

Intensive Schools Policy

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Related Document:	<i>Intensive School Guidelines</i>

1. Introduction

The goal of the Intensive Schools Policy is to set out the parameters for defining, planning and conducting Intensive Schools for units and courses, in order to ensure consistency and minimum standards in approach across the University and to ensure that Intensive Schools will add value to the student experience. This policy will also help to ensure that students are fully informed about relevant Intensive Schools and that they are not disadvantaged by last-minute changes to arrangements. The University aims to provide a range of interactive learning experiences through which learning outcomes may be achieved, and Intensive Schools are one way in which this aim may be fulfilled.

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the *Intensive School Guidelines*.

2. Definitions

2.1 Intensive School means a mode of teaching and learning that brings students together at a particular physical or virtual location for a period of intensive interactive learning experiences. This term encompasses all types of Intensive School, whether held on or off campus or online.

2.2 Mandatory Intensive School means an Intensive School that provides learning outcomes that cannot be achieved in any other way. All students enrolled in a unit or course must attend, and no exemption is possible.

2.3 Non-Mandatory Intensive School means an Intensive School that provides an alternative way of achieving learning outcomes. Students enrolled in a unit or course may either attend voluntarily, or be provided with substitute activities that achieve the same learning outcomes.

3. All Intensive Schools are designed to provide a set of learning outcomes that are specified in the relevant unit and/or course materials
4. Decisions about the nature, content and goals of unit-based Intensive Schools are to be made by the Head of School in consultation with the relevant Unit coordinator and, where appropriate, with the Course Coordinator.

5. Decisions about the nature, content and goals of course-based Intensive Schools are to be made by the relevant Head(s) of School in consultation with the Course Coordinator.
6. Decisions about the provision of an Intensive School for a particular unit or course in a particular year must be made at such a time as to meet published deadlines for the publication of any University materials, including the unit study guide, containing information about that unit or course for that teaching period.
7. Intensive Schools must adhere to the following minimum standards:
 - 7.1. The minimum length of an Intensive School offered on-campus is 2 days; the maximum length is 4 days. The Pro Vice-Chancellor Dean may approve an Intensive School of a duration of longer than 4 days, taking into account:
 - Professional accreditation requirements.
 - Course / Unit requirements, e.g. for laboratory work, fieldwork, clinical activities.
 - 7.2. The minimum length of an Intensive School offered in a location other than the Armidale campus or offered in an electronic mode is 1 day.
 - 7.3. Intensive School timetables should be structured such that learning activities are scheduled for students for at least 5 hours of each nominal eight-hour day or portion of a day of an Intensive School, or an equivalent amount averaged over the whole period of an Intensive School.
 - 7.4. All Intensive Schools requiring physical attendance on the Armidale campus must be timetabled to ensure that students attending have appropriate access to University services and facilities.
 - 7.5. Non-mandatory Intensive Schools that incorporate assessable activities must provide alternative assessment activities based on similar learning outcomes for those students who do not attend.
 - 7.6. The learning outcomes attainable through Non-mandatory Intensive Schools must also be attainable through appropriate alternative activities provided for those who do not attend. The Intensive School should in general provide the more attractive avenue for students to attain the relevant learning outcomes.
 - 7.7. For unit-based Mandatory Intensive Schools, the Unit Coordinator is responsible for monitoring all attendance requirements. Students who do not attend all of a unit-based Mandatory Intensive School will receive an NI (Fail incomplete) result for the unit.
 - 7.8. For course-based Mandatory Intensive Schools, the Course Coordinator is responsible for monitoring all attendance requirements. Students who do not attend a course-based Mandatory Intensive School will not be permitted to graduate from the course.
 - 7.9. The minimum number of student registrations necessary to run a Non-mandatory Intensive School requiring physical attendance is ten or more students as specified in the unit study guide, except where the Head of School otherwise approves. The Head

of School will report to the Pro Vice-Chancellor Dean at the end of each teaching period on the number of approvals to run Non-mandatory Intensive Schools of less than the minimum number of student registrations.

7.10. The Head of School may cancel a non-mandatory Intensive School which has been advertised to students, but for which the minimum number of student registrations has not been obtained four weeks prior to the scheduled date of the Intensive School. The Head of School will ensure that all students in the unit or course are advised:

- That the Intensive School has been cancelled due to insufficient numbers; and
- Of the alternative arrangements that will be made to ensure that the unit or course content that was intended to be delivered at the Intensive School will be taught to students;

The Head of School will notify the Pro Vice-Chancellor Dean at the end of the teaching period of the cancellation of the Intensive School.

7.11. Students must be advised in the unit study guide to make refundable travel arrangements wherever possible in the event that a non-mandatory Intensive School is withdrawn or the minimum number of student registrations is not obtained.

8. The decision to hold a particular type of Intensive School must factor the following issues into the decision process:

8.1. The appropriateness of the Intensive School mode for the relevant learning outcomes and other pedagogical requirements.

8.2. Equity issues that may inhibit certain categories of students from attending or achieving full value from the Intensive School.

8.3. Resource implications (physical, staffing and financial) of the Intensive School.

9. Once an Intensive School has been advertised to students and the minimum number of student registrations obtained, that Intensive School cannot be withdrawn (e.g., cancelled), dates changed or the advertised Intensive School program altered in any way, without first:

9.1. For unit-based Intensive Schools obtaining the written approval of the relevant Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean on request of the relevant Head of School or, for course-based Intensive Schools involving the interests of more than one Head of School, on request of the relevant Course Coordinator.

9.2. Clearly communicating the change and the reasons for the change to all students in the unit or course immediately following approval of the request by the relevant Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean.

10. No Mandatory Intensive School requiring physical attendance is to be held offshore unless approved by the Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean of the relevant Faculty.

11. Offers of admission will include advice to students that units or courses may include a Mandatory Intensive School, which they must attend. Admission offers will confirm that where attendance at a Mandatory Intensive School is required within a teaching period, the dates and location of the school will not be altered by the University for that teaching period. The unit and course catalogue web link will be included in all offers of admission to enable students to access information about mandatory and other intensive school requirements.
12. The University may specify technology guidelines for the conduct of online Intensive Schools.
13. All cancellations or alterations made under rule 9 must be reported for information to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) by the relevant Pro Vice-Chancellor and Dean.
14. The unit study guide will state the cutoff date for students indicating attendance at an Intensive School. The cutoff date can be no later than 4 weeks prior to the scheduled date of the Intensive School.
15. Full-time international students on campus in Australia may only enroll in a unit involving an intensive mode with permission of the Director, English language and International Services.
16. Once stipulated on CRICOS and in promotional materials, mandatory Intensive Schools may not be cancelled for international students.