



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE COLLEGE

POLICY: Transfer of Credit for Overseas students

Policy Group(s) Group B: Academic – 1: Students (Ref: B1/1006.5-1112)

Related Policy:
Deferral for Overseas Students
Formalisation of Enrolment for Overseas Students
Grievance Policy for Overseas Students
Recency of Study for Transfer of Credit Purposes

Commencement Date: July 2006 **Review Date:** June 2017

POLICY STATEMENT

Intent:

Christian Heritage College (CHC) recognises that students may undertake or may have undertaken studies at other institutions which would be equivalent to units in their course of study at CHC and thus welcomes application for credit.

These applications are assessed for their equivalence and recency when compared to units in the course of study which is being undertaken at CHC.

This policy is to ensure the fairness of treatment of all applications for transfer of credit at CHC and to ensure the integrity of the courses of study at CHC.

Scope:

This policy applies to all overseas CHC students.

Restrictions: Overseas students.

Exclusions: Domestic students – see the policy for Transfer of Credit – Domestic students.

Objectives:

1. To identify and evaluate the equivalence of units for which students apply for credit and exemption.
2. To identify and evaluate the currency and recency of units for which students apply for credit and exemption.
3. To ensure that the ten-year recency and currency principle applies both at the point of application and completion.
4. To ensure compliance with the *National Code of Practice for Registration Authorities and Providers of Education and Training to Overseas Students 2007* (the National Code) specifically Standard 12.

Policy Provisions:

1. General

- 1.1. Credit or exemptions which are granted to Overseas students, may impact course duration and therefore the Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) and Visa requirements. CHC requires all applications for Transfer of Credit be made at the time of application for admission to CHC to facilitate the accurate calculation of course duration.
- 1.2. This policy statement outlines generic rules that, will apply to equivalence and recency of studies for transfer of credit purposes.
- 1.3. Transfer of credit is only available into courses which have 80 credit points or more in the course requirements unless otherwise specifically stated in the course rules. In specific cases, the Academic Board may relax this provision.
- 1.4. A maximum amount of 50% of credit is permitted unless otherwise specified in the course rules.
- 1.5. Decisions on applications will be made by the Dean of the school which houses the unit for which credit has been applied.
- 1.6. A Dean may seek a variation or relaxation of the rules from the Academic Board and where such a variation or relaxation is permitted, the justification for the variation or relaxation shall be noted on the student's file.
- 1.7. Australian Higher Education Providers have established procedures for transfer of credit. Studies at CHC and other higher education providers are mutually recognised.
- 1.8. Most commonly, transfer of credit is granted where students have previously undertaken formal post-secondary studies offered by an accredited institution.
- 1.9. It is sometimes possible for students to be granted credit towards their course of study on the basis of recognition of prior learning (RPL) where the institution and/or course are not accredited.
- 1.10. It is sometimes possible for students to be granted credit towards their course of study on the basis of recognition of current competence (RCC) based on the students' experience(s).
- 1.11. All applications for transfer of credit are to be accompanied with the appropriate certified documentation. The *Application for Transfer of Credit* form found on the CHC website details the typical documentation required. Applications will not be processed until the relevant/necessary documentation is received.
- 1.12. All applications for transfer of credit must be made at the point of application for admission. This allows an applicant's program to be determined at the commencement of their course of study and the length of their visa to be determined accurately. Any credit towards a course of study will be offered in the *Written Agreement*.
- 1.13. Assessment of applications will be completed within 20 working days, provided that the applicant has provided all of the information required to assess the application.
- 1.14. The applicant has an opportunity to accept or reject the offer of credit in the *Written Agreement* which is signed prior to CHC accepting any payment of course money.
- 1.15. Only in exceptional cases may a student apply for credit to be revoked after accepting the offer of credit.

1.16 CHC reserves the right to revoke credit should any conditions such as time limits not be met.

1.17 Should an applicant not be satisfied with the outcome of the evaluation for course credit, the applicant may access the *Student Grievance Policy and Procedures for Overseas Students*.

2. Equivalence Criteria for Transfer of Credit

In assessing an application for transfer of credit based on prior studies, the equivalence criteria which are taken into consideration include the following elements:

- 2.1. Academic standing of the institution and course in which the student has studied;
- 2.2. Equivalence / comparability of the prior study (this principle may apply in different ways depending on whether credit is sought towards required or elective elements of the course);
- 2.3. Duration of study / contact hours;
- 2.4. Scope / extent / breadth of study;
- 2.5. Standard / level / depth / rigour / complexity of learning;
- 2.6. Nature / extent / rigour of assessment (assessment is a required element where credit is sought for prior studies);
- 2.7. Extent to which the learning outcomes of the unit for credit are met;
- 2.8. Recency of study as per CHC policy (see section 6); and
- 2.9. Currency of knowledge or competence as relevant to the field of study.

3. Assessing an Application for Transfer of Credit

- 3.1. In assessing an application for transfer of credit based on prior studies in an accredited course at an accredited institution the above criteria are applied.
- 3.2. Reference may be made to the national credit transfer framework in determining the outcomes of applications for transfer of credit.
- 3.3. In the case of applications from studies undertaken at an overseas institution CHC will consider the accreditation of the institution and the course in the country in which the students were undertaken.

4. Assessing an Application for Advanced Standing

- 4.1. Advanced standing will be granted to a CHC student who either:
 - 4.1.1. transfers or articulates to a course within a nested group of courses; or
 - 4.1.2. transfers to or commences a course which has similar content to their previous course or is a variation of the previous course (e.g. Bachelor of Education (Primary) to a Bachelor of Education (Secondary)).
- 4.2. Commencing students who have completed studies in another institution will not be granted advanced standing but rather will be assessed for transfer of credit for their previous studies as outlined in Section 3 above.

5. Assessing an Application for Recognised Prior Learning

- 5.1. In assessing an application for other prior learning experiences, assessment is made whether the student could be considered to have gained sufficient prior learning and/or undertaken adequate reflection in relevant areas equivalent to the type of learning experience gained through the unit(s) being considered for credit.

5.2. The type and amount of credit will vary determined by the course of study and the type of prior learning.

6. Assessing an application for recognised current competencies

6.1. In assessing an application for recognised current competencies, assessment is made whether the student could be considered to have gained sufficient prior experience and/or undertaken adequate reflection in relevant areas equivalent to the type of learning experience gained through the unit(s) being considered for credit.

6.2. The type and amount of credit will vary determined by the course of study and the type of competencies.

6.3. Applicants will demonstrate through the provision of evidence that they meet the learning outcomes of the unit for which credit is granted.

7. Recency of Studies for Transfer of Credit Purposes

7.1. In the consideration of applications for transfer of credit, attention shall be given to the recency of the studies for which credit is sought.

7.2. Credit will normally only be given for studies undertaken within the preceding ten years. In fields of study where the turnover of knowledge is accelerated, shorter time limits may be applied. That is to say, both currency of knowledge and recency of study are criteria for assessing equivalence, and the assessment of equivalence will take into account these criteria. Currency of knowledge will necessarily involve some evidence of current competence.

8. Interaction of Recency and Course Completion Time Limits

8.1. Questions may arise concerning the coherence and currency of a course of study where students test the maximum time limits for credit transfer and course completion. For example, if credit were to be given for studies completed ten years ago, and the student then took ten years to complete the award, course coherence would be dependent upon studies completed twenty years ago. Consequently, where credit is sought for 25% or more of course requirements, credit shall only be granted on the condition that all studies contributing to the award will have been completed within the normal time limit nominated for completion of the course.

8.2. Unless otherwise determined by the Dean, where this provision is breached, the grant of credit will be revoked on the basis that the imported studies no longer meet equivalency requirements for currency.

8.3. Where credit is revoked, students may, with the approval of the Dean, qualify for exemption from certain course requirements.

9. Exemption

9.1. Exemption may be granted from unit(s) where it is recognised that an applicant has met the learning outcomes of a unit.

9.2. Credit points are not transferred when an applicant is granted exemption but the nominated unit(s) do not have to be completed.

9.3. Credit may be given on an “unspecified” basis, or towards a specified unit, in which case students are exempted from the requirement to undertake the unit specified.

10. Credit for Courses

- 10.1. Credit must be given on the basis of study completed at CHC towards the requirements of any course only if, during the relevant period, the student was enrolled in the course for which credit is sought.
- 10.2. Despite rule 10.1, the Registrar may, on the recommendation of the Dean, grant credit on the basis of work done at CHC towards the completion of a course where, during the relevant period, the person was not enrolled for the course for which credit is sought, provided:
 - 10.2.1. the student would have been eligible for admission for the course they are seeking credit towards at the time they commenced the course of study in which the units for credit were undertaken; and
 - 10.2.2. the student derived no advantage in undertaking the units under the original course, in respect of the conditions that would have applied to them had they taken the units in the course they are seeking credit towards; and
 - 10.2.3. it is onerous or impractical for the student to comply with rule 9.1; and
 - 10.2.4. academic standards will not be lowered; and
 - 10.2.5. the action will not be unfair to another student.

11. Communication

- 11.1. Applicants will receive written advice regarding the outcome of their application for transfer of credit in the *Written Agreement*.
- 11.2. The communication regarding the credit offered will include:
 - 11.2.1. the outcome of the application;
 - 11.2.2. the amount of course credit being offered;
 - 11.2.3. the specific unit(s) or the unspecified credit for which the course credit is offered;
 - 11.2.4. any specific time limits for course completion which are applied as conditions of credit transfer;
 - 11.2.5. any other conditions attached to the transfer of credit offer; and
 - 11.2.6. an attachment for the student to acknowledge the acceptance of all or a portion of the credit being offered.
- 11.3. Successful applicants are required to formally accept the record of course credit as part of the *Written Agreement* prior to CHC accepting the payment of any course money. A copy of the acceptance is placed on the students' file.

Supporting Procedures and Guidelines:

1. How to Apply for Transfer of Credit

- 1.1. Submit a completed *Application for Transfer of Credit* Form which is available from the CHC website.
- 1.2. Ensure the appropriate attachments and supporting documents are included. These are noted on the application form. Please note that all documents supporting an application for transfer of credit *must* be certified documents.
- 1.3. You will be advised in writing of the outcome of your application in your *Written Agreement*. This will

include any specific information of time limits for course completion and adjustments to the duration of your course which are applied as conditions of the successful credit transfer.

- 1.4. You are required to formally accept the record of credit to your course. A copy of this will be placed on your student file.
- 1.5. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the application you may access the *Grievance Procedures for Overseas Students*.

Recording the Transfer of Credit

Please refer to Section 9 of *CHC Manager User Guide* for detailed instructions on the administrative issues connected with the processing, recording and communication of Transfer of Credit.

POLICY FURTHER INFORMATION

The provisions of this policy statement are to be integrated into the CHC's standard policy statement concerning transfer of credit, so that all of the criteria for transfer of credit are covered in a single statement.

Relevant Commonwealth/ State Legislation:	Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (ESOS) National Code 2007 – Standard 12 Higher Education Standards Framework (2015)
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ACCOUNTABILITIES

Implementation:	Deans
Compliance:	Academic Board
Monitoring and Evaluation:	Academic Board
Development/Review:	Academic Board
Approval Authority:	Academic Board
Interpretation and Advice:	Academic Registrar

WHO SHOULD KNOW THIS POLICY?

Students
Deans
Academic staff
Academic Administration staff

EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS POLICY

Performance Indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of applications for transfer of credit• Number of applications approved / not approved• Most applications should be processed within a four week time frame.• The smooth processing of applications for both students and staff.• Most applications occurring at the point of application for admission with a range of 80% - 90% being the target.
Other:	Nil
Definitions and Acronyms:	CHC – Christian Heritage College CMC – Citipointe Ministry College Course of Study – The course leading to an award or degree Dean – the head of the School administering a course, include the Executive Director of the Millis Institute. RPL – Recognised Prior Learning – recognition for formal learning which may or may not be part of an accredited higher education course of study or in an

unrelated discipline, but which is deemed to be comparable to various aspects of the CHC course of study.

RCC – Recognised Current Competencies – is recognition of competencies which may have been acquired in ways other than formal study.

School – the academic organisational units of CHC, includes the Millis Institute.

APPROVAL – section maintained by the Director of Quality and Standards

Reference No.	Approved	Date	Committee/Board	Resolution No. / Minute Ref.
B1/1006.5	Yes	12/10/2006	Academic Board	4.4

REVISION HISTORY – section maintained by the Director of Quality and Standards

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1007	Approved	10/10/2007	Academic Board	3.2
1112	Approved	30/11/2012	Academic Board	4.1