STANDARDS OF CONDUCT POLICY

1 PURPOSE
Registered Training Organisations must inform potential students prior to their enrolment of the grounds on which their enrolment may be deferred, suspended or cancelled.

2 SCOPE
This policy applies to all local and international students enrolled within vocational education and training programmes offered by Study Group Australia Pty Limited, trading as the Australian Institute of Applied Sciences.

This document addresses circumstances where the Institute instigates the temporary suspension of studies or cancellation of enrolment due to a student not complying with this Standards of Conduct Policy. (Student applications for deferment or temporary suspension of studies are addressed under Defer or Temporarily Suspend Studies.)

3 GENERAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
The Institute’s standards of conduct for students are patterned on those required in business. Students are expected to observe the Institute regulations, to follow the directions given by staff and to conduct themselves in a manner that is a credit to the Institute and their fellow students.

This business environment is reflected in the layout, atmosphere and functioning of the Institute, so that students may experience the ‘business climate’ first-hand. Faculty members are carefully selected for their academic qualifications, their industry knowledge, and for their capacity to encourage and develop individual abilities. Staff, therefore, maintain a congenial relationship with students in order to encourage personal development.

When communicating and interacting with staff and other students, each student is required to:

a. treat others with respect and fairness regardless of their background or culture;
b. avoid any behaviour that could offend, embarrass or threaten others:
   • refrain from swearing, using obscenities or making offensive remarks in any language; and
   • refrain from harassing or disrupting others in the performance of their duties or studies.

The Institute reserves the right, in the exercise of its sole judgement, to place on probation, temporarily suspend or expel a student if it deems the student’s conduct to be unacceptable, depending on the outcome of an appeals process. The written notification to the student of this intention will inform him/her that he/she has 20 days from the date on that written notification in which to lodge an appeal. (Refer to Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure for further information.)

4 CIGARETTE SMOKING
Cigarette smoking is not permitted within the Institute’s premises (including in classrooms, student common rooms, elevators, rest rooms, and foyer area).

Smoking also is not permitted on the footpath outside the entrance to the Institute’s premises and the adjacent buildings. It is each student’s responsibility to make sure he/she knows the law in relation to cigarette smoking in the State in which he/she is studying; severe fines may apply.
5 ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Academic misconduct includes cheating, plagiarism, and collusion.

5.1 CHEATING

Cheating includes, but is not limited to a student:

a. taking any unauthorised material or electronic device into an assessment room, irrespective of whether or not this is used by the student to assist him/her to complete that assessment;

b. copying the answers from another student in an assessment or letting another student copy his/her answers in an assessment;

c. sitting an assessment for another student or having another person sit an assessment on his/her behalf; and

d. taking an assessment question paper from an assessment room when the instructions say not to do so.

5.2 PLAGIARISM

A plagiarist is someone who presents the thoughts or writings of another person as his/her own. Each student is, therefore, required to acknowledge all direct quotations (irrespective of the source), ideas, paraphrased writings and statistical information.

5.3 COLLUSION

Collusion includes, but is not limited to a student:

a. working with another person to write all or part of an assignment unless the assessment’s written instruction states this is acceptable;

b. using another student’s notes or research to prepare an assignment; and

c. allowing another student access to his/her work if the other student is doing an assignment on the same topic, but has not yet submitted it, meaning the work would be of assistance to him/her.

6 BEHAVIOURAL MISCONDUCT (MISBEHAVIOUR)

Behavioural misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

a. any breach of Commonwealth or State law that impacts on the Institute’s operations;

b. any harassment or bullying of other students or of staff;

c. any behaviour which impacts detrimentally on other students pursuing their studies and/or participating in the activities of the Institute;

d. any act or failure to act that endangers the safety or health of any other person;

e. acting in a way that causes students or staff or other persons within the Institute to fear for their personal safety, e.g. violent or threatening behaviour;

f. acting in a way that causes wilful damage to Institute or staff or other students’ property;

g. being under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on Institute premises; and

h. not adhering to the Institute’s Computer Protocols.

7 IMMEDIATE CONSEQUENCES OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT OR MISBEHAVIOUR

a. Where a Commonwealth or State law appears to have been breached, the matter will be referred to the Police or other appropriate authority. If the student is in Australia on a Student Visa, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) will be advised.
b. If a lecturer or assessment supervisor believes a student is involved in academic misconduct within an assessment:
   - the student will be immediately informed of such, but will be allowed to finish the assessment;
   - the lecturer or assessment supervisor will prepare a written report on the alleged academic misconduct and attach the report to the student’s assessment item; and
   - the matter will be referred to the Institute Director (or his/her nominee) for appropriate action, as outlined in the Formal Disciplinary Process below.

c. If a student ignores the warnings given by a lecturer in relation to any misbehaviour in a class, the lecturer can immediately suspend the student from attendance at that class for a period of 24 hours.

d. At the conclusion of the class, the lecturer will provide a written report to the Institute Director, detailing the circumstances of the suspension. Appropriate action then will be taken, as outlined in the Formal Disciplinary Process below.

e. Serious misconduct or repeated instances of misconduct may incur a longer period of suspension, and may seriously impact on the student’s studies and/or visa.

f. If the student is under 18 years, the parent/guardian also will be notified, unless the student is an independent person with a Centrelink account.

g. Any student may invite his/her parents or a guardian or a support person to the interview/s during a disciplinary and appeal process.

h. The disciplinary and appeal process will continue whether or not parents or guardian or support person choose to attend the interview/s.

8 FORMAL DISCIPLINARY PROCESS

When information of alleged misconduct is received by the Institute Director, the student will be advised in writing. This will commence the formal disciplinary process, as follows.

The written notification will inform the student that he or she:

a. has a period of 5 working days in which to make an oral and/or written response presenting his/her case to the Institute Director regarding the alleged incident of misconduct, and

b. is able to access the Institute’s Complaints and Appeals process, and has 20 working days in which to do so. (Refer to the Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure.)

Within 5 working days after this initial response period, the Institute Director may dismiss the charge

OR

modify it

OR

submit a report to the Chief Executive Officer recommending one or a combination of the following penalties:

a. if the misconduct was related to assessment, then that submitted assessment be invalidated, and the assessment outcome for the subject be recorded as ‘Not Yet Competent’;
   - the student be placed on Probation;
   - the student be scheduled to re-commence that full subject, and additional fees applied;
if excellent attendance is maintained during the duration of the repeat subject,
the student be allowed to re-attempt the assessment components for the
subject concerned. (Illness covered by a medical certificate will not be exempt,
unless approved by the Institute Director or his/her nominee.)

b. the issuing of a reprimand and warning against any repetition of the breach of
discipline;

c. suspension of the student from attending classes for a period not exceeding
14 days, which will include any period of suspension already imposed;

d. suspension of the student from using all or some of the Institute’s facilities and/or
services, including computing and library facilities;

e. cancellation of the student’s contract of enrolment, including the loss of all rights to
a refund of fees and to any assistance with work placement.

The Chief Executive Officer will review the report and may approve or alter the penalty.

Within 5 working days of the report being submitted to the Institute Director, the student
will be provided with a written statement detailing the decision (including the potential
impact on the student’s visa, if applicable), and notifying the student that he or she has
20 working days to access the Complaints and Appeals process.

If the student accesses the Complaints and Appeals process within that 20 working day
period, temporary suspension or cancellation of the student’s enrolment will not take
effect until the internal appeals process is completed, unless extenuating circumstances
relating to the welfare of the student apply. (These are detailed within the Complaints and
Appeals Policy and Procedure.)

If the student does not access the Complaints and Appeals process during that 20 day
period, the nominated penalty will apply.