

## Academic Grievance Procedures

SIBT believes complaints should be resolved, wherever possible and appropriate, at the local level with a minimum of formal procedures. An informal process, involving discussion between a student and the Student Services Manager or nominee, will be conducted in each case to try to resolve the issue prior to a formal appeal being lodged.

All SIBT students are entitled to access this grievance procedure, regardless of the location of the campus of the College at which the grievance has arisen, the student's place of residence or the mode in which they study.

Students who feel they have been unfairly dealt with in relation to an academic matter which relates to student progress, assessment, curriculum and awards in a course of study, should write to the College Director and Principal at SIBT outlining the exact reasons for concern, making a note of any instances and when they occurred. Such complaints and appeals will be directed initially to the Academic Director or nominee.

In cases of an **appeal against intended exclusion from a course**, where SIBT's intervention strategy has been provided to assist the student in their conditional enrolments over past semesters, students need to provide additional information, details of any extenuating circumstances and supporting documentation such as medical certificates, death certificates etc. to assist in the consideration of the appeal.

SIBT will maintain the student's enrolment, and for an overseas student SIBT will not notify DEEWR of any change to their enrolment status through PRISMS, but neither local nor overseas students will be permitted to select units or attend classes while the Academic Grievance Procedures are ongoing. In the event of such an appeal being successful SIBT will provide learning opportunities to allow the student to catch up on missed work.

The following grievance procedure will be used in dealing with complaints and appeals made by SIBT students relating to academic matters. Reasons and a full explanation will be given to the complainant and/or respondent, in writing, for decisions and actions taken as part of the procedures. The student will not be victimised or discriminated against at any stage of this procedure. The student may be assisted and, where appropriate accompanied, by a third party (such as a family member, friend, counsellor or other professional support person) if desired throughout each stage of the procedure:

- (a) The Academic Director or nominee will consider the written complaint or appeal within 5 working days of its receipt. He/she will review the academic decision and consider a range of options for solution of the dispute (this arrangement is free of charge).
- (b) If the matter is not resolved in favour of the student, the complaint or appeal will be referred to the College Director and Principal or nominee within 5 working days of the Academic Director's decision. The College Director and Principal will also review the academic decision and consider a range of options for solution of the dispute (this arrangement is free of charge);
- (c) If the matter is not resolved in favour of the student, the student will be advised in writing that the original decision stands. The student then has the option of appealing through SIBT's independent grievance handling/dispute resolution process within 10 working days of the College Director and Principal's decision.

A suitably qualified external independent panel comprising appropriately qualified legal practitioners will be set up by the Australian Council of Private Education and Training (ACPET). The complainant and SIBT are required to share the \$400 cost of this service equally (\$200 each). The contact for External Appeals is [Student.appeals@acpet.edu.au](mailto:Student.appeals@acpet.edu.au). Students must lodge appeals via this email address and are required to complete the external appeals form which includes payment details. Appeals will not be processed until funds have been cleared. The appeals form is available by [clicking here](#). The form should be lodged at [Student.appeals@acpet.edu.au](mailto:Student.appeals@acpet.edu.au). There will be no mediation, only paper-based appeals will be considered.

Any further enquiries should be directed to this email address.

Students must NOT call or come into ACPET offices as the appeals are conducted by an independent legal practitioner who is offsite.

Turnaround time for appeals will be within 1 month of lodgement.

Both the student and SIBT will receive an acknowledgement letter from ACPET advising of the deadline to provide supporting information for the appeals process.

The independent panel will forward their decision to ACPET who will forward the decision to all parties. The student and SIBT will be bound by the decision of the panel and such decisions are final and non-reviewable.

Students may access and receive the outcome of only **one** external appeals process before SIBT may exclude them.

SIBT will deal with reported complaints and appeals as expeditiously as the circumstances of the complaint or appeal allow. The procedures set out in this document do not replace or modify procedures or any other responsibilities which may arise under other higher education provider policies or under statute or any other law and do not circumscribe a student's rights to pursue other legal remedies. Students may contact the Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) through [esosmailbox@deewr.gov.au](mailto:esosmailbox@deewr.gov.au) or the helpline on 02 62405069. DEEWR will only look at whether the appeals process met the requirements of the National Code, it will not be looking at whether the outcome of a properly conducted appeal process was right or wrong.

Records of all grievances and their outcomes will be kept strictly confidential for a period of 5 years and the student will be allowed supervised access to these records through the Academic Director. Such records will be kept in a secure section of the student's file.

This procedure has been communicated to all SIBT staff, the Academic Director is responsible for training academic staff in the application of this procedure and the SIBT Business Systems Manager is responsible for training support staff in its application. This procedure is published on <https://portal.sibt.nsw.edu.au/>. All students are made aware of the existence and location of this and all other policies and procedures at the time of orientation to SIBT.