

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

Introduction

The SCD already has relationships with off-shore higher education providers, as seen in the link between the Good Shepherd College in Auckland and the Catholic Institute of Sydney. A small number of research degree candidates also live overseas. In terms of flexible delivery the SCD has enrolled students in its correspondence-only distance programs whose addresses are outside Australia. What, then, are the prospects and provisions for overseas delivery of programs involving either face to face teaching and tutorials or the establishment of an SCD centre in another country?

A) Principles

The offering of programs overseas should:

1. Encapsulate the highest Australian standards of teaching & learning, resources, student evaluation and program administration
2. Develop an active, co-operative community of learning amongst the faculty, staff and students
3. Respect and enhance the ethos, policies and procedures of the Sydney College of Divinity
4. Clearly and publicly reflect the role of the Sydney College of Divinity
5. Be undertaken as part of a comprehensive plan for the Member Institution (MI) rather than as an ad hoc response to a perceived opportunity
6. Respect and comply with the educational and legal requirements of the host country
7. Be sensitive to the cultural, religious and historical foundations of the host country
8. Not interfere with the ongoing development, feasibility and viability of local theological consortia and organizations.

B) The Member Institution (MI)

Any proposal by a Member Institution needs to show:

1. Where this development fits into the long term plan of the MI.
2. What extra resources the MI will require to cover planning and development, site visits, registration costs, unforeseen expenditure and the like
3. That the MI has a critical mass of full time and permanent part time faculty in the appropriate areas to oversee design, curriculum, teaching, provision of quality materials to uphold an integrated, credible and culturally sensitive program

4. That all faculty and staff members involved in administration, teaching, tutoring, examining or guiding groups have the appropriate level of qualifications
5. That there is a process for the ongoing review of the curriculum, programs and units offered in light of student feedback
6. How academic faculty and staff are to be inducted into and contribute towards the ethos and character of the Sydney College of Divinity and the Member Institution
7. That there is a program of ongoing professional development for academic faculty and staff in line with the academic standards of the SCD and the requirements of improved student learning and faculty research
8. Academic faculty based offshore are enabled and encouraged to engage in academic research and professional activities
9. Which programs and units are to be run, and who are the faculty with oversight for each program and unit
10. That the MI has the necessary IT resources and the ability to maintain them
11. That the offshore centre is compliant both with Australian DEEWR and DET provisions that apply to the SCD, and with SCD administrative procedures and requirements
12. That it charges the standard SCD fees, with provisions for scholarships where appropriate
13. How the MI will guarantee student rights, especially a realistic and confidential provision for appeal and grievances.

C) The SCD

The SCD needs to be assured that all aspects of the venture are transparent and of the appropriate quality. It needs to ensure:

1. That all aspects of the program clearly show the place of the Sydney College of Divinity
2. That appropriate site visits are carried out
3. That requisite library resources are on site, and in the appropriate language
4. That the site is properly and competently administered, and the administrative requirements of the SCD are met
5. That the MI has a critical mass of full time and permanent part time faculty in the appropriate areas to oversee design, curriculum, teaching, provision of quality materials to uphold an integrated, credible and culturally sensitive program

6. That all faculty and staff members involved in administering, teaching, tutoring, examining or guiding groups have the appropriate level of qualifications
7. That there is ongoing review of the curriculum, programs and units offered in light of student feedback
8. That overseas based academic faculty and staff are inducted into the ethos and character of the Sydney College of Divinity and held accountable to this standard
9. That there is a program of ongoing professional development for overseas based faculty and staff
10. That academic faculty based offshore engage in academic research and professional activities
11. That the programs are run in accordance with the host country's laws
12. That it is clear about the standard of the local degree programs
13. That a process is in place for enrolment, admissions and credits
14. That unit fees reflect the standard SCD fee, and where necessary scholarships are provided by the Member Institution
15. That grades are monitored and subject areas moderated
16. That the SCD guarantees the rights of students and faculty alike, and especially ensures that there is a realistic and confidential provision for appeal and grievances.