



Reasonable Adjustment Policy and Procedure

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Modification history

| Date | Modification | Person/s responsible |
|-------------|------------------------|--|
| July 2018 | Creation of the policy | Director Student and Industry Engagement and approved by Chief Executive and Principal |
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Definitions

Disability – Is defined in accordance with the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992. As used throughout this Policy, disability shall refer to all illnesses, disorders, and other conditions listed below.

In broad terms, a disability involves an alteration to a person's functioning and includes:

- physical
- intellectual
- psychiatric
- sensory
- neurological
- learning disabilities
- physical disfigurement

Disability can be:

- temporary or permanent
- apparent or hidden
- slight, moderate, or severe
- existing in the past or present.

ICHM also recognises students with additional special needs that can affect learning such as:

- mental health conditions (e.g. anxiety, depression, PTSD)
- medical conditions or ongoing illnesses (e.g. chronic fatigue syndrome, acquired brain injury)
- temporary conditions (e.g. broken arm)
- learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia, auditory processing disorder).
- Special needs

Reasonable Adjustment

A Reasonable Adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist a student with a disability to participate in education and training on the same basis as other students.

An adjustment is reasonable if it achieves this purpose while taking into account the student's learning needs and balancing the interests of all parties affected, including those of:

- the student with the disability
- the education provider (ICHM)
- staff
- other students

Preamble

This policy is published on the ICHM web site and SharePoint.

Purpose:

The International College of Hotel Management (ICHM) is committed to providing reasonable adjustments to ensure equal opportunity and participation for students with a disability that may affect the student's learning experience.

ICHM is committed to the provision of reasonable adjustments to accommodate the needs of students with a disability, who choose to declare it, and provide appropriate supportive documented evidence.

This Policy outlines ICHM's commitment to support all students with a disability in accordance with the obligations outlined by the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005.

Policy Statement:

ICHM recognises the individual needs of students and respects the rights of all students to participate inclusively and fully in all facets of the ICHM experience in particular the access and equity of student engagement outcomes.

This applies to prospective students at admission and enrolment into study, participation of enrolled students in all subjects and courses, and the use of College facilities and services. ICHM is committed to providing opportunities and access to students with a disability that are comparable to students without additional needs.

Scope

- All domestic and international students
- Prospective students enrolling in the College

Overview

Reasonable adjustments may be made to accommodate a student with a disability and reduce the impact of a disability on a student's academic success.

Adjustments may include modifications to the learning environment, teaching method, or assessment conditions to increase the participation of a student without compromising the academic standard or the inherent course requirements.

ICHM does not restrict enrolment on the basis of disability or discriminate against students with a disability. However, ICHM may deny entry based upon reasonable belief of a student's inability to successfully complete the course, based upon potential limitations applied by the disability and restricted participation within course requirements.

Procedure for the Provision of Reasonable Adjustment

- Disclosure of a disability may be provided on the student original application or the Wellness questionnaire within Week1 of a new semester
- Students with a disability will discuss any potential need for reasonable adjustments with the Director Student and Industry Engagement upon disclosure.
 - Privacy note: only the Director Student and Industry Engagement and/or Student Welfare Officer will have access to personal information provided by participants; which may include medical information.
- Provision of reasonable adjustment is dependent on complete and adequate documentation being provided by the student to substantiate a disability and demonstrate need for individual accommodations.
 - Reasonable adjustment will be calculated for each individual student for assessments based upon the guidelines provided in Appendix A - Suggested guidelines for the Provision of Additional time for Assessments and Exams
 - Reasonable adjustment will be provided for each individual student for other identified disabilities, as detailed in Appendix B – Suggested guidelines for recognised disabilities in classroom applications
- Prospective students who disclose a disability on application may require further consultation with the Director Student and Industry Engagement upon commencement of their program.
- Students who are provided Reasonable Adjustment must meet with the Director Student and Industry Engagement at the beginning of each academic semester to review and confirm ongoing adjustments.

Determination of Reasonable Adjustment

Wherever practical, reasonable adjustment to a College policy or procedure will be made to meet the needs of a student with a disability

To determine if an adjustment is reasonable, the following must be considered:

- A student's disability, and any barriers, needs, or challenges that may affect that student throughout a subject or course
- The views of the student or the student's advocate
- Whether the adjustment will impact on the academic standards or inherent course requirements
- Whether the adjustment creates an undue advantage for the student, or an undue disadvantage for another student
- The costs and benefits to all parties of making the adjustment
- The 'willingness to pay' the costs associated with the adjustment on behalf of either party.

ICHM is not obligated to make any adjustment or accommodation that may impose an unjustifiable hardship on the College. Students with a disability may be required to provide additional medical or specialised documentation to substantiate the reasonableness of the adjustment.

The bearing of costs associated with reasonable adjustment will be negotiated with the student at the time of the Reasonable Adjustment Plan being established.

In general, if the student requires a support person in a classroom or regular situation (e.g. as a notetaker), any costs associated with the appointment of that support person will be borne by the student. However, if the student requires such a support person in an assessment situation on campus (e.g. exam, skills assessment), the support person will be supplied by ICHM and the costs associated with the appointment of that support person will be borne by the College to ensure integrity of assessment is upheld.

Students with a disability may be entitled to reasonable adjustments to learning resources, learning environment, teaching method, or assessment conditions.

- Reasonable adjustments to learning resources or teaching methods may include providing a student with a visual impairment with larger font handouts.
- Reasonable adjustments to learning environment may include using accessible teaching settings for students with a physical disability.
- Reasonable adjustments to assessment conditions may include extended time for theory-based exams or alternate arrangements for practical assessments.

Exceptions

- ICHM is not obligated to provide adjustments for a student who chooses not to disclose a disability.
- ICHM is not obligated to make any adjustment that may impose an unjustifiable hardship on the College.
- ICHM cannot compromise the academic standards or inherent course requirements.

Roles & Responsibilities

The College maintains its responsibility to:

- Ensure that this Policy is accessible to all staff and students.
- Ensure that this Policy is implemented and applied consistently across all campuses of the College including its online learning environment.

Complaint or Grievance

Students who have a complaint or grievance, academic or non-academic, should refer to ICHM Policies.

Students who have a complaint or grievance related to disability or reasonable adjustment should first contact the Director Student and Industry Engagement or Student Welfare Officer.

Benchmarking:

- Australian Disability Clearing House on Education and Training (ADCET)
- Deakin University
- Endeavour College of Natural Health
- Flinders University
- Queensland University of Technology
- University of South Australia
- University of Sydney

Related Legislation:

- Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Commonwealth Disability Standards for Education 2005
- SA - Disability Service Act 1993

Guidelines:

- Universities Australia (AVCC) Guidelines for Students with a disability 2006
- National Disability Coordination Officer Program www.ndco.stepscs.net.au

Changes to the Policy

The Chief Executive and Principal must approve any change to this Reasonable Adjustment Policy.

APPENDIX A

Suggested guidelines for the Provision of Additional time for Assessments and Exams

Suggested guidelines for the provision of additional time for the undertaking of assessments

| <i>Disability</i> | <i>Time allowance</i> |
|--|--|
| Physical/ Repetitive Strain Injury | 15 minutes per hour to accommodate slower writing speed |
| Learning disability | 20 minutes per hour for perusal/formulating/checking answers |
| Chronic pain | 15 minutes per hour for standing and/or moving around |
| Vision impairment | Double time for students who are blind, and time-and-a-half for students who have low vision |
| Hearing impairment | 20 minutes per hour for perusal/formulating/writing/checking answers |
| Anxiety | 10 minutes per hour for relaxation breaks |

Further consideration needs to be given to the impact of the disability/health condition according to the medical documentation.

| <i>Impact/Effect of the Disability</i> | <i>Suggested extra time</i> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Slight | 10 minutes per hour |
| Moderate | 20 minutes per hour |
| Significant | 30 minutes per hour |
| Extreme | One and a half to double time |

(Source: ADCET – Exam Adjustments <https://www.adcet.edu.au>)

APPENDIX B

Suggested guidelines for the Provision of Recognised disabilities in Classroom Applications

Disability – Is defined in accordance with the Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992. As used throughout this Policy, disability shall refer to all illnesses, disorders, and other conditions listed below.

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Reasonable Adjustment for Recognised Disabilities in Classroom applications

Disability support can be suggested, but not restricted to, the following support adjustments:

- Additional time
- Modified work practice / lighter duties – eg: housekeeping practical
- Supportive footwear mat – eg: Standing in kitchen practical
- Coloured paper
- Large font on printed documents
- Large computer monitor
- Speech to text dictation software
- PDA – Personal digital assistants or recorders
- Split sessions
- Rest breaks
- Any other negotiated adjustment appropriately deemed for the subject learning environment, in negotiation with the Director Student and Industry Engagement