



Role of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies Policy

1. PURPOSE

A separate entry under the heading PURPOSE was not required when this policy was last reviewed

2. APPLICATION

All Curtin Campuses

3. EXCEPTIONS

Nil

4. DEFINITIONS

Nil

5. POLICY STATEMENT

5.1 The role of the Centre for Aboriginal Studies (CAS) is to:

- 5.1.1 actively contribute to the University's core activities of teaching and learning and research and development through CAS courses and CAS-sponsored research as well as through the work of the Divisions;
- 5.1.2 assist the University to achieve its Indigenous Governance objectives in a culturally sensitive and appropriate way.

5.2 All educational and research activities involving Australian Indigenous people must be conducted in consultation with CAS. Specifically, staff intending to teach, research or create images around Indigenous themes must first consult the CAS.

5.3 Declaration

The University requires that all staff consult or advise the Centre for Aboriginal Studies when seeking to teach, research or create images around Indigenous themes.

5.4 The CAS will guide the University and its individual students and staff in developing links into Indigenous Australian communities. To this end, the CAS will:

- 5.4.1 Provide advice on ethical issues impacting on Indigenous education or research.
- 5.4.2 Provide information on courses and research programs already in place.
- 5.4.3 Provide advice on understanding and respecting Indigenous Australian cultures - for example in relation to recognising and acknowledging Indigenous peoples and their lands.

5.5 More specifically, the CAS will:

- 5.5.1 Assist the University to embed reference to Indigenous ethical issues and cultural sensitivity in relevant policies and procedures on community relations, social justice, teaching and learning, research and development (e.g. Research Ethics, Courses [development and review], Equal Opportunity, Curtin Community Life), and to encourage the development of Indigenous studies in all academic areas including the development of double degrees, majors and other partnerships in teaching and learning.
- 5.5.2 Publicise relevant information to Indigenous communities in cooperation with relevant individuals, Indigenous-controlled organisations, non-Government and Government agencies.
- 5.5.3 Provide a website and other means for individuals and communities within and outside Curtin to inform the CAS of their intent or desire to engage in Indigenous education or research, which is not directly related to work of CAS.
- 5.5.4 Continue discussions with the University to develop and implement strategies to increase the participation and retention of Indigenous students and staff within the University.
- 5.5.5 Develop an indigenous Research and Project Policy to guide and assist Curtin staff and researchers interested in undertaking projects or research with Indigenous communities and people, and in partnership with research staff in CAS.

5.5.6 Conduct "Ways of Working" (with Aboriginal people) workshops for staff of Curtin University.

5.6 The University values the presence of Indigenous people from across Australia as part of its community, and acknowledges that the Bentley campus, near the meeting of the Canning and Swan rivers, is of particular significance to the Nyungar people of Western Australia.

5.7 The University also acknowledges that other Curtin locations are situated in lands of cultural importance and Aboriginal tradition. Curtin recognises that one effect of the settlement of Australia in the past two centuries has been the dispossession of Indigenous peoples, and that Aboriginal Australians continue to face social and economic disadvantage, accentuated by prejudice, misunderstanding and racism. The University opposes prejudice, racism and harassment in all their forms. In pursuing the University's educational mission, Curtin remains dedicated to the principles of social justice and will act in consultation with the Aboriginal community. In particular, Curtin will:

5.7.1 Promote an understanding of Indigenous culture and history.

5.7.2 Direct strategies toward the increasing participation of Indigenous people as students and staff in the full range of University activities.

5.7.3 Continue its commitment to Indigenous research and development with an emphasis on applied research, involving Indigenous people, wherever possible, in the management of the research process.

5.7.4 Develop its physical environment with sensitivity and respect for Indigenous traditions and beliefs through consultation with the local Indigenous community.

6. PRINCIPLES

6.1 The University strives to foster an environment that promotes activities that both support the empowerment of Indigenous people and contribute to significant benefits for their communities. Collaborative projects undertaken by University representatives with Indigenous people and communities shall be conducted in ways that support the following principles:

6.1.1 A respect of Indigenous people and their culture, knowledge and understandings.

6.1.2 Acknowledgment of Indigenous participation and ownership in the processes and products of any relevant educational and research initiatives.

6.1.3 Acknowledgment of the need for the voices of Indigenous people to be heard, including the right of Indigenous people to describe and name their own experiences in their own ways.

6.1.4 That CAS be consulted or advised when Indigenous individuals or communities outside of Curtin seek relationships of an educational or research nature with staff or students of the University.

6.1.5 That CAS support and guide the University in the development of teaching and research programs that contribute to social justice for Indigenous Australians.

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Approval Authority	Planning and Management Committee
Review Date	1 st April 2013

REVISION HISTORY

Version	Approved/ Amended/ Rescinded	Date	Committee / Board / Executive Manager	Approval / Resolution Number	Key Changes and Notes
A006/1.1	Approved	30/11/2001	Academic Senate	AS 353/01	Attachment 1 to Document No AS 158/01
	Amended	25/07/2006	Planning and Management Committee	PMC 59/06 (ii) and (iii)	Document No 00758/06 and Document No 00759/06
	Administratively Updated	20/03/2008	Director, Legal and Compliance Services		Reformatted and Amended to Reflect Organisational Chart
	Administratively Updated	19/08/2009	Director, Legal and Compliance Services		Formally Reviewed, Minor Text Amendments
	Administratively Updated	17/06/2010	Director, Legal and Compliance Services		Amended to Reflect Organisational Change
	Administratively Updated	06/10/2015	Director, Legal and Compliance Services	EC 76/15	Executive Manager Title Changes