THIRD PARTY PAYMENT OF STUDENT FEES POLICY 2014

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal, as delegate of the Senate of the University of Sydney, adopts the following policy.

Dated: 8 July 2014

Date amended: 4 May 2018 (administrative amendments only)
24 March 2019 (administrative amendments only)
1 July 2020
21 July 2023 (administrative amendments only)
16 April 2024 (administrative amendments)

Signature:
Name: Prof Stephen Garton (acting Vice-Chancellor)

Current policy approver: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)

CONTENTS

1 Name of policy....................................................................................................................... 1
2 Commencement.................................................................................................................... 1
3 Policy is binding.................................................................................................................. 2
4 Statement of intent.............................................................................................................. 2
5 Application......................................................................................................................... 2
6 Definitions........................................................................................................................... 2
7 Third party payment arrangements generally................................................................. 3
8 Arrangements to which the University is not a party......................................................... 4
9 Arrangements to which the University is party................................................................... 4
10 Admission............................................................................................................................ 5
11 Enrolment and re-enrolment............................................................................................... 6
12 Changes to programs of study........................................................................................... 6
13 Termination of third party payment arrangements............................................................ 6
14 Failure to pay...................................................................................................................... 7
15 Privacy – provision of student information to third parties.............................................. 7
16 Recordkeeping.................................................................................................................... 7

1 Name of policy

This is the Third Party Payment of Student Fees Policy 2014.

2 Commencement

This policy commences on 7 July 2014.
3 Policy is binding

Except to the extent that a contrary intention is expressed, this policy binds the University, staff, students and affiliates.

4 Statement of intent

This policy:

(a) specifies the circumstances in which the University may enter into arrangements with third parties for payment of student fees and expenses; and

(b) specifies the University’s requirements for recording and documenting such arrangements.

5 Application

(1) This policy applies to:

(a) all University staff, students and affiliates; and

(b) non-award students as if they were students.

(2) This policy does not apply to:

(a) the administration of memoranda of understanding entered into as part of the University’s membership of the Group of Eight (Go8) Universities; or

(b) scholarships or prizes administered by the Scholarships Office.

6 Definitions

delegate means a person or persons holding delegated authority from the Senate to undertake a particular action, as set out in the University of Sydney (Delegations of Authority) Rule.

domestic student means any student who is an Australian or New Zealand citizen or a holder of an Australian permanent visa.

international student means any student who is not an Australian or New Zealand citizen or a holder of an Australian permanent visa. An international student is required to hold a visa that allows study in Australia, and may be liable for international tuition fees.

program of study means a course at the University, whether leading to the attainment of a recognised award (award course) or not (non-award course).

non-award student means a person who is currently undertaking a program of study at the University which will not lead to the attainment of a recognised award (i.e. a non-award course).
relevant faculty officer  means the more senior of the Finance Manager or Associate Director Finance responsible for a particular faculty.

SRA  means the Student Centre, Student Recruitment and Admissions Group.

student  means a person who is currently admitted to candidature in an award course at the University. In this policy and any associated procedures, references to students include references to non-award students.

student fees and expenses  means including but not limited to all or any of the following:
- tuition fees
- student services and amenities fees
- preliminary course costs
- incidental course fees
- additional tutorial assistance costs
- health cover costs
- establishment allowance
- other living expenses
- travel expenses

student services and amenities fee  means the fee levied on students by the University to cover services and amenities of a non-academic nature.

third party  means an individual or entity, other than a student, who has agreed to bear costs associated with full or partial payment of student fees and expenses for a specified unit or units of study or for a specified period of time.

unit of study  means the smallest stand alone component of a program of study.

7 Third party payment arrangements generally

(1) The University may enter into arrangements with third parties for the payment of student fees and expenses before the relevant student commences a program of study or part way through such a program.

(2) Such arrangements may involve:
   (a) a funding agreement between the University and the third party; or
   (b) the provision of a financial guarantee to the University by the third party.

(3) A funding agreement between the University and a third party must be recorded in writing in a form approved by the Office of General Counsel. This may be done by:
   (a) use of a pre-approved template agreement, to which no substantial amendment is made; or
   (b) preparation of a transaction specific document.
(4) Third party payment arrangements may relate to individual students or to multiple students.

(5) A third party may co-ordinate communications and provision of relevant information on behalf of a student or proposed student but is not permitted to accept any offer on that person’s behalf.

(6) A third party is not permitted to enrol or re-enrol on behalf of a student.

8 Arrangements to which the University is not a party

(1) Where an arrangement exists between a student and a third party for payment of student fees and expenses and the University is not a party to that arrangement, the University will regard the student as liable for payment of all student fees and expenses owed to the University, unless the third party has provided a financial guarantee to the University.

(2) The financial guarantee must:
   (a) be recorded in writing, on the third party’s official letterhead;
   (b) be signed by the third party (if an individual) or by the third party’s chief executive officer or equivalent (if an organisation); and
   (c) specify:
      (i) the full name(s) of the student(s) to which it applies;
      (ii) the full and correct name of the third party, including any applicable company or business registration number;
      (iii) the name(s) of the program(s) of study to be undertaken by the student(s);
      (iv) the duration of the agreement, expressed in either years or semesters;
      (v) a list of all student fees and expenses for which the third party is liable; and
      (vi) the full name, position description and contact details of the individual responsible for dealing with the University on behalf of the third party.

9 Arrangements to which the University is party

(1) The Executive Director, Student Administrative Services, is responsible for negotiating and managing all third party payment arrangements.

(2) Agreements establishing such arrangements must be approved and executed by the relevant delegate.

Note: See University of Sydney (Delegations of Authority) Rule.

(3) In relation to international students:
   (a) The Vice-President (External Engagement) must:
      (i) ensure that the agreed arrangements are consistent with all applicable requirements imposed by the Australian government for the issue of the student(s) visas; and
(ii) inform the relevant faculty officer of all such arrangements relating to students enrolled in each faculty.

Note: As at the date of this policy, information about visas is available from the Department of Home Affairs, at: https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Stud/More/Visa-conditions/visa-conditions-students

(b) The SRA must ensure that:

(i) information provided to prospective third party payers informs them of the key issues impacting student visas on or before the issue of offer letters to the relevant students;

(ii) offer letters inform the prospective students of such issues; and

(iii) the online enrolment process informs students of the current consequences of non-payment of student fees and expenses.

Note: See Student Debtor Sanctions Policy

(4) In relation to domestic students, the Executive Director, Student Administrative Services, must:

(a) ensure that agreements for third party payment of domestic student fees and expenses specify:

(i) an initial term of no more than five years;

(ii) a maximum of one renewal of no more than five years;

(iii) the full and correct name of the third party, including any applicable company or business registration number;

(iv) the full name(s) of the student(s) the subject of the agreement, or (where applicable) the mechanism by which the student(s) subject to the agreement will be identified after enrolment;

(v) a list of all the student fees and expenses for which the third party is liable; and

(vi) the full name, position description and contact details of the individual responsible for dealing with the University on behalf of the third party; and

(b) inform the relevant faculty officer of all such arrangements relating to students enrolled in each faculty.

10 Admission

Prospective students subject to third party payment arrangements must meet all applicable University admission requirements.

Note: See University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule; Coursework Policy; University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule; Visa and Work Rights Policy.
11 Enrolment and re-enrolment

(1) The student is responsible for his or her own enrolment or re-enrolment.

(2) Enrolment may be cancelled or re-enrolment restricted, in certain circumstances. These may include failure to make required payments or to comply with the terms of a third party payment agreement.

Note: See clause 14 of this policy. See also: Student Debtor Sanctions Policy; University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule; University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule.

12 Changes to programs of study

(1) A student who is subject to a third party payment arrangement who wishes to vary their program of study must notify the Executive Director, Student Administrative Services, and the third party of the proposed change.

(2) The student must provide the Executive Director, Student Administrative Services, with evidence of notification to the third party.

(3) The Executive Director, Student Administrative Services, will check that the proposed variation is consistent with the terms of the arrangement and will inform the student if it is not.

(4) If the proposed variation would involve:
   (a) the student exceeding the credit points required for an undergraduate award;
   (b) extending the duration of a higher degree by research; or
   (c) an inconsistency with the terms of the applicable third party payment arrangement;

   the variation will not be accepted unless the Executive Director, Student Administrative Services, is satisfied that:
   (d) the third party will continue the arrangement consistently with the terms of the variation; or
   (e) the student will accept responsibility for payment of any applicable student fees and expenses.

13 Termination of third party payment arrangements

(1) Any unpaid fees (including overdue amounts) will become immediately payable upon termination of the third party payment arrangement.

(2) If, before a student has completed his or her program of study:
   (a) a third party payment arrangement ceases; or
   (b) the relationship between the student and the third party alters in a manner which may impact on the third party’s continued payment of the agreed student fees and expenses

   the student must notify the Executive Director, Student Administrative Services, as soon as practicable.
(3) After receiving such a notification the Executive Director, Student Administrative Services, will consult with the student before determining the course of action to be taken in relation to any money owed to the University.

14 Failure to pay

If money owed to the University on account of student fees and expenses is not paid by the due date, the University may do either or both of:

(a) impose sanctions on the student, in accordance with University policy; or
(b) commence debt recovery action against the person liable for the outstanding amount(s).

Note: See Student Debtor Sanctions Policy

15 Privacy – provision of student information to third parties

(1) The University will not provide student information, including information about a student’s results, to a third party without the student’s consent.

(2) The student may provide such consent at the time the third party payment arrangement is established or subsequently.

(3) The student may revoke any such consent by written notice to the Executive Director, Student Administrative Services.

16 Recordkeeping

The officer responsible for managing a third party payment arrangement is responsible for ensuring that appropriate records are created and maintained.

Note: See Recordkeeping Policy and Recordkeeping Manual.

NOTES

Third Party Payment of Student Fees Policy 2014

Date adopted: 8 July 2014
Date registered: 7 July 2014
Date commenced: 7 July 2014
Date amended: 24 April 2018 (administrative amendments only)
24 March 2019 (administrative amendments only)
1 July 2020
21 July 2023 (administrative amendments only)
16 April 2024 (administrative amendments)

Administrator: Executive Director, Student Administrative Services

Review date: 7 July 2019

Related documents:
- University of Sydney (Coursework) Rule
- University of Sydney (Delegations of Authority) Rule
- University of Sydney (Higher Degree by Research) Rule
- Coursework Policy
- Privacy Policy
- Student Debtor Sanctions Policy
- Recordkeeping Policy
- Privacy Procedures
- Recordkeeping Manual
- Student Debtor Sanctions Procedures

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AMENDMENT HISTORY

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<th>Provision</th>
<th>Amendment</th>
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<td>6 Delegate definition; 9(2) Note</td>
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