



<b>Policy Date:</b>	<b>March 2020</b>
<b>Authorised by:</b>	<b>Principal</b>
<b>Contacts:</b>	<b>Director, Communication and Admissions Dean of Student Wellbeing</b>
<b>Locations:</b>	<b>SS2/MYS/SW</b>

## ***STUDENT TRANSFER REQUEST POLICY – INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY***

Somerville House's Overseas Student Transfer Policy and processes apply to:

- Overseas students requesting to transfer prior to completing the first six months of their first registered school sector course or
- Where the student has completed the first six months of their enrolment in their first registered school sector course and wishes to transfer but, the provider holds welfare responsibility via a CAAW (Confirmation of Appropriate Accommodation / Welfare Arrangements).

### **Overseas students requesting to transfer prior to completing the first six months of their first registered school sector course**

1. Overseas students are restricted from transferring from their first registered school sector course of study for a period of six months. This restriction also applies to any course(s) packaged with their first registered school sector course of study. Exceptions to this restriction are:
  - (a) If the student's course or school becomes unregistered
  - (b) The School has a government sanction imposed on its registration
  - (c) A government sponsor (if applicable) considers a transfer to be in the student's best interests
  - (d) If the student is granted a release in PRISMS.
2. Students can apply to be released by submitting a Student Transfer Request Application at no charge to enable them to transfer to another education provider. However, if a student has not completed the first six months of the first registered school sector course of study or is under 18 years of age, conditions apply.
3. Somerville House will only release a student before completing the first six months of their first registered school sector course in the following circumstances:
  - (a) The student has changed welfare and accommodation arrangements and is no longer within a reasonable travelling time of the School.

- (b) The student will be reported because they are unable to achieve satisfactory course progress at the level they are studying, even after engaging with Somerville House's intervention strategy to assist them in accordance with Standard 8 (Overseas student visa requirements).
  - (c) The student provides evidence of compassionate or compelling circumstances.
  - (d) Somerville House fails to deliver the course as outlined in the written agreement.
  - (e) The student provides evidence that their reasonable expectations about their current course are not being met.
  - f) The student provides evidence that she was misled by Somerville House or an education or migration agent regarding Somerville House or its course and the course is therefore unsuitable to her needs and/or study objectives.
  - g) An appeal (internal or external) on another matter results in a decision or recommendation to release the student.
  - h) Any other reason stated in the policies of Somerville House.
4. Students under 18 years of age MUST also have:
- (a) Written evidence that the student's parent/legal guardian supports the transfer application
  - (b) Written confirmation that the receiving provider will accept responsibility for and communicate with the student about approving the student's accommodation, support, and general welfare arrangements from the proposed date of release where the student is not living with a parent / legal guardian or a suitable nominated relative.
5. Somerville House will NOT agree to the transfer before the student completes the first six months of their first registered school sector course in the following circumstances:
- (a) The student's progress is likely to be academically disadvantaged
  - (b) Somerville House is concerned that the student's application to transfer is a consequence of the adverse influence of another party
  - (c) The student has not had sufficient time to settle into a new environment in order to make an informed decision about transfer
  - (d) The student has not accessed school support services which may assist with making adjustments to a new environment, including academic and personal counselling services
  - (e) School fees have not been paid for the current term/semester.
6. To apply for transfer to another provider, students need to:
- (a) Complete an Application for Student Transfer Form available from the Student Wellbeing Centre.
  - (b) Give this completed application form and a valid offer of enrolment from another provider to the Principal for assessment.

- (c) If under 18 years of age, attach written confirmation of the parent/s or legal guardian/s support for the transfer to the nominated provider.

In this case, the valid offer of enrolment must also confirm the new provider's acceptance of responsibility for approving the student's accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements from the proposed date of the student's release from Somerville House, in accordance with Standard 5 (Younger overseas students) of the 2018 National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training for Overseas Students.

- 7. Somerville House will assess the student's transfer request application and notify the student of a decision within 10 working days.
- 8. If Somerville House grants the student's transfer request, the student will be notified, and the decision will be reported to the Department of Home Affairs via PRISMS.
- 9. If Somerville House intends to refuse the student's transfer application request, Somerville House will provide the student with reasons for refusal in writing and include a copy of Somerville House's Complaints and Appeals Policy (available from the Somerville House Admissions Office or via <https://www.somerville.qld.edu.au/policies>). The student has the right to access Somerville House's complaints and appeals process and has 20 working days to do this. The student's transfer request application will only be finalised in PRISMS after one of the following occurs:
  - (a) the student confirms in writing they choose not to access Somerville House's complaints and appeals process, or
  - (b) the student confirms in writing they withdraw from any appeals process they have commenced, or
  - (c) the appeals process is completed, and a decision has been made in favour of the student or Somerville House.

Applications to transfer to another registered provider may have visa implications. The student is advised to contact the Department of Home Affairs as soon as possible to discuss any implications. The address of the nearest Office is 299 Adelaide Street, Brisbane City Qld 4000. Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm. Phone 13 18 81. Alternatively, students can contact the Department of Home Affairs via <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us>.

**Student who are no longer subject to the transfer restriction but where the School holds welfare responsibility via a CAAW.**

- 10. Students under 18 years of age MUST have:
  - (a) Written evidence that the student's parents/legal guardian supports the transfer application

- (b) Written confirmation that the receiving provider will accept responsibility for and communicate with the student about approving the student's accommodation, support, and general welfare arrangements from the proposed date of release where the student is not living with a parent / legal guardian or a suitable nominated relative.

11. To apply for transfer to another provider, students need to:

- (a) Complete an Application for Student Transfer Form available from the Student Wellbeing Centre.
- (b) Give this completed application form and a valid offer of enrolment from another provider to the Principal for assessment and response within 10 working days.
- (c) If under 18 years of age, attach written confirmation of support for the transfer to the nominated provider by a parent/s or legal guardian/s.

In this case, the valid offer of enrolment must confirm acceptance of responsibility for approving the student's accommodation, support and general welfare arrangements from the proposed date of the student's release from Somerville House in accordance with Standard 5 (Younger overseas students) of the 2018 National Code of Practice for Providers of Education and Training for Overseas Students.

12. Somerville House will negotiate the welfare transfer date with the receiving provider and will advise the student of the welfare transfer date within 10 working days. Transfers to another registered provider may have visa implications. The student is advised to contact the Department of Home Affairs office as soon as possible to discuss any implications. The address of the nearest Office is 299 Adelaide Street, Brisbane City Qld 4000. Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 4.00pm. Phone 13 18 81. Alternatively, students can contact the Department of Home Affairs via <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/contact-us>.

<b>Version Control Table</b>			
<b>Version Control</b>	<b>Date Effective</b>	<b>Approved By</b>	<b>Amendment</b>
2020-1	March 2020	The Principal	Policy in created in accordance with CRICOS update 18 October 2019.