

NONACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS POLICY

Approved	Academic Board
Approval Date	28/02/2022, 06/12/2021
Date for Review	2027
Responsible Officer	Academic Director
Authors / Role	P Bolt (Academic Director), D Hall (Quality Officer), A Kwakwa (Academic Registrar)
Related Documents (explicitly cross-referenced)	Accreditation of Academic Staff Policy and Procedures, Admissions Policy
Higher Education Standards (2015)	1.1, 1.2, 3.2.1, 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 6.3.1
National Code (2018) (if directly relevant)	3.3.2, 3/3/3

1. Preamble

Sydney College of Divinity is a self-governing Institute of Higher Education, which possesses Self-Accrediting Authority.

Since Sydney College of Divinity does not act as an accrediting body for external institutions, SCD should not formulate policy or practice that assumes a *de facto* status as such an accrediting body. The appropriate recognition of the credentials of external institutions forms an essential part of SCD processes for the Accreditation of SCD Faculty and the admission of students into SCD awards. For advice on these credentials, SCD follows the advice of the Australian Government Country Education Profile (CEP).

If an external institution is not recognised by the Australian Government Country Education Profile (CEP), it is normally regarded as a nonaccredited institution. As the one exception to this rule, SCD also regards institutions authorised by the Vatican to award Pontifical degrees as duly accredited institutions.

Qualifications gained from unaccredited institutions should be normally disregarded as part of the process of accrediting SCD faculty and admitting SCD students, in favour of formal qualifications gained from accredited institutions.

This policy concerns the accreditation of faculty and the admission of students who lack appropriate formal qualification from an accredited institution.

2. Accreditation of Faculty

If an applicant does not possess the appropriate formal qualifications from an accredited institution, in line with the CEP, the Coursework Committee may consider two alternative pathways, as determined by the *Accreditation of Academic Staff Policy and Procedures*:

EITHER gain accreditation as an associate teacher (if justified by recognised formal qualifications). After three years as an associate, application can be made to be upgraded to teacher.

OR by way of a professional equivalence argument (if recognised formal qualifications are deficient).

3. Admission of Students

With regard to applications from students whose formal qualifications do not meet the normal admission requirements, including those with qualifications from unaccredited colleges, the SSAC should consider whether the applicant might be admitted under the provisions of the SCD *Admissions Policy*:

- 3.1 under its 'special entry provisions', noting that one particular area itemised as potentially permitting admission by this pathway is 'geographical isolation'. This would include being in a geographical zone which does not enable attendance at a CEP accredited, or non-CEP Section 1 accredited, college.

- 3.2 after producing any further documentation requested by SSAC, such as a sample of work to be evaluated;
- 3.3 into a provisional enrolment with the condition of successful completion of specified units, up to 1/3 of the total required for the award.
- 3.4 into a Masters program under “special conditions”. In this case the student will be
 - a. provisionally admitted to the MA;
 - b. permitted to transfer to other Masters programs (apart from the MTh), on successful completion to a Pass (or above) of the number of units specified by the SSAC (up to 1/3 of the award);
 - c. permitted to transfer to the MTh only on the basis of achieving Credits in the provisional units.

4. Academic Credit

Units completed at non-accredited institutions will not be considered for academic credit towards an SCD award.

5. Related Documents

Academic Classification Policy

Academic Levels Policy

Accreditation of Academic Staff Policy and Procedures

Admissions Policy

Credit Policy

Enrolment Policy (English Awards)

Enrolment Policy (Korean Awards)