

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION POLICY

Approving authority	Academic Board
Purpose	This policy outlines the basis on which special consideration may be granted to students.
Responsible Officer	Academic Dean
Next scheduled review	September 2026
Document Location	http://www.ozford.edu.au/higher-education/policies-and-procedures/
Associated documents	Assessment Policy and Procedure Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure Academic Progress Policy and Procedure Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure Student Support and Services Policy and Procedure Special Consideration Procedure

1 PRINCIPLES

The Institute recognises that there are occasions where a student has been disadvantaged in their assessment tasks in comparison to other students due to circumstances beyond their control. The Institute will offer special consideration to these students if they meet the requirements of this policy.

This policy and the associated procedure outline the basis for student requests for special consideration in dealing with their assessments where the student's performance may have been adversely affected by unexpected personal or other events that were beyond their control.

2 SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff and students who are currently enrolled at the Institute.

3 DEFINITIONS

Compassionate and compelling

Compassionate or compelling circumstances are generally those beyond the control of the student and which have an impact upon the student's course progress or wellbeing. These could include, but are not limited to:

- serious illness or injury where a medical certificate states that the student is unable to attend class;
- bereavement for the death of close family members such as parents or grandparents (documented evidence must be provided);
- serious illness, accident or family incident which requires immediate travel which has impacted the student to studies;
- the inability to begin study on the course commencement date stated on the CoE due to delay in receiving a student visa if relevant;
- major political upheaval or natural disaster in the home country requiring their immediate travel and this has impacted on the student's studies;
- a traumatic experience supported by police or psychologist's reports which could include but is not limited to:

- involvement in or witnessing of an accident; or
- a crime committed against the student; or
- the student being a witness to a crime and this has impacted on the student.

Notes:

- misreading the examination timetable, examination anxiety or returning home will not be accepted as Compassionate and Compelling circumstances;
- religious or faith-based issues are not in themselves grounds for special consideration. However, they may be used in support of an application that meets the Compassionate and Compelling circumstances set out above.

Medical conditions

Medical conditions of a serious nature, e.g. hospitalisation, serious injury or chronic illness

Note: Temporary minor ailments such as headaches, colds and minor gastric upsets are not serious medical conditions and are unlikely to be accepted as grounds for Special Consideration. However, serious cases of these may be considered.

Hardship/Trauma circumstances

Hardship and trauma refer to sudden loss or gain of employment, severe disruption to domestic arrangements or a victim of crime.

4. POLICY

Student's right to special consideration

- 4.1. If a student believes that his/her preparation for any item of assessment has been disrupted in a way that will materially affect the likely outcome of the assessment, then the student may apply in writing to the Academic Dean for special consideration.
- 4.2. The application should normally be submitted prior to but no later than 3 working days after the due date of the affected assessment item or the date of the scheduled examination.
- 4.3. The Academic Dean or delegate may accept a late application in exceptional circumstances. However, under no circumstances will an application be accepted after marks are released.
- 4.4. Special consideration may be applied for in respect of the following events:
 - A student attends an examination or submits an assessment item, but believes their performance has been hampered;
 - A student was prevented from attending an examination or submitting an item of assessment as a result of a severe illness or other cause and was unaware that they could not attend or submit prior to the relevant date;
 - A student is aware they will be unable to attend an examination at least 3 days prior to the date of the examination as a result of severe illness or other cause.

Eligibility

- 4.5. Special Consideration is only given in serious and exceptional circumstances, which are beyond the student's control, and where these circumstances prevent the student from performing at their best for a particular piece of assessment.
- 4.6. The reasons for application must be classified under one of the following categories:
 - Compassionate and compelling circumstances
 - Medical conditions
 - Hardship/Trauma circumstances
- 4.7. The student must provide evidence to support the application for Special Consideration.

Assessment of Applications

- 4.8. The Academic Dean or delegate will assess applications for special consideration and evidence against the eligibility criteria.

Appeals

- 4.9. If the student is not satisfied with the outcome of the special consideration application, the student may access the *Academic Appeals Policy and Procedure*.

Reporting and Monitoring

- 4.10. A report will be prepared for the Academic Board outlining the special consideration applications and learning from the outcomes.

5. QUALITY ASSURANCE

To ensure that this policy is fit for purpose and meets the requirements of the HES Threshold Standards the policy will be;

- 5.1 internally endorsed by the Executive Management Team on development or review, prior to approval by Governing Board, or the Academic Board or other delegated authority;
- 5.2 externally reviewed as part of any independent review of the HES Threshold Standards approved by the Governing Board;
- 5.3 internally reviewed by the Responsible Officer every three years from the date of approval (if not earlier);
- 5.4 referenced to the applicable HES threshold Standard and/or other legislation/regulation.

6. FEEDBACK

Feedback and comments on this policy are welcomed by the listed Responsible officers of the Institute.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This policy was developed with reference to the following:

- Deakin University, Special Consideration website information ([Special consideration | Students \(deakin.edu.au\)](https://www.deakin.edu.au/special-consideration))
- Federation University, Special Consideration website information ([Higher education - Federation University Australia](https://www.federation.edu.au/higher-education))
- Monash University, Special Consideration Procedure, 2023 ([Special Consideration Procedure \(monash.edu\)](https://www.monash.edu/special-consideration))
- Melbourne University, Assessment and Results Policy, 2022, and Special consideration website information ([Assessment and Results Policy \(unimelb.edu.au\)](https://www.unimelb.edu.au/assessment-and-results)) and [Special consideration : Current students : The University of Melbourne \(unimelb.edu.au\)](https://www.unimelb.edu.au/special-consideration))

8. VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date approved	Description	Approved by
1.0	December 2013	Initial issue	AB
2.0	June 2018	Reflecting the requirements of the HESF standards and changes in academic leadership structure	AB
3.0	June 2023	Internal Review	AB
3.1	September 2023	Internal review – minor formatting changes and add external referencing	EMT
Related legislation/ regulation/standard	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Act 2011 Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021 Education Services for Overseas Students Act (ESOS) 2000 Education Services for Overseas Students Regulations 2019 The National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018		

Notes:

AB = Academic Board

EMT = Executive Management Team