

# POLICY AND PROCEDURE

## PP19 DEFERRAL AND WITHDRAWAL

### PURPOSE

The National Indigenous Training Academy (**NITA**) acknowledges that there are times when students cannot engage successfully in their studies or do not wish to continue their studies. NITA is committed to providing students with flexibility and the ability to withdraw from a course with as little inconvenience to the student as possible.

### SCOPE

This Policy and Procedure outlines the various circumstances under which a NITA student based at Ayers Rock Resort may opt to withdraw from their studies, for a short period of time (deferral) or permanently (withdrawal).

It also outlines how NITA may pause a student's study for a short period (suspension) or permanently (discontinuation of enrolment).

**This Policy and Procedure falls within the following NITA Student Experience segment:**

- Learn.

### VET DEFINITIONS

**ASQA** means the Australian Skills Quality Authority.

**AASN** means the Australian Apprenticeship Services Network which delivers support services nationally through more than 480 field officers and 137 physical locations (shopfronts) to apprentices, trainees, their employers and training providers, such as NITA.

**GTNT** is the Northern Territory's primary AASN.

**Student** (or trainee) means an enrolled learner or trainee who has agreed to use the services provided by NITA. In the case of the SIT30622 Certificate III in Hospitality (Food and Beverage), the student is an enrolled trainee who has agreed to a contracted traineeship with NITA.

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NITA does not charge any fees or place any financial barriers on students wishing to defer or withdraw from their course. See NITA's **Fees and Charges Policy and Procedure** for more detail.

Where a student withdraws or their enrolment is discontinued by NITA, a Statement of Attainment will be issued for all units of competency achieved subject to a USI being provided.

#### **Trainee-Initiated Withdrawal of Enrolment**

Trainees may initiate a withdrawal of their enrolment during their course by notifying NITA's Training Manager. All trainee requests for a withdrawal must be made on a **Deferral and Withdrawal Form** and be received as early as possible prior to the proposed date of withdrawal. The trainee should meet with the Training Manager to discuss their circumstances, so that it may be determined if any interventions can be put into place to support the trainee's participation rather than opting for withdrawal. The National Programs Manager must first approve any withdrawals before they are accepted.

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GTNT will be advised of the trainee's decision by NITA's Training Manager as soon as reasonably possible along with an agreed termination date. The Residential Team must also be notified of all withdrawals and termination date.

Once a trainee has withdrawn, and if they wish to re-apply they must re-apply for a new traineeship place and meet all current eligibility requirements, which may have altered since the previous course of enrolment, regardless of whether it is the same qualification and stream. The circumstances in which the trainee withdrew will be considered by the NITA Chief Executive Manager who will determine whether the trainee may re-enrol.

### **Trainee-Initiated Deferral of Enrolment**

Enrolled trainees may initiate a deferral of their enrolment for a maximum combined period of 6 months through agreement with NITA's Training Manager and subject to the prior approval of the National Programs Manager.

All requests for deferrals must be made on a **Deferral and Withdrawal Form** and must be provided to the Training Manager as early as possible prior to the proposed date of deferral.

The request will be considered by the National Programs Manager and the trainee may be invited to meet with the Training Manager and National Programs Manager to discuss their request. Should the student be wanting to travel outside of Ayers Rock Resort and if they require financial assistance to travel, they are also required to complete and submit a **Trainee Travel Request Form** with their **Deferral and Withdrawal Form**.

A deferral may be made on the grounds of compassionate or compelling circumstances: conditions which are beyond the control of the trainee which may impact on the trainee's course progress or wellbeing. These may include, but may not be limited to the following:

- cultural leave – including bereavement of close family members
- parental or carer's leave
- serious illness or injury – where a medical certificate states the trainee was unable to attend classes.
- natural disaster requiring emergency travel
- a traumatic experience, such as involvement in or witness a serious crime or accident
- other reasons may be considered

When determining whether compassionate or compelling circumstances exist, the National Programs Manager may consider documentary evidence provided to support the claim, and store copies of these documents in a Student's file alongside the completed **Deferral and Withdrawal Form**.

A retrospective deferment may be justified if the trainee was unable to contact NITA's Training Manager in specific circumstances. Acceptance of this request is delegated to the National Programs Manager by the NITA Chief Executive Manager.

A date for return to studies should be agreed in communication between a trainee and the Training Manager. If a trainee is completely uncontactable for an unexpected and extended period of time Voyages usual employment policies and procedures may be followed and could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

If the deferral is required for longer than 6 months, a trainee may make this request, but it will only be considered by the National Programs Manager in exceptional circumstances, and be subject to approval by the NITA Chief Executive Manager.

### **Trainee-Initiated Suspension**

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A suspension is the formal terminology for a temporary cessation (or deferral) of a traineeship Training Contract for a period of time agreed by the trainee and the employer and approved by the Northern Territory AASN through GTNT.

### **Trainee-Initiated Transfer to Another Employer**

A Training Contract may be transferred, at NITA's discretion, to another registered employer with the agreement of the current employer, the new employer and the trainee. It is not possible to transfer a Northern Territory Training Contract to an interstate employer. The Training Manager will promptly advise GTNT of any such change.

### **NITA-Initiated Deferral, Extension, Suspension or Cancellation of Enrolment**

NITA may **defer** a trainee's commencement when a course is not offered at the scheduled commencement date. The trainee will be offered the opportunity to transfer to an alternative course, where appropriate.

NITA may **extend** a trainee's course duration when a trainee has not fully completed their required course work in the expected timeframe. The Training Manager may offer a one month extensions, if required, with intensive supports. A further extension may be considered however only in exceptional circumstances and with the approval of NITA's Chief Executive Manager.

NITA may **suspend** a trainee enrolment if a trainee's employment with Voyages is under investigation or is suspended as determined by Voyages' People & Culture Team, in consultation with the NITA Chief Executive Manager.

NITA may **cancel** a trainee enrolment in the following instances:

- if a trainee's employment with Voyages is terminated; or
- if a trainee is not making satisfactory course progress and fails to comply with their study requirements such as the agreed **Training Plan, assessment requirements** and/or the agreed **Individual Support Plan**.

The decision to defer or extend a trainee's enrolment is at the discretion of NITA's National Programs Manager. The decision to suspend or cancel a trainee's enrolment is at the discretion of the NITA Chief Executive Manager. In all instances, NITA's Training Manager will notify GTNT promptly so that Training Contracts may be adjusted.

### **Ceasing to Offer a Qualification – Enrolled Trainees**

In instances where NITA ceases to offer a qualification, it will ensure that all impacted and enrolled trainees receive Statements of Attainments for all completed Units of Competency (where deemed as Competent) and be offered to be supported to credit transfer into a replacement course with an alternative training provider. The Training Manager will advise GTNT promptly so that the trainee's Training Contract may be adjusted.

### **Termination as an RTO**

In the event NITA cannot complete training and/or assessment, once the trainee has commenced study, it will support its enrolled trainees to enrol with an alternative training provider and negotiate full course subsidisation through Voyages so that the trainee is not disadvantaged in any way. The Training Manager will advise GTNT promptly so that the trainee's Training Contract may be adjusted.

### **Trainee Right to Appeal**

In cases where changes to a trainee's enrolment is initiated by NITA, the trainee will be given reasonable notice and have access to NITA's complaints and appeals process (refer to **Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure**).

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Should a complaint be lodged, the change to a trainee's enrolment will not take effect until the internal appeals process is completed, unless the trainee's health or wellbeing, or the wellbeing of others, is likely to be at risk.

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

#### RELATED FORMS

Deferral and Withdrawal Form  
Trainee Travel Request Form

#### RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Complaints and Appeals Policy and Procedure  
Fees and Charges Policy and Procedure

### PUBLISHING DETAILS

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE:** PP19 Deferral and Withdrawal

**VERSION:** 2

**RELEVANCE:** Training Manager  
National Programs Manager  
NITA Chief Executive Manager

**APPROVED BY:** NITA Chief Executive Manager (CEM)

**APPROVED DATE:** 21/08/2023

**NEXT REVIEW DATE:**

30/06/2024

#### REVISION HISTORY:

VERSION	DATE	DESCRIPTION OF REVISIONS	REVISED BY
1	30/06/2022	created	Director NITA
2	21/08/2023	reviewed	NITA CEM