, selection into a training program is based upon the applicant:

1. meeting any pre-requisite qualifications or work experience, and
2. meeting any age requirements that may be in place for a particular course

Student enrolments are subject to availability of places on the training program. This is based on the maximum number of participants who can be accommodated, type of course, learning structures, student needs etc.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** shall ensure that any applicants who do not meet entry requirements are advised of any appropriate pre-entry training they may take to meet eligibility criteria.

## Enrolment

While **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will endeavour to complete the enrolment process as quickly as possible, please allow up to 5 business days from confirmation of your payment for enrolment. Upon enrolment, students will receive via email course information and personalised logins. The training and assessment resources necessary to complete the selected course are available on MS Onedrive folder specific to each student and accessed with personalised logins.

Students may request hard copy resources anytime during the training period and will be charged cost per unit plus shipping cost. Students may order any number of units as required. Orders are placed after the invoice has been paid. The resources will be delivered within 10 business days or more to the students mailing address.

### **Unique Student Identifier**

A student's unique student identifier (USI) is a mandatory component of Australian Vocational Education and Training Management Information Statistical Standard (AVETMISS) enrolment and competency issuance data.

If you need to create a USI, you can do so via this website:

<https://www.usi.gov.au/students/get-a-usi>

Sharing your USI with training or education providers

As your education and training provider, will need to collect and verify your USI. To help us do this, you can give us access to view and/or update your USI account and view your VET transcript. Providing access to your USI account and VET transcript will help us process your enrolment and any credit transfers or national recognition applications

You can provide us access via the following link: <https://www.usi.gov.au/students/give-provider-access>



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# *Section 2*

***Studying at  
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# STUDYING AT AUSTRALIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** conducts training courses to suit student needs, course type, and learning styles. The following student guidelines will help foster a healthy learning environment for all students.

## Personal & Academic Support

As a student at **Australian Polytechnic Institute**, you will enjoy the many benefits of studying at your own pace with flexible hours. Our student support team is available from Monday to Friday 8am - 5pm to assist you with any questions you may have!

Trainers are also able to provide guidance by phone and email. Help and support is only a phone call or email away:

- Email: [info@aupi.edu.au](mailto:info@aupi.edu.au)
- Contact number: +61 2 7202 1122

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** conducts assessment of needs upon enrolment or before commencement of training. In such cases, **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will ensure that the assessment of need is undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity and any identified support needs issues are managed.

Learner support may include but is not limited to any disability or impairment that restricts access and equity as well as, computer literacy or English language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) information obtained from learners prior to enrolment and prior to the commencement of their first unit of competency.

Educational and support services may include, but are not limited to:

- pre-enrolment materials;
- study support and study skills programs;
- language, literacy and numeracy (LLN) programs or referrals to these programs;
- equipment, resources and/or programs to increase access for learners with disabilities and other learners in accordance with access and equity;
- learning resource centres;
- flexible scheduling and delivery of training and assessment;
- counselling services or referrals to these services;
- information and communications technology (ICT) support;
- learning materials in alternative formats, for example, in large print;
- any other services that the RTO considers necessary to support learners to achieve competency.

Where appropriate, **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will seek external assistance to ensure additional support services are available. You will be informed in case additional costs may be incurred to arrange access to external additional support services.

## Language/Literacy and Numeracy

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** makes appropriate concessions for language, literacy and numeracy issues of students where these concessions do not compromise the requirements of the relevant Training Package and the integrity, equity and fairness of assessment.

During the enrolment process, all students complete a brief non-invasive language, literacy and numeracy assessment to enable **Australian Polytechnic Institute** to identify any issues that may need to be addressed

prior to the commencement of training. Strategies to address these issues will be negotiated with students and may include adjusting learning and assessment modes and methods.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** provide materials, resources and assessment tasks at a level of complexity required and also provide opportunities for repeated and supported practice.

#### ***Where can I get help with language, literacy and numeracy?***

Individuals who want to get help with their literacy and numeracy can access information about the nearest LLN provider by calling the Reading Writing Hotline on 1300 655 506.

#### ***What is the Reading Writing Hotline?***

The Reading Writing Hotline is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, Science and Training. The project is managed by TAFE NSW - Access and General Education Curriculum Centre and is Australia's national telephone adult literacy and numeracy referral service. For the price of a local call from anywhere in Australia, the hotline can provide you with advice as well as a referral to one of 1200 providers of courses in adult literacy and numeracy.

#### ***What happens when I call the Hotline?***

You will speak to an experienced adult literacy teacher who will advise you on ways you can access classes in your local area to improve reading, writing, spelling and maths skills. The information you give about yourself is confidential and will not be given to anyone else.

#### ***When can I call the Hotline?***

You can call the Hotline at any time. If a teacher is unavailable to take your call, your name and number will be taken by the hotline paging service and your call will be returned.

### **Flexible Learning and Assessment**

You can start anytime and **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will develop a unique training plan for each student to assist with time management and fitting studying around your work and life commitments.

If you've already completed a qualification, it may be possible to apply for credit transfer and/or recognition of prior learning (RPL) as long as sufficient and current evidence is provided as required. To learn more about credit transfer and recognition of prior learning please refer to the RPL and Credit Transfer Policy located in the Policies and Procedures section of the handbook.

For further information on how to apply for credit transfer and RPL you can contact **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** student support team.

### **Assessment Requirements**

All assessments must be submitted by the due date. If you are having difficulty completing an assessment, you may discuss it with your trainer/assessor well in advance of the due date. This way the trainer/assessor may be able to provide support or grant additional time. Please note there may be conditions to gaining an extension.

Students are advised to keep a copy of their assessments prior to submitting these online. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** can accept no responsibility for lost assessment tasks.

**Please note:** Students will have to complete assessment tasks again if their work goes missing and therefore it is important to keep a copy of their original assessment tasks.

Assessments must be submitted online at all times. Paper-based assessment tasks will not be accepted unless under extenuating circumstances where previous approval has been granted by **Australian Polytechnic Institute** in writing.

### **Assessment malpractice**

Assessment malpractice includes cheating, collusion and plagiarism.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** regards the integrity of assessment as critical to its professional responsibilities as an RTO and therefore strives to ensure the assessment processes are not compromised. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** has policies and procedures in place for dealing with assessment malpractice.

### **What is cheating?**

Cheating within the context of the study environment, means to dishonestly present an assessment task or assessment activity as genuinely representing your own understanding of and/or ability in the subject concerned.

### **Some examples of cheating are:**

- Submitting someone else's work as your own whether you have that person's consent or not.
- Submitting another author's work as your own, without proper acknowledgement of the author.
- To allow someone else to submit your own work as theirs.
- To use any part of someone else's work without the proper acknowledgement.

There are other forms of cheating not contained in this list. These are merely given as some examples. If you are unsure about whether any particular behaviour would constitute plagiarism or cheating, please check with your trainer prior to submitting your assessment work.

### **What is Collusion?**

Collusion is the presentation of work, which is the result in whole or in part of unauthorised collaboration with another person or persons. It is your responsibility to ensure that other students do not have opportunity to copy your work.

### **What is Plagiarism?**

Plagiarism is a form of cheating and includes presenting another person's or organisation's ideas or expressions as your own. This includes, however is not limited to copying written works such as books or journals, data or images, tables, diagrams, designs, plans, photographs, film, music, formulae, web sites and computer programs.

### **What are the Penalties for Plagiarism or Cheating?**

If a trainer suspects that you are cheating, they will investigate further to establish evidence to support their suspicion. By looking at learning resources, searching on Google and reviewing previous or current student's work. If evidence to support the suspicion is established your trainer will then report their concerns to **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Training Manager . From there the following process will be followed:

1. The assessor will contact you in writing outlining their concerns with your submitted work.

2. You will then have an opportunity to respond to any allegations of cheating or plagiarism.
3. If the Training Manager's investigation confirms that you have engaged in cheating or plagiarism you will be advised of one of the following consequences:
  - If it is determined that your offence committed is minor or unintentional, you will be asked to resubmit your work and be given a formal warning in writing by **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Training Manager ; OR
  - If it is determined that your offence committed is of a serious and intentional nature you will be un-enrolled in that unit immediately and have to re-enrol if you wish to complete that unit. Your result for that unit will be recorded as Not Competent. A cheating/plagiarism note will also be recorded against your student file. Notification of any such decision will be made in writing by **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Training Manager .
4. If the conduct is repeated or if the initial conduct is of a very serious nature (as determined by the Training Manager ), such as knowingly falsifying assessment evidence, the student's enrolment may be terminated. In cases of termination, all fees paid will be non-refundable.

#### **What if I don't agree with the decision?**

If you disagree with the decision or the penalty imposed you are entitled to lodge an appeal in accordance with the Appeals Policy and Process. For more information you may refer to the Complaints and Appeals section of the Student Handbook.

#### **How do I avoid Plagiarism or Cheating?**

Students are advised to note the following advice to avoid claims of plagiarism or cheating:

- Always reference other people's work. You may quote from someone else's work (for example, from websites, textbooks, journals or other published materials) but you must always indicate the author and source of the material.
- Always reference your sources. You should name sources for any graphs, tables or specific data, which you include in your assignment.
- You must not copy someone else's work and present it as your own.
- You must not falsify assessment evidence.

### **Code of Conduct**

All **Australian Polytechnic Institute** participants are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and behaviour during both training and assessment. Any breach of discipline will result in the participant being given a 'written warning'. Further breach will result in a participant being asked to 'show cause' as to why they should not be excluded from further participation in the program. A third breach will result in instant dismissal from the training environment. Where a breach is deemed as of a serious nature, as determined by the Training Manager , the student's enrolment may be terminated. In instances of dismissal and termination of enrolment, all fees paid will be non-refundable.

Personal interaction, staff-to-student and student-to-student is expected to be respectful. An aggressive manner or degrading and abusive language will be considered contrary to the Code of Conduct and a breach of discipline. Following are further instances of breaches to the Code of Conduct.

## Discrimination

Discrimination means treating a person less favourably than another because of a personal attribute that they may have. Under State and Federal equal opportunity laws, discrimination based on attributes is unlawful. The attributes that can initiate a discrimination claim include:

- Gender
- Age
- Race
- Religion
- Marital status
- Disability
- Colour
- Nationality
- Ethnicity
- National origin

## Harassment

Harassment is any behaviour which is unwelcome, offends, humiliates or intimidates the person being harassed. Harassment will not be tolerated at **Australian Polytechnic Institute** and disciplinary action will be taken against any employee or student involved in such behaviour. From a staff perspective, this may include termination of employment. From a student perspective, enrolment may be terminated, and all fees paid will be non-refundable.

### Examples of verbal harassment

- Racist comments or jokes.
- Spreading rumours.
- Comments or jokes about a person's disability, pregnancy, sexuality, age religion etc.
- Threats, insults or abuse.
- Offensive obscene language.

### Physical Assault/Abuse

Physical abuse is an act of another party involving contact intended to cause feelings of physical pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm. Physical abuse will not be tolerated in any shape or form and any instances of physical abuse will result in instant termination of the student's enrolment.

Some examples of physical abuse include:

- Striking
- Punching
- Pushing, pulling
- Slapping
- Striking with an object
- Excessive pinching on the body
- Kicking
- Tripping
- Kneeing
- Strangling
- Head-butting
- Placing in stress positions (tied or otherwise forced)
- Cutting or otherwise exposing somebody to something sharp
- Throwing or shooting a projectile
- Blinding a person or causing impairment of sight.
- Biting
- Eye poking

## Change of Personal Details

Students are required to ensure their personal details recorded with **Australian Polytechnic Institute** are up to date at all times. Students must advise **Australian Polytechnic Institute** of any changes in personal details immediately in writing. If the student has an applicable loan and/or financial arrangement, it is the student's direct responsibility to notify the financial service provider (e.g., Debit Success) of any change in personal details that may adversely affect payment arrangements.

All testamurs will be emailed to email address and posted to the mailing address provided by the student.



## Evaluation and Feedback

As a matter of quality assurance and continuous improvement, **Australian Polytechnic Institute** relies heavily on the feedback from students. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** requires all students to complete various feedback and evaluation forms.

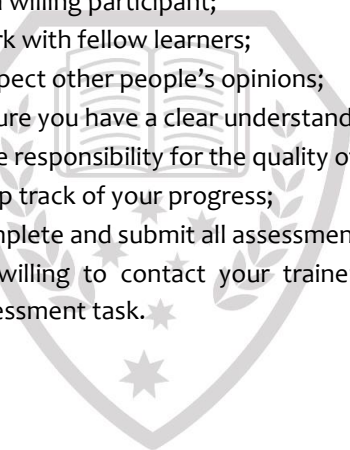
At the end of the training students will be asked to provide feedback by completing a Learner Questionnaire and Course Feedback Form. Learner Questionnaires may also be emailed to a student. Participation in the survey is highly valued, but voluntary. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will fully protect student's anonymity and the confidentiality of student's response within the limits of the law.

## Making the Most of your Training

It is very important to make the most of your training opportunity. Please note it is your responsibility to do this.

To optimize your own learning and successful completion, **Australian Polytechnic Institute** encourage you to do the following:

- Attend all training sessions and complete all required reading and learning activities;
- Prepare well in advance of each training session;
- Be a willing participant;
- Work with fellow learners;
- Respect other people's opinions;
- Ensure you have a clear understanding of the assessment requirements;
- Take responsibility for the quality of evidence that you submit to the Assessor;
- Keep track of your progress;
- Complete and submit all assessment on time, tasks using clear and concise language;
- Be willing to contact your trainer/assessor if you do not understand the training activity or assessment task.



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A photograph of a group of students in a classroom. In the foreground, a young man with dark, wavy hair and a blue striped shirt is looking intently to the right. Behind him, a young woman with long blonde hair is also looking to the right, and a young man with light brown hair is partially visible. The background is a blurred classroom setting with windows showing greenery outside.

# *Section 3*

## **Course Information**

## COURSE INFORMATION

All training programs provided by **Australian Polytechnic Institute** are registered under nationally endorsed training packages. These training programs are competency based which means that training and assessment focus on the development and recognition of a person's ability to apply relevant knowledge and skills to perform workplace tasks to a specified standard.

### Training Programs

The specific skills and knowledge required for particular activities are set out in Units of Competency which can be grouped together to formulate the completion of a nationally recognised qualification. Nationally recognised qualifications are outlined in training packages. These can be viewed at [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au).

Each qualification has a list of employability skills and foundation skills which describe the non-technical skills and competencies that are important for effective and successful participation in the workforce. For each qualification there are specific employability skills listed under the following headings:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Problem solving
- Initiative and enterprise
- Planning and organizing
- Self-management
- Learning
- Technology.

These employability skills will be part of the assessment requirements of a nationally accredited course.

### Competency Based Training

All programs delivered by **Australian Polytechnic Institute** are assessed under the principles of Competency Based Training. The aim of Competency Based Training is to assess the student's ability to complete the activities in each unit.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** will assess the student's ability (or competence) to carry out the activities in each unit of competency.

Competencies are normally expressed in terms of a unit of competency. For example, if you were working in a retail store, a unit of competency might include "use point of sale equipment". Competencies include the skills and tasks that are required in the workplace. When a student is being assessed on these activities, the student will be required to perform the activity to the level required in the workplace.

All assessment results are recorded in **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Student Management System. Students have access to their assessment outcomes via the student portal or by request.

Qualifications are issued from the results recorded in **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Student Management System.

### Evidence Requirements

Evidence is the material proof that you have performed the specified competency or task to the required standard. Your evidence requirements will be determined by the Unit of Competency, employability skill

requirements, industry expectations, government regulations, and your qualifications and current experience. Evidence can take many forms and you will be required to present more than just one piece of evidence.

Assessment tools that we will provide to you set out the exact requirements for evidence for each unit/module.

Examples of evidence could include one or more of the following:

- Specific assessment tasks set by your assessor
- Observation reports
- Certificates and awards
- Examples of work completed or special projects
- Current licenses
- Position descriptions and performance reviews
- Third party reports
- Question responses
- Tests

Your evidence must also demonstrate the following:

- That you can do the job or task to the required standard
- Understand why the job should be done in a particular way
- Handle unexpected issues or problems
- Work with others 'in a team'
- Do more than one thing at a time, e.g., perform the task and be aware of the occupational health and safety requirements
- Know the workplace rules and procedures

## Assessment

Assessment is defined as the process of collecting evidence and making judgments on the nature and extent of progress towards the performance requirement set out in a (competency) standard, or learning outcome, and, at the appropriate point, making a judgment as to whether competency has been achieved'.

In simple terms, assessment is the process of collecting evidence and making judgments on whether competency has been achieved. In order to be assessed as competent (C), you will need to provide evidence which demonstrates that you have the essential knowledge and skills to successfully complete the relevant unit to the required standard. Competency is simply about demonstrating that you can do the task with confidence to the required industry standard as endorsed by the training package or VET accredited Course.

An assessment of 'Not Yet Competent' (NYC) is not a failing mark. It is simply a request for more information or further confirmation of the knowledge and skills required. Our trainers will provide feedback to guide your resubmission and are available for contact if required. The student will be required to successfully resubmit the assessment with the required rectifications to achieve a competent result. The student will be allowed a limit of three submissions per unit of the course. To be eligible for the qualification, the student must receive a competent result for all units of the course.

Assessment, within competency-based approaches to learning, is criterion referenced. This means it identifies an individual's achievements of defined outcomes, rather than relating their performance to that of other learners or trainees.

Assessment methods used may include:

- Demonstration.

- Observation.
- Work samples.
- Workbook activities.
- Oral presentations.
- Role plays or simulation.
- Projects

### **Principles of Assessment**

There are four key principles that are a part of the assessment process:

<b>Fairness</b>	<p>The individual learner’s needs are considered in the assessment process.</p> <p>Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments are applied by the RTO to take into account the individual learner’s needs.</p> <p>The RTO informs the learner about the assessment process and provides the learner with the opportunity to challenge the result of the assessment and be reassessed if necessary.</p>
<b>Flexibility</b>	<p>Assessment is flexible to the individual learner by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflecting the learner’s needs;</li> <li>• assessing competencies held by the learner no matter how or where they have been acquired; and</li> <li>• drawing from a range of assessment methods and using those that are appropriate to the context, the unit of competency and associated assessment requirements, and the individual.</li> </ul>
<b>Validity</b>	<p>Any assessment decision of the RTO is justified, based on the evidence of performance of the individual learner.</p> <p>Validity requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assessment against the unit/s of competency and the associated assessment requirements covers the broad range of skills and knowledge that are essential to competent performance;</li> <li>• assessment of knowledge and skills is integrated with their practical application;</li> <li>• assessment to be based on evidence that demonstrates that a learner could demonstrate these skills and knowledge in other similar situations; and</li> <li>• judgement of competence is based on evidence of learner performance that is aligned to the unit/s of competency and associated assessment requirements.</li> </ul>
<b>Reliability</b>	<p>Evidence presented for assessment is consistently interpreted and assessment results are comparable irrespective of the assessor conducting the assessment.</p>

## Rules of Evidence

The Rules of Evidence are closely related to the principles of assessment and provide guidance on the collection of evidence to ensure that it is valid, sufficient, authentic and current as follows:

<b>Validity</b>	The assessor is assured that the learner has the skills, knowledge and attributes as described in the module or unit of competency and associated assessment requirements.
<b>Sufficiency</b>	The assessor is assured that the quality, quantity and relevance of the assessment evidence enables a judgement to be made of a learner's competency.
<b>Authenticity</b>	The assessor is assured that the evidence presented for assessment is the learner's own work.
<b>Currency</b>	The assessor is assured that the assessment evidence demonstrates current competency. This requires the assessment evidence to be from the present or the very recent past.

## Assessment Results

Results of assessment are provided to students as soon as practicable. These results are available through your student login account. Assessment results are confidential at all times and will not be given to any other party unless a written request signed by the student is received in advance.

## Reasonable Adjustment

Students with disabilities or learning difficulties are encouraged to discuss with **Australian Polytechnic Institute** any 'reasonable adjustment' to learning and assessment processes which they consider would be necessary or assist them in the performance of their studies.

Careful consideration will be given to any requests for reasonable adjustment of this nature, and, where reasonably practicable, such adjustments will be made. There may however be circumstances where it will not be reasonable or reasonably practicable for **Australian Polytechnic Institute** to accommodate or where other adjustment may be more appropriate. Reasonable adjustments cannot compromise the integrity of competency-based training and assessment.

## Extensions for Assessment

It is expected that all assessment tasks are handed in on the due date. Should you require additional time to complete an assessment, you must communicate with your assessor and apply for an extension.

## Awards

Once a student has successfully completed all assessment requirements for their applicable course, the student will be issued with a Qualification/Testamur and an accompanying Record of Results.

For students who have not met all requirements for the course or students who withdraw from a course and have paid relevant fees have the right to receive Statement of Attainment from **Australian Polytechnic Institute** for the units of competency they have been deemed competent in.

Students should note that if they are paying for their course via the payment plan option, they will be unable to receive their qualification or statement of attainment until course fees are paid in their entirety.

The Qualification or Statement of Attainment will be emailed to the current email address and mailed to the current address noted in **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Student Management System. The student should allow 30 calendar days from the date of completion of the course for the issuance of your award.

#### **Important Information regarding awards at Australian Polytechnic Institute**

- Awards will only be issued to students whose financial status with the college is up-to-date
- It is the responsibility of the student to understand their obligations with regard to fees due for units studied
- For a student to be eligible to receive an award, the student must successfully complete all the units listed
- Training package courses have been submitted to the regulatory authorities, and all units specified in that course are the subjects a student must complete to be eligible to receive that award.

See the Certificate Issuance Policy for more details.

### **Course Delivery**

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** ensures the following resources are in place:

- Trainer/assessors and assessors with appropriate qualifications, and experience;
- Course materials appropriate to the methods of delivery and assessment requirements;
- All necessary copyright authorisations;
- Appropriate equipment and facilities.

Training and assessment methods used by **Australian Polytechnic Institute** meet specific quality requirements and are chosen to best suit the unit of competency, while giving consideration to the learning style of the student.

A number of delivery methods will be used throughout the training to help you achieve the necessary skills. Learning is a partnership that involves participation from all involved.

Delivery methods may include, but are not limited to:

- practical demonstrations
- audio/visual presentations
- group participation/ discussions
- trainer/facilitator instruction
- practical activities
- self-paced activities
- individual projects
- workplace based training
- case studies.

### **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

All students have the opportunity to apply for recognition of prior learning. This means that you can submit evidence for a Unit(s) of Competency, and have it assessed by a qualified assessor without completing the training.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** believes that no learner should be required to undertake a unit of competency for which they are already able to demonstrate satisfactory achievement of the performance outcomes, as stated in the endorsed training package or nationally recognised course.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** aims to maximise the recognition of a learner's prior skills and knowledge whilst at all times maintaining the integrity and standards of the defined learning outcomes of the specific qualification or course of study. Students who consider they already possess the competencies identified in all or part of any course/qualification offered by **Australian Polytechnic Institute** may seek recognition.

If you think you have the necessary knowledge and skills to match a Unit(s) of Competency or a qualification at the required standard you need to contact your trainer or any **Australian Polytechnic Institute** admissions staff who will provide the information you need to complete an application.

### **Recognition Process**

Recognition is a method of assessing if you have evidence of competency for a particular unit of competency that you are enrolled in. It is important to remember that recognition is an assessment process, not an assumption of competence.

Recognition is the determination, on an individual basis, of the competencies obtained by a student through:

- previous formal/informal training;
- work experience; and/or
- life experience.

Recognition therefore determines the subsequent advanced standing to which the student is entitled in relation to a course/qualification. The main focus of recognition is what has been learned rather than how, where or when it was learned. Recognition focuses on both the demonstration of competence and the currency of that competence to industry standards.

It is important to note, the onus is on the student to present evidence and demonstrate pre-existing competence to justify a claim for recognition and present their case to the satisfaction of the assessor.

Any documents that you provide to support your claim of competency must be the originals rather than copies. Your original documents will be photocopied and handed back to you. It is also expected that any evidence submitted is your own and if any part of the work is the work of others, that this is formally acknowledged and advised.

### **Recognition Decision**

Regardless of the type of evidence that you submit, Assessors must be confident that the evidence meets the following criteria:

- Full requirements of the Unit of Competency(s);
- Any regulatory requirements;
- Authenticity - That it is your own evidence and can be authenticated;
- That you can perform the competency consistently and reliably;
- Is at the standard expected in industry and set out in the Australian Qualification Framework (AQF);
- Sufficiency - There is sufficient evidence to make a judgment.

The recognition process may include the necessity to demonstrate the application of skills. Where it is identified that this is required to assist the assessor in their judgement of competency, this will be arranged at either the student's workplace or at **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** training facilities.



**Australian Polytechnic Institute** is committed to ensuring that all judgments made by trainers against the same competency standards are consistent. Your trainer will examine the evidence that you present and then make a judgment on that evidence which will be either:

- Competent (C) - you have been deemed competent against all the requirements of the Unit/s of Competency
- Not Yet Competent (NYC) - you have not yet demonstrated competency to all requirements.

Your trainer will advise you of the outcome of your application for RPL and advise where gap training and/or assessment is required.

### Credit Transfer

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** recognises the AQF qualifications and Statements of Attainment issued by other Registered Training Organisations (RTOs). Where a student has completed a unit/s of competency prior to enrolling with **Australian Polytechnic Institute** that are included in the course in which the student is enrolling, the student may apply for recognition. This may result in the student not having to complete the same unit of competency again. This is known as credit transfer. Should you wish to seek credit transfer, contact the **Australian Polytechnic Institute** Admissions Staff for a Credit Transfer Form.

See the RPL and Credit Transfer Policy for more details.



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# Section 4

## Policies and Procedures

# POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## Access and Equity

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** is committed to providing opportunities to all people for advancement, regardless of their background. We support government policy initiatives and provide access to our training for all those seeking to undertake it.

We ensure that our student selection criteria are non-discriminatory and provide fair access to training for the disadvantaged. In addition, we liaise with agencies and government departments for assistance in matters of language, literacy and numeracy difficulties.

## Complaints and Appeals Policy

### Complaints

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** supports the rights of a student to lodge a grievance or complaint if a student feels they have been treated unfairly. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will do everything possible to address grievances or complaints in an unbiased and professional manner. Complaints are welcomed as a means of ensuring that we identify and overcome problems faced by students and provide an opportunity to improve our business and/or the delivery of our training programs.

- **Australian Polytechnic Institute** recommends for students to first try and resolve the complaint/appeal informally by contacting their trainer or **Australian Polytechnic Institute** student support team at **Enter RTO contact number here** or via **Enter RTO email address here**.
- All complaints should be committed to in writing at the earliest possible opportunity and lodged through **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Complaints Online Form. You can access the Complaints Lodgement Form through **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Website. This will constitute a formal complaint from the student. This should only happen once step one has been completed and where the student is unhappy with the outcome of this step
- The Training Manager of **Australian Polytechnic Institute** is automatically notified via email each time a Complaints and Appeals form has been submitted.
- The Training Manager of **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will initiate a transparent, participative process to deal with the issues at hand.
- Complaints are to be resolved within 10 working days of the initial application. The Training Manager of **Australian Polytechnic Institute** may delegate responsibility for the resolution of the complaint as required. In all cases the final conclusion will be endorsed by **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Training Manager .
- The student will be advised in writing of the outcome of their complaint via email.
- If the outcome is not to the satisfaction of the student, he/she may contact the Manager to discuss their concerns.
- All complaints will be handled as Staff-In-Confidence.

Where the student remains unhappy with the outcome:

- The student has the right to request a review of the appeal by an independent party.
- The student will be responsible for the costs of the independent review.
- **Australian Polytechnic Institute** reserves the right to nominate or agree to the independent party and will cooperate fully with this independent review.
- Costs involved in the mediation process which will be the responsibility of both parties equally.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** will aim to complete this complaints process as quickly as possible and within a total of 30 days. Where a complaint takes more than 60 days to be resolved, the RTO will advise and inform complainant in writing. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will keep the student informed of the progress of the complaint throughout the process.

### **Appeals**

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** supports the rights of a student to lodge an appeal against any assessment decision and will not impair that right in any way. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will do everything possible to address the appeal in an unbiased and professional manner.

Any student wishing to appeal the assessment decision/judgment should follow the steps outlined below.

1. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** recommends for students to first try and resolve the appeal informally by contacting their trainer to discuss their assessment result and why they believe that the trainer's judgement is incorrect showing evidence of how they have addressed the assessment criteria. Students may also contact the **Australian Polytechnic Institute** support team at **Enter RTO contact number here** or **Enter RTO email address here**.
2. All appeals should be committed to in writing at the earliest possible opportunity, and lodged through **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Appeals Lodgement Form through **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Website. This will constitute a formal appeal from the student. This should only happen once step one has been completed and where the student is unhappy with the outcome of this step.
3. The appeal request should contain the following information:
  - a) The student's full name and number
  - b) The unit/subject being assessed
  - c) Each assessment task name/number (where the result is being disputed) including why the result should be overturned. The student should refer directly to how they believe they have met the requirement of each task in detail and referencing any evidence to support their claims.
4. The Training Manager of **Australian Polytechnic Institute** is automatically notified via email each time an Appeals form has been submitted.
5. The Training Manager will initiate a transparent, participative process to deal with the issues at hand.
6. Appeals are to be responded to within 10 working days of the initial application.
7. The Training Manager of **Australian Polytechnic Institute** may delegate responsibility for the resolution of the appeal as required. In all cases the final conclusion will be endorsed by **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Training Manager .
8. The student will be advised in writing of the outcome of their appeal via email.
9. All appeals will be handled as Staff-In-Confidence.
10. If the outcome is not to the satisfaction of the student, he/she may contact RTO to discuss their concerns.

Where the student is unhappy with the outcome at step two, they can follow the formal appeal process outlined below:

- The student has the right to request a review of the appeal by an independent party.
- The student will be responsible for the costs of the independent review.
- **Australian Polytechnic Institute** reserves the right to nominate or agree to the independent party and will cooperate fully with this independent review.
- **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will aim to complete this appeal process as quickly as possible and within a total of 30 days. Where an appeal will take more than 60 days to be resolved, the RTO will advise and inform the appellant in writing. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will keep the student informed of the progress of the appeal throughout the process.

See the Complaints and Appeals Policies for more details.

## Transition of Superseded Courses

The nationally recognised training courses delivered by **Australian Polytechnic Institute** may be superseded by a new training package qualification. If required, **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will apply to add the replacement training package qualification to its scope as soon as practicable but no later than 12 months from the date of publication of the replacement qualification on the national register.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** will manage the transition of students to the updated course as soon as is practicable, but no later than 12 months from the date of publication of the replacement qualification on the national register. There may or may not be a fee payable to transition to the updated course.

## Student Records

All student records are subject to **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** Privacy Policy. However, students may reasonably access their files by notifying **Australian Polytechnic Institute**. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will endeavour to give students prompt access to their own files where reasonable notice is given.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** will provide students with timely access to their participation and progress throughout the training course.

### Procedure

- Students are able to view their grades, trainer feedback and the list of completed units via the student portal. For any other requests on their course progress students are to contact student support by Enter RTO email address here. Students must list their full name, date of birth, address, course enrolled and Student ID.
- Alternatively, students can send a written request to: Enter RTO address here
- Students will receive notification that the request has been received and may be contacted by **Australian Polytechnic Institute** to obtain further information.
- **Australian Polytechnic Institute** will issue a letter of confirmation outlining student results for the course within 7 working days of receiving the request. Students will receive this information by email.

### Record Keeping Policy for Assignments and Student Information

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** has effective administrative and records management procedures in place that maintains student data in a secure and confidential manner.

Records of results, qualifications and Statements of Attainment for students currently enrolled are stored in individual student files. Electronic files are kept up to date and backed up regularly, with the backup copy being kept in a secure location. All student records are stored for retention archiving and retrieval for a period of 30 years.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** retains all rights to assignments, tests, exams, projects and assessments. All soft copies of assessments submitted are retained via the **Australian Polytechnic Institute** Dropbox. All assessments will be kept for a period of 6 months from the date on which the judgement of competence for the student was made as outlined in ASQA's General Direction: Retention requirements for completed student assessment items.

## Fee Payment and Refund Policy

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** has developed a fair and equitable process for determining course fees, refunds and payment options.

You must advise us of cancellation in writing or by email. All monies, less the administration fee of \$500 will be refunded if cancellation occurs before any training or assessment takes place and within the refund period. Adjustment on future payments for students under payment plans may be applied.

No refund is provided for cancellations outside of the refund period, though some cases may be considered, subject to **Australian Polytechnic Institute** management's discretion. In the case of online learning, training and assessment is deemed to have commenced once the learner has been issued a username and login and these have been used to access the online material.

### **Cancellation and Refunds**

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** has a cooling-off period whereby refunds are allowed for any reason, including change of mind, known as the 'Refund Period'.

The 'refund period' is defined as 7 calendar days from the Agreement Date. The first day of the refund period commences on the day of the Agreement Date.

The 'Agreement Date' is defined as the date the terms and conditions that were agreed upon at the time the student submitted their enrolment information.

If you wish to terminate your studies before the completion of your course, you must first complete a Refund Request Form, available from our website and support team. In cases where a direct debit instalment agreement has been negotiated, you will still be liable to pay any and all outstanding fees to **Australian Polytechnic Institute**.

This method of payment of your course fees does not remove your legal obligation to pay fees in their entirety. **Australian Polytechnic Institute** reserves the right to pursue recovery of any and all fees owed by any and all means legally allowable.

No refunds will be issued for cancellations outside of the refund period.

For refund applications within the refund period, the Refund Request Form must be received by **Australian Polytechnic Institute**, within the refund period. A refund of the course fee, less the applicable administration fees will only be issued if all above criteria has been met and the student has no previous outstanding monies with **Australian Polytechnic Institute**.

If you do not notify **Australian Polytechnic Institute** in writing within the refund period, you will not be eligible for a refund.

All refunds will be paid to the person or organisation that originally paid the fees.

Refunds will be paid within four calendar weeks of the date the request is received.

This refund policy does not remove your right to take further action under Australia's consumer protection laws.

### **Special Consideration**

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** understands that some students may experience prolonged difficulties that may impact on their ability to complete their course or a significant disadvantage as a result of a course change due to updates in the training packages that may not be addressed by:

- Extending the maximum duration of your course
- Providing additional learning support services
- Facilitating your Transfer to a different **Australian Polytechnic Institute** course; or
- Providing you with the option to complete an older version of the course (subject to availability and compliance with relevant regulations)

In such cases, students should apply for a special consideration via email.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** may grant special consideration in circumstances where:

- you are up to date with all course fees; and submit a special consideration request via email to **Australian Polytechnic Institute**, including the relevant sections completed by a medical doctor (where applicable) and any other requested additional supporting documentation
- you have applied for and been granted a course deferral and the circumstances under which you were granted a course deferral are continuing and serious circumstances which will materially affect your ability to continue with your course; or
- there has been a material change to your course resulting in material disadvantage to you which cannot be addressed as mentioned above.

If special consideration is granted, **Australian Polytechnic Institute** may agree to:

- an extension of the duration of the course;
- provide you with additional support services;
- release you from the payment of future instalments; and/or
- grant a pro rata refund of the Course Fees (taking into account the portion of the course that has been completed and the costs associated with the provision of learning materials).

Without limitation, special consideration will not be given if:

- you change jobs;
- your work hours change;
- you move address (including interstate or international moves);
- your course changes under clause 15 as a result of a regulatory change governing **Australian Polytechnic Institute**;
- you find the course more difficult, time consuming or stressful than you had expected; or
- you are made redundant, retrenched, or otherwise resign from or terminate your employment or have your employment terminated.

### **Exceptions**

In the unlikely event that **Australian Polytechnic Institute** is unable to deliver your course in full, however in the event that this occurs:

- you will be offered a refund for the part of your course that has not been assessed
- The refund will be paid to you within two weeks of the date on which the course ceased being provided
- Alternatively, you may be offered enrolment in a suitable alternative course at AuPI at no additional cost to you. You have the right to choose whether you would prefer refund for the part of your course that has not been assessed or to accept a place in another course.

## Privacy Policy

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** will follow the Australian Privacy Principles in the management of all student and staff information, however allowing access as to all information as required by relevant National and State Training Authorities for the purpose of monitoring and/or auditing **Australian Polytechnic Institute's** operations as a RTO.

The purpose of the privacy policy is to:

- describe the types of personal information that we collect, hold, use and disclose;
- outline our personal information handling systems and practices;
- enhance the transparency of our management of personal information;
- explain our authority to collect personal information, why it may be held by us, how it is used and how it is protected;
- notify whether we are likely to disclose personal information and, if so, to whom;
- provide information on how personal information can be accessed, correct it if necessary and complaint if you believe it has been wrongly collected or inappropriately handled.

See the Privacy Policy for more details.

## Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** is committed to providing a safe and healthy learning and work environment. The safety of our students and staff is of primary importance in all activities and operations of our organisation. We are committed to implementing, maintaining and continuously improving work health and safety in all of our facilities and operations.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** encourages all persons to regard accident prevention and safety as a collective and individual responsibility.

**Australian Polytechnic Institute** recognises its responsibility under the Workplace Health and Safety and related regulations. The CEO has responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of staff, students, contractors and visitors. This includes:

- provide and maintain safe plant, equipment and systems of work.
- provide, monitor and maintain systems for safe use, handling, storage and transportation of plant, equipment and substances.
- maintain the workplace in a safe and healthy condition.
- provide adequate facilities to protect the welfare of all employees.
- provide information, training and supervision for all staff and contractors, helping them to integrate WHS into their work areas and roles.
- provide information, where relevant, to students, allowing them to learn in a safe manner.
- check WHS system compliance via ongoing auditing.
- integrate continuous improvement into WHS performance.