



# INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM POLICY

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## Rationale

Aquinas College is a Catholic Coeducational Secondary College in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Australia. The mission of the College is to promote quality learning in our students while developing an awareness of God in their lives, the value of human relationships, a sense of justice, a hopeful spirit and a love of learning.

In light of this mission the College has been open to accepting international students for many years and welcomes students of all religious and cultural backgrounds. A key value and principle of the College Mission Charter is a sense of inclusivity where we celebrate belonging to the local and global community and value the dignity of each individual.

The College Community has embraced the commitment to Internationalism as a core focus of ensuring that our students have the necessary intercultural skills and outward looking spirit that is meant to characterise 21st century young Australians.

## Aims

- To provide a high quality education program to international students in an atmosphere of support and encouragement.
- To enable international students to develop their academic talents and social experience within the Australian environment.
- To enhance the experience of local students by exposing them to students from other cultures and experiences.
- To expand educational opportunities for all students through access to additional resources.
- To facilitate short term student exchange or study visits.

## Implementation

- English as An Additional Language (EAL) support is provided to international students by a highly trained and qualified teacher, in accordance with Government guidelines.
- A personalised learning plan is drawn up for each international student after careful assessment of the student's readiness to enter mainstream classes. The International Program Manager (IPM) and International Student Leader (ISL) will assist with this task.
- Consistent with recognising all course requirements for students through its regular assessment and reporting program, the College will ensure that international students are given the appropriate course credits within the ESOS framework.
- The College will provide regular twice yearly end of semester Summative Reports as well as progress on the College's student database, (SIMON), along with teacher feedback on key assessment tasks in each semester's learning modules.
- All appropriate requirements of the Victorian Certificate of Education will be met in relation to Aquinas College's international students.
- The College has appointed an International Student Leader who has responsibility for the induction and orientation programs to assist new International students when commencing at the College. Particular emphasis is placed on safety awareness training for students, the issue of

a student safety card to all students for each calendar year, and ongoing safety education specific to international students.

- Regular fortnightly meetings will also be held by the International Student Leader with international students to review their learning progress and general wellbeing.
- International students will also have access to additional literacy support within the International Department. Where necessary, cultural support will also be offered to students.
- International students are able to access the support services available to all students at the College. These include the services of the Health Centre, the Youth and Family Centre and the Careers Counsellor.
- All international students will be under the Welfare responsibility of the College unless they are in the care of a Department of Home Affairs approved guardian (relative of the student). The College arranges homestay accommodation with carefully selected homestay hosts and the homestay program is overseen by the International Program Manager. Particular care is taken to select homestay accommodation that is age-appropriate and suitable for the needs of students, especially those under the age of 18 years. Training is provided to homestay hosts around the quality of care and services required, child safety and the understanding of what constitutes abuse and reporting guidelines, especially in the case of critical incidents.
- International students, their families and Homestay hosts have access to a 24-hour emergency contact at the College. The International Program Manager is usually the first point of contact.
- The College also welcomes short stay international students who wish to experience education in an Australian secondary school environment – the minimum period is one semester.
- Through the Wurundjeri Program, the College plays host to individual students or a small group of students on a short term study tour or exchange program to sample the broad curriculum options and experiences offered in our education program. Homestay may be arranged depending on the specific circumstances of each applicant or group.