

Non-Indigenous Admission in Higher Education

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Responsible Owner	Dean, Higher Education and Research	Version	v1 2026
Functional Manager	Head of Graduate School, Higher Education and Research		

1. Outline

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to establish the Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education (the Institute) position and requirements regarding the admission of non-Indigenous students in higher education courses.
- 1.2 This policy recognises the Institutes primary purpose and commitment to providing culturally safe, Indigenous-focussed education and supporting improved education, employment and community outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- 1.3 The Policy also recognises that, in limited circumstances, the education of non-Indigenous people in Indigenous knowledge, culture, histories, contemporary issues and cross-cultural practice contributes to improved outcomes for Indigenous Australian communities and supports the development of a more culturally capable Australian workforce.
- 1.4 This Policy establishes the circumstances in which non-Indigenous applicants may be considered for admission.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This Policy applies to all applicants and students seeking admission to higher education courses offered by the Institute including:
 - a) tertiary enabling programs,
 - b) undergraduate degrees,
 - c) Graduate Certificate Courses,
 - d) other graduate coursework courses; and
 - e) higher degrees by research.
- 2.2 This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Institutes admission, enrolment, academic, student conduct, Indigenous education and equity policies and procedures, and Strategic Plan.

3. Policy

3.1 Courses not open for non-Indigenous admission

- 3.1.1 the Institute will not accept applications for admission from non-Indigenous applicants into:
 - a) tertiary enabling programs
 - b) undergraduate degrees; or
 - c) higher degrees by research
- 3.1.2 These restrictions reflect the Institutes commitment to Australian Indigenous purpose, the importance of maintaining culturally safe learning environments for Indigenous Australian students, the Institutes reputation and relationship with Indigenous Australian communities, and the availability of alternative higher education opportunities for non-Indigenous students through other providers.
- 3.1.3 An exception to clause 3.1.1 may only be made where expressly approved by the Chief Executive Officer and where the exception is consistent with the Institute's legislative and, regulatory obligations, and strategic direction.

3.2 Graduate Certificate courses open to non-Indigenous admission and enrolment

- 3.2.1 The Institute may accept applications from non-Indigenous applicants for Graduate Certificate Courses where the purpose and content of the course is to support the development of knowledge and capability in Indigenous Australian and cross-cultural contexts.
- 3.2.2 This includes, but is limited to:
 - a) Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Workforce Development;
 - b) Graduate Certificate in Indigenous and Cross-cultural Leadership; and
 - c) Graduate Certificate in Indigenous Research Practice.
- 3.2.3 The Institute may approve additional Graduate Certificate courses for non-Indigenous enrolment where the course is demonstrably consistent with the principles and purpose of this Policy.
- 3.2.4 The admission of non-Indigenous students to these courses is intended to:
 - a) increase understanding of Indigenous Australian peoples, cultures, histories, knowledges and contemporary issues;
 - b) develop the capability of non-Indigenous professionals working with or for Indigenous Australian peoples and communities;
 - c) support improved cultural capability across government, industry, education, health, community services, research and other sectors;
 - d) strengthen relationships between the Institute, Indigenous communities, employers and relevant industries; and
 - e) contribute to improved outcomes for Indigenous Australian peoples and communities through a more knowledgeable and culturally capable workforce.

4. Preference for Indigenous Australian Applicants

- 4.1 Although non-Indigenous applicants may be admitted to eligible Graduate Certificate Courses, preference for available places will remain with eligible Indigenous Australian applicants.
- 4.2 Where the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of available places, the Institute will prioritise eligible Indigenous Australian applicants before considering eligible non-Indigenous applicants.
- 4.3 Preference under this Policy does not remove the requirement for an applicant to satisfy the applicable admission requirements for the relevant course.
- 4.4 The Institute may establish specific Indigenous Australian enrolment targets, reserved places or other admission arrangements for Graduate Certificate courses to support the objectives of this Policy.
- 4.5 Where places remain available following consideration for eligible Indigenous Australian applicants, eligible non-Indigenous applicants may be offered admission, subject to the applicable admission requirements and course capacity.
- 4.6 The Institute will monitor enrolment patterns to ensure that the admission of non-Indigenous students does not adversely affect the Institutes capacity to provide appropriate access, support and culturally safe learning environments for Indigenous Australian students.

5. Admission requirements

- 5.1 All applicants, regardless of Indigenous or non-Indigenous status, must satisfy the academic and other admission requirements established for the relevant course.
- 5.2 Admission decisions must be undertaken in accordance with the Institutes approved admission procedures and relevant higher education regulatory requirements.
- 5.3 An applicant's Indigenous status will be considered only for the purpose of applying the Institutes approved Indigenous priority arrangements and will be managed appropriately and confidentially.
- 5.4 Admission to a Graduate Certificate course does not create an entitlement or automatic pathway to enrolment in another Institute course where non-Indigenous enrolment is not permitted under this Policy.

6. Cultural Safety and Student Experience

- 6.1 The Institute will ensure that the admission of non-Indigenous students to its courses is managed in a manner that supports the cultural safety, wellbeing and educational experience of Indigenous Australian students.
- 6.2 Non-Indigenous students enrolled in eligible courses are expected to:
 - a) respect Indigenous cultures, knowledges, communities and perspectives;
 - b) engage appropriately and respectfully with Indigenous Australian staff, students and community members;
 - c) comply with the Institutes policies relating to student conduct, academic integrity and respectful behaviour, and

- d) recognise that Indigenous Australian knowledges and cultural materials may be subject to cultural protocols, intellectual property considerations and community authority.

6.3 Course design and delivery will reflect the Institutes Indigenous Australian educational philosophy and provide opportunities for meaningful engagement with Indigenous Australian perspectives, knowledges and ways of learning.

7. Monitoring and Review

7.1 The Institute will monitor the enrolment and participation of Indigenous Australian and non-Indigenous students in Graduate Certificates covered by this Policy.

7.2 Monitoring should include, where appropriate:

- a) Indigenous Australian and non-Indigenous enrolment numbers;
- b) applications and offers of admission;
- c) student retention and completion;
- d) student experience feedback;
- e) impacts on culturally safe learning environments; and
- f) the contribution of the courses to the Institutes strategic objectives and relationships with Indigenous communities and industry.

7.3 The Responsible Officer will report material issues or emerging risks relating to the implementation of this Policy to the Academic Board, through the Learning and Teaching Committee.

7.4 This Policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains consistent with the Institutes strategic direction, legislative and regulatory obligations, community expectations and higher education requirements.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
Institute Council	Approves this Policy and any significant changes to the Institute's position regarding non-Indigenous enrolment.
Chief Executive Officer	Ensures implementation of the Policy and may exercise delegated authority under this Policy.
Deputy CEO – Academic and Student Experience	May act on behalf of the CEO if delegated.
Dean, Higher Education and Research	Policy owner; oversees implementation across higher education; recommends courses for approval; monitors compliance and reports material issues.
Head of Graduate School	May approve the operational admission arrangements for an approved Graduate Certificate, subject to the requirements of this Policy and any applicable academic governance requirements.

Role	Responsibilities
Director, Student Experience	Ensures admissions, enrolment and student support arrangements appropriately implement Indigenous Australian preference and support culturally safe student experiences.
Academic/Course Leaders	Ensure relevant courses meet the requirements of this Policy and that course delivery supports Indigenous Australian educational objectives.
Admissions/ Student Administration	Applies admission requirements and Indigenous Australian preference arrangements consistently; maintains appropriate records and documentation.
Corporate Governance and Risk Office	Provides governance, policy and compliance advice and coordinates formal policy review.
All staff	Comply with this Policy and support the Institute's commitment to Indigenous Australian priority, cultural safety and two-way learning.

9. Delegations

- 9.1 Council retains authority for approval of this Policy and any material change to the Institutes overall position on non-Indigenous enrolment.
- 9.2 The Chief Executive Officer may:
- approve the implementation of this Policy;
 - approve administrative procedures required to give effect to the Policy;
 - approve exceptional arrangements where necessary and appropriate, provided they are consistent with the Institutes legislative and regulatory obligations; and
 - delegate relevant administrative responsibilities to appropriate senior officer.
- 9.3 The Dean, Higher Education and Research through the Learning and Teaching Committee and the Academic Board may recommend that a Graduate Certificate be approved for non-Indigenous enrolment.
- 9.4 The Head of Graduate School may approve the operational admission arrangements for an approved Graduate Certificate, subject to the requirements of this Policy and any applicable academic governance requirements.
- 9.5 No delegation under this policy may be exercised in a manner that is inconsistent with the Institutes legislative obligations, higher education regulatory requirements or approved governance instruments.

10. Non-Compliance

- 10.1 Non-compliance with Governance Documents is considered a breach of the Staff Code of Conduct and is treated seriously by the Institute. Reports of concerns about non-compliance will be managed in accordance with the applicable disciplinary procedures.
- 10.2 All staff members have an individual responsibility to raise any suspicion, allegation or report of fraud or corruption in accordance with the Fraud and Corruption Control Policy and Whistleblower Reporting (Improper Conduct) Procedure and Guideline.

11. Supporting Documents

- *Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education Act 1999*,
- Batchelor Institute Strategic Plan,
- Higher Education Enrolments Policy,
- Higher Education Enrolments Procedure, and
- Delegations Framework and Policy,

12. Related Documents

- *Higher Education Support Act 2003*,
- *Higher Education Standards Framework (Threshold Standards) 2021*, and
- TEQSA Guidance Notes and Good Practice Notes.

13. Modification history

<i>Date</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Authority</i>	<i>Details</i>
September 2026	v1 2026	Council	New Policy

14. Feedback

If you have any comments or feedback about this policy, please contact the Dean, Higher Education and Research.
