

OVERVIEW: CRITERIA 2. HIGHER EDUCATION PURPOSE AND FREE INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY

Objective, framework, resources and rationale

PART B of the Higher Education Standards Framework (2015) details the four standards or criteria which must be met for a provider to be defined by the regulator TEQSA as a “Higher Education Provider”. Specifically, the overview here is provided to refer briefly to the detailed compliance material provided elsewhere in Acknowledge Education’s application for renewal of Registration as a HEP. The requisite clause of the Standards denotes that:

“The higher education provider has a clearly articulated higher education purpose that includes a commitment to and support for free intellectual inquiry in its academic endeavours.”

Acknowledge, is a long-standing, high-quality Higher Education Provider and cleaves inherently to having a higher education purpose. This is moreover articulated from the point of our Mission Statement onwards, i.e. from our overriding purpose to our quotidian work AE is purposefully an education provider. Directly, the Mission Statement notes that our Mission is:

“To stay a challenging, relevant and creative leader in the Education Industry.”
[refer here to 6.1.4 C.6.2 STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN 2018-21]

Further, and less esoterically, numerous documents provided to TEQSA as the basis of the material submission detail our direct activities in meeting the needs of Criteria B1.1, but particular note should be made of both the entire *Strategic Plan* (see above for reference) and our *Governance Framework* [refer here to 6.1.3 C.6.2]. These documents define how standard work is carried out operationally, as the result of a clear purpose and how that work is directed to Higher Education.

Acknowledge Education asserts that we meet Criteria B1.1.2 with reference to having a clearly articulated higher education purpose.

Acknowledge demonstrates our overriding commitment to free intellectual inquiry by the natural devotion of policy to that purpose [refer here to 6.1.4 C.6.2] and the promulgation of the *Free Intellectual Inquiry Policy*. Directly correlated to meeting the Criteria is this clause, that defines how Acknowledge sanctions staff and students to express or pursue discourse:

“Both staff and students of Acknowledge Education are entitled to –

- a) express opinions about Acknowledge’s operations and policies;
- b) pursue free intellectual inquiry generally
- c) where applicable, conduct, examine and publish research in pursuit of free academic endeavour”

Acknowledge Education asserts that we meet Criteria B1.1.2, with reference to free intellectual inquiry.