


Document Title: Complaints and Appeals Policy – International Students	 EMMANUEL ANGLICAN COLLEGE <i>Learning ~ Living ~ Leading</i>
Section: International	
Date Updated: October 2023	

Complaints and Appeals Policy – International Students

A copy of this policy will be provided to the student (or parents/legal guardian if the student is under 18) at a reasonable time prior to a written agreement being signed, and again during orientation or within 7 days of the commencement of student attendance of the enrolled course.

Purpose

1. The purpose of Emmanuel Anglican College's Complaints Handling Policy and Procedure is to provide a student or parents/legal guardian with the opportunity to access procedures to facilitate the resolution of a dispute or complaint involving Emmanuel Anglican College, or an education agent or third party engaged by Emmanuel Anglican College to deliver a service on behalf of the College.
2. The internal complaints and appeals processes are conciliatory and non-legal.

Complaints against other students

Grievances brought by a student against another student will be dealt with under the Complaints Handling Policy, which also references the College's Child Protection Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and the Student Management System.

Informal Complaints Resolution

1. In the first instance, Emmanuel Anglican College requests there is an attempt to informally resolve the issue through mediation or informal resolution of the complaint.
2. Students should contact the International Program Coordinator in the first instance to attempt mediation/informal resolution of the complaint.
3. If the matter cannot be resolved through mediation, the matter will be referred to the Principal, and the College's internal formal complaints and appeals handling procedure will be followed.

Formal Internal Complaints Handling Process

1. The process of this grievance procedure is confidential, and any complaints or appeals are a matter between the parties concerned and those directly involved in the complaints handling process.
2. The student must notify the College in writing of the nature and details of the complaint or appeal.
3. Written complaints or appeals are to be lodged with the Principal.
4. Where the internal complaints and appeals process is being accessed because the student has received notice from Emmanuel Anglican College that the College intends to report him/her for unsatisfactory course attendance, unsatisfactory course progress or suspension or cancellation of enrolment, the student has 20 working days from the date of receipt of notification in which to lodge a written appeal.



5. Complaints and appeals processes are available to students at no cost.
6. Each complainant has the opportunity to present his/her case to the Principal or their delegate.
7. Students and/or the College may be accompanied and assisted by a support person at all relevant meetings.
8. The formal internal complaints and appeals process will commence within 10 working days of lodgement of the complaint or appeal with the Principal and will be finalised as soon as practicable.
9. For the duration of the internal complaints and appeals process, the student's enrolment will be maintained, as required under the *National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2018* and the student must continue to attend classes.
10. However, if the Principal deems that the student's health or wellbeing, or the wellbeing of others is at risk, he/she may decide to suspend or cancel the student's enrolment before the complaints and appeals process has been accessed or fully completed. In such cases, the student may still lodge a complaint or appeal, even if the student is offshore.
11. Once the Principal has come to a decision regarding the complaint or appeal, the student will be informed in writing of the outcome and the reasons for the outcome, and a copy will be retained on the student's file.
12. If the complaints and appeals procedure finds in favour of the student, Emmanuel Anglican College will immediately implement the decision and any corrective and preventative action required, and advise the student of the outcome and action taken.
13. Where the outcome of a complaint or appeal is not in the student's favour, the College will advise the student within 10 working days of concluding the internal review of the student's right to access the external appeals process. However, the College is only obliged to await the outcome of an external appeal if the matter relates to a breach of course progress or attendance requirements. For all other issues, the College may take action (including making changes to the student's enrolment status in PRISMS) in accordance with the outcome of the internal appeal.

External Appeals Processes

1. If the student is dissatisfied with the conduct or result of the internal complaints and appeals procedure, they may contact or seek redress through the Commonwealth Ombudsman at no cost. Please see <http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/complaints/international-students-complaints> or phone 1300 362 072 for more information.
2. If the student wishes to appeal a decision made by Emmanuel Anglican College that relates to being reported for a breach of course progress or attendance requirement (under Standard 8), the student must lodge this appeal with the Overseas Student Ombudsman's office within 10 working days of being notified of the outcome of her internal appeal.
3. If the student wishes to appeal a decision made by Emmanuel Anglican College that relates to:
 - (a) refusal to approve a transfer application (under Standard 7), or
 - (b) suspension or cancellation of the student's enrolment (under Standard 9)



4. Any choice to lodge an external appeal with the Overseas Student Ombudsman is at the student's discretion. The College need not await the outcome of any external appeal lodged, before implementing the outcome of the internal appeal.
5. If the external complaints and appeals procedure finds in favour of the student, Emmanuel Anglican College will immediately implement the decision and any corrective and preventative action required and advise the student of the outcome and action taken.

Other legal redress

Nothing in the College's Complaints and Appeals Policy negates the right of an overseas student to pursue other legal remedies.

Definitions

1. *Working day* – any day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday during term time
2. *Student* – a student enrolled at Emmanuel Anglican College or the parents/legal guardian of a student where that student is under 18 years of age
3. *Support person* – for example, a friend/teacher/relative not involved in the grievance.

Version Control Table			
Version Control	Date Effective	Approved By	Amendment
2020-1	March 2020	The Principal	Policy in created in accordance with CRICOS update 18 October 2019.
2020-2	September 2020	The Principal	Policy updated in accordance with CRICOS renewal assessment notice.
2021-1	October 2021	The Principal	Policy updating in accordance with CRICOS requirements.
2023-1	October 2023	The Principal	Policy reviewed and updated in accordance with CRICOS requirements