

Guide to Best Practice in 'Direct Entry' Programs (2017) Summary



Aims of the Guide

The English Australia Guide to Best Practice in Direct Entry Programs was prepared with considerable input from staff at English Australia member colleges and aims to ensure that:

- English Australia member colleges are confident that they are part of a community of best practice;
- standards of program delivery by English Australia member colleges are maintained despite market fluctuations;
- high school, vocational and higher education providers see English Australia member ELICOS providers as partners in the development and delivery of direct entry programs;
- the reputation of Direct Entry Programs with high school, vocational and higher education providers, as well as with the ELICOS industry regulators, is enhanced to ensure the continuation of the relevance of these programs into the future.

Guide Contents

The Guide to Best Practice in Direct Entry Programs identifies features that characterise best practice in four key areas in the delivery of programs that provide direct entry from English language to further education:

1. the context for development and delivery of direct entry programs, including consultation with key stakeholders, documentation of arrangements and benchmarking of programs and outcomes;
2. the structure, content and methodology of direct entry programs, covering spoken and written language for study contexts together with research and study skills and cross-cultural skills, a range of delivery patterns and a range of approaches to assessment;
3. student placement and the monitoring and reporting of student progress and achievement, outlining assessment considerations, pre-enrolment and on-arrival student placement, assessment of course outcomes and dealing with student failure;
4. the resourcing of direct entry programs with qualified, experienced teachers and adequate curriculum support.

The Guide outlines how each of these four features can be achieved and gives relevant case study examples of best practice from English Australia member colleges. The Guide also includes valuable input from the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA) and The Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA), both of whom reviewed the Guide contents and contributed sections on their relevant sectors. Finally, there is a list of suggested content for syllabuses for Direct Entry Program courses.

2017 Guide - Supplement in Validation& Moderation of 'Direct Entry' Programs

The original Guide to Best Practice in Direct Entry Programs was published in 2008 and it was revised and updated in 2013. In early 2017, an updated version of the Guide was again released.

The 2017 Guide features a new **Supplement in Validation and Moderation of Direct Entry Programs**. The Supplement focuses on internal and external moderation and validation and suggests practical processes and procedures to assist ELICOS Providers and receiving institutions to ensure that their systems in moderation and validation enhance the quality of their Direct Entry Programs.

The Supplement has been authored by by a working party of experts who all have considerable experience in Direct Entry Programs: Juliana Kendi, Director of Studies, ELICOS Programs, La Trobe Melbourne, Dianne McKeagney, General Manager VU English, Victoria University and Nick Philippou, Director of Studies – General Programs, Hawthorn-Melbourne, along with English Australia.

The catalyst for the development of the Supplement in Validation and Moderation was the TEQSA review of the ELICOS standards, p.4 'Assessment of ELICOS Students', and subsequent English Australia dialogue with TEQSA and ASQA regarding best practice in moderation and validation in Direct Entry Programs.

The Supplement covers 3 main areas:

1. best practice in assessment task validation;
2. best practice in moderation of assessment;
3. best practice in external validation of direct entry programs.

For more information on other English Australia Best Practice Guides, please visit the English Australia website: <http://www.englishaustralia.com.au/best-practice-guides>