Student Code of Conduct

Policy Owner	CEO
Approving Authority	Governing Council
Implementation Responsibility	CEO
Effective Date	10/09/2026
Review Date	TBA
Current Status	Version 1.1

1. Purpose

The Sydney Polytechnic Institute (SPI) has produced this Code of Conduct to inform students of their rights and responsibilities whilst studying at SPI. This Code ensures that students will be able to complete their studies at SPI in a safe environment and benefit from a respectful, inclusive and responsible community.

Students have a responsibility to uphold the values of SPI and assist in the creation and maintenance of a respectful, inclusive and responsible community for themselves and others, thus ensuring that students can prosper in their studies. Students at the Institute are expected to:

- Be responsible for the wellbeing, safety and security of themselves and others
- Be respectful to others with differing and conflicting opinions, viewpoints or identities

2. Scope

This code applies to all student conduct on SPI premises, during SPI-related activities, online environments, and off-campus behaviour where such conduct impacts the SPI community or reputation

3. Student Rights

Students at SPI have rights afforded to them by the institute and their peers in order to protect students' best interests. Students can expect the following at SPI:

- To be treated with respect and courtesy
- To be free from discrimination, victimization and harassment
- To study in a safe and supportive learning environment
- To be able to raise complaints
- To be able to seek support
- To receive education and opportunities as outlined in their Confirmation of Enrolment

- To have their privacy protected in accordance with SPI policy and Australian law
- To receive quality educational and support services provided by SPI in accordance with Australian laws and standards
- To be informed of alleged breaches of any SPI policy, and to to be given an opporturinty respond before any decision is made
- To have the right to appeal disciplinary decisions under relevant SPI policies

4. Responsibilities

4.1 Upholding Responsibilities

Students must adhere to their responsibilities as outlined in this document and SPI policies. Students must also uphold and respect the rights of fellow students. This is paramount to fostering a respectful, inclusive and responsible student community.

4.2 Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

Consumption, possession and distribution of illegal drugs and alcohol are strictly prohibited on SPI premises and within the Institute's facilities. Use, possession or sale of illicit substances will result in disciplinary action by the Institute and be reported to Australian law enforcement.

4.3 Smoking and vaping

In accordance with the NSW Smoke-free Environment Regulation 2016, smoking and vaping is strictly prohibited on SPI premises and facilities, including outdoor areas and entrances.

4.4 Consumption of food and drink

Consumption of food and drink is not permitted in classrooms, laboratories, and libraries on the SPI campus, except where explicitly allowed or in designated areas.

4.5 Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

In line with the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, SPI is committed to providing a hazard-free and safe environment for staff, students and guests where practicable. Students are expected to uphold and maintain this standard where practicable, and have a duty to uphold their safety and the safety of others.

4.6 Dangerous Behaviour

Any actions which could be reasonably seen to be dangerous to students' health and safety is strictly prohibited and will be met with disciplinary action. Examples include abuse, harassment, discrimination, possession or distribution of weapons (including

replicas of weapons or ammunition), gross negligence of responsibilities, and violence. Where appropriate, dangerous behaviour may be reported to Australian law enforcement.

4.7 Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour includes actions which are disruptive or harmful to others. Actions that hinder staff and students from executing their responsibilities and threatening their working or learning environment will be considered a violation of this Code of Conduct. Actions include indecent behaviour, violence, disruptions of an excessive nature, and offensive behaviour.

4.8 Damage or Misuse of Property

Damage or misuse of SPI property and facilities will be considered serious violations to the Code of Conduct and is strictly prohibited. This includes vandalism, theft and damage to SPI property. Damage or misuse of the property belonging to other students or SPI staff is also considered a serious violation of the Code of Conduct.

4.9 Academic Dishonesty

4.9.1 Cheating

Any form of cheating, including contract cheating, plagiarism, impersonation and collusion, creates an unfair advantage and is strictly prohibited. See *SPI Academic Integrity Policy* for more information.

4.9.2 Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to the inappropriate use of work created by others and is strictly prohibited. This includes representing the ideas, writing, research or media of others, as your own. Improper or lacking attribution of sources also puts you at risk of plagiarism. Engaging in plagiarism will result in severe disciplinary action being initiated. See *SPI Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure* for more information.

4.10 Academic Progress

Students are responsible for their own academic progress and maintaining their studies. Students must not disrupt nor prevent the academic progress of their peers. Students are encouraged to foster a cooperative and supportive learning environment amongst themselves without engaging in any forms of academic dishonesty. Students are also encouraged to seek support and advice from academic staff should they feel unable to maintain their academic progress.

4.11 Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination

SPI will not tolerate any instances of bullying, cyber-bullying, harassment, abuse or discrimination. Expectations and processes are defined in the *SPI Non-Academic Student Misconduct Policy and Procedures*, and *SPI Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy*.

4.12 Uphold the Institute's Reputation

Students are representatives of the SPI community and are expected to act in such a way as to not damage the reputation of the Institute. Actions which damage or reflect poorly on the Institution's reputation, such as engaging in serious unlawful or inappropriate behaviour, both on or off SPI premises is considered a violation of this Code of Conduct.

4.13 Illicit Behaviour

Actions and behaviour in violation of state or commonwealth law are in serious violation of SPI's Code of Conduct and will be reported to law enforcement. All students and staff must follow Australian state and commonwealth law. See *SPI Health and Safety Policy* for relevant information.

4.14 Classroom Expectations

Students are expected to obey the rules set out by their assigned teachers regarding classroom behaviour. However, some general expectations apply to all students:

- Punctuality – students must ensure that they are on time for the start of class and resumption of class after lecture breaks.
- Students must be respectful of the opinions of others and resolve conflicts peacefully.
- Students are expected to attend nominally 80% per enrolled unit including lectures, tutorials and workshops.
- Students should be aware of any announcements or communication from SPI staff via the student Learning Management System (LMS) or via emails directed to their SPI student email address.

5. Breaches of the Code of Conduct

As a condition of their enrolment, students must not breach this Code of Conduct. Breaches of this code may put your enrolment at risk. Process for dealing with breaches, including possible outcomes, are defined in the *SPI Non-Academic Student Misconduct Policy and Procedures*.

Australian state or commonwealth law is violated, the Institute may report cases to the relevant law enforcement agencies.

6. Student Support

Students are encouraged to seek the appropriate support services if they are negatively affected by breaches of this code.

As not every matter or circumstance concerning student conduct can be addressed in this document, SPI will review, act upon and investigate any suspected breaches of SPI policy or Australian law.

Notes

Related Documents:

SPI Non-Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure
SPI Access and Usage of Resources Policy
SPI Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples Policy
SPI Bullying, Harassment and Discrimination Policy
SPI Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure

Amendment History:

Version No.	Approved by	Effective date	Amendments
1.0	Governing Council	27/08/2021	New Policy
1.1	Governing Council	10/09/2026	Academic Board periodic review