Section 8– Student Supports

Subject:	Policy on Supports available to International Learners	
Applicable QQI Core Standard	Supports for Learners	
Date Approved by Board of Directors:		**July 2019**
Policy Version	1/2019	Date due for Revision	February 2024

CONTEXT

The Irish College of Humanities & Applied Sciences welcomes and values International Students within our college community and recognises the cultural diversity which they bring and the exchange of values between cultures enhances and enriches the overall student experience. It is important, however that the College meets its obligations in relation to the admission of International students. The Irish Naturalisation and Immigration Service (INIS) have issued detailed guidance to colleges and potential students and it is vital that reference is made to their requirements when considering applications from Non-EEA and Non-EU countries. In that context, it is vital to recognise the distinction they identify between the requirements stipulated to hold a Visa to enter Ireland and requirements necessary to study in Ireland. For Non-EEA/ Non-EU students wishing to apply for a place on one of our undergraduate or postgraduate programmes please note the following important information applies.

Most students holding a Non-EAA/ Non-EU passport are required to have a valid visa to study in Ireland. Please refer to the INIS website for more comprehensive information and also direct potential applicants to the website also. However, in summary, there are generally two categories of applicants who need to be considered:
- Students who need a visa before they travel to Ireland
- Students who can enter Ireland without a visa and who can apply for their student visa after they arrive in Ireland.

POLICY STATEMENT

ICHAS welcomes and values International Learners. The College will abide by the Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Education and Training for International Learners (QQI, 2015). Both the college and International Learners have obligations in that regard.

RELEVANT GUIDELINES/ POLICIES INFORMING THIS POLICY

- QQI, (2015) Code of Practice for Provision of Programmes of Education and Training for International Learners
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2016) Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines Developed by QQI for use by all Providers
- European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) et al (2015) Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2016) Sector Specific Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines Developed by QQI For Independent/Private Providers Coming To QQI On A Voluntary Basis
- Government of Ireland (2012) Qualifications & Quality Assurance (Education and Training Act.
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2016) Policies & Criteria for the Validation of programmes of Education.
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2015) QQI Policy Restatement Policy and Criteria for Access, Transfer and Progression in Relation to Learners for Providers of Further and Higher Education and Training.
- National Qualifications Authority of Ireland (2005) – re-published by QQI, 2015) Principles and Operational Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning in Further and Higher Education and Training June 2005
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2018) Statutory Quality Assurance Guidelines for Providers of Blended Learning Programmes
- Protection of Enrolled Learners: Protocols for Implementation of Part 6 of the 2012 Act.
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (2013) Assessment and Standards, Revised 2013

Linked Policies and Procedures
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Linked Policies	Policy on Access, Applications and Admissions
Linked Procedures	Procedures relating to Supports available to International Learners