



Academic Regulations

Document Title:	Academic Regulations
Version:	1.2
Date Approved:	20th November 2025
Approved By:	Academic Board
Circulation:	Academic Board, Board of Directors, Programme Leaders, Academic Staff, Assessment & Progression Board, Registry, Students (via Student Handbook).
Classification:	Public
Review Frequency:	Annual
Next Review Date:	November 2026
External References:	N/A

1. PART I — STATUS AND AUTHORITY

- 1.1 These Academic Regulations constitute the binding academic framework of Watney College.
- 1.2 Authority for academic standards is delegated by the Board of Directors to the Academic Board under the College's Functional Structure (V7).
- 1.3 No body other than Academic Board may amend academic standards.
- 1.4 The Principals Executive Group (PEG) is responsible for operational implementation only and shall not alter academic standards.
- 1.5 In the event of conflict between these Regulations and the requirements of an awarding organisation, the awarding organisation's regulations shall prevail.

2. PART II — GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING HIERARCHY

2.1 Academic governance reporting line:

The academic governance reporting line operates in accordance with the approved Functional Structure as follows:

- Programme Committee → reports to Academic Board
- Quality Assurance Committee → reports to Academic Board
- Student Engagement & Work-Based Learning Committee → reports to Academic Board
- Assessment & Progression Board → exercises delegated authority from Academic Board for assessment, progression and award ratification (within the scope delegated)
- Academic Board → accountable to College Oversight Board
- College Oversight Board → accountable to Board of Directors

2.2 Board-level oversight of academic risk:

- Audit, Remuneration & Risk Committee → reports directly to the Board of Directors and receives assurance on institutional risks, including academic risk where academic performance presents material institutional risk.

2.3 Delegation statement:

- Delegation to committees and boards does not remove accountability from Academic Board for academic standards, quality and outcomes.

2.4 Governance clarity:

- Principals Executive Group and All Staff Meeting are operational management forums and are not governance committees within the reporting line above.

3. PART III — ADMISSIONS GOVERNANCE

3.1 Admissions decisions are operationally administered by the Admissions Team.

3.2 Admissions criteria must align with:

- Awarding body requirements
- Published entry standards
- Equality Act 2010 principles

3.3 Academic Board retains oversight of admissions standards.

3.4 The College reserves the right to withdraw an offer or terminate registration where:

- Fraud
- Misrepresentation
- Omitted material information is identified.

3.5 Applicants may request a review of admissions decisions in accordance with published procedures. Academic judgment is not subject to appeal.

4. PART IV — CREDIT AND AWARD FRAMEWORK

- 4.1 The College delivers programmes under awarding body specifications and does not hold degree awarding powers.
- 4.2 Award outcomes shall be recorded strictly in accordance with awarding body regulations.
- 4.3 Where the awarding body specifies Pass/Fail: Final award outcome shall be Pass or Fail only.
- 4.4 The College shall not introduce any independent classification framework.
- 4.5 Awarding body rules override institutional aggregation where conflict arises.

5. PART V — ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 All assessments must:
- Align with learning outcomes
 - Use published criteria
 - Undergo internal verification
 - Be externally quality assured where required
- 5.2 Reassessment shall be permitted only in accordance with awarding body rules.
- 5.3 Only the Assessment & Progression Board may ratify awards.
- 5.4 Quorum for Assessment & Progression Board:
- Chair or nominee
 - Minimum two academic members
 - Quality assurance representative

6. PART VI — PROGRESSION AND WITHDRAWAL

- 6.1 A student shall progress where:
- Required credits achieved
 - No outstanding misconduct
 - Attendance requirements met
- 6.2 A student may be required to withdraw for:
- Academic failure beyond permitted reassessment
 - Serious academic misconduct
 - Fraud or misrepresentation
 - Failure to engage
- 6.3 Academic withdrawal decisions must be documented and reported to Academic Board.

7. PART VII — FITNESS TO STUDY

- 7.1 The College may initiate Fitness to Study proceedings where:
- A student's health significantly impairs academic engagement
 - Behaviour poses risk to others
 - Support measures have been exhausted
- 7.2 A Fitness to Study Panel shall:
- Include senior academic representative
 - Include student support representative
 - Act proportionately
- 7.3 Outcomes may include:
- Support plan
 - Temporary suspension
 - Withdrawal
- 7.4 All decisions subject to review request.

8. PART VIII — ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

8.1 Academic misconduct includes:

- Plagiarism
- Contract cheating
- Fabrication
- Collusion
- Unauthorised AI misuse
- Impersonation

8.2 Penalties shall be proportionate and consistent.

8.3 Severe cases may result in termination of registration.

8.4 Academic Board shall receive annual anonymised misconduct report.

9. PART IX — REVOCATION OF AWARD

9.1 The College reserves the right to revoke an award where:

- Fraud is discovered post-award
- Serious academic misconduct is proven
- Award was conferred in material error

9.2 Revocation requires:

- Formal investigation
- Independent panel review
- Academic Board approval
- Notification to awarding body

10. PART X — APPEALS

10.1 Grounds:

- Procedural irregularity
- Bias
- New material evidence

10.2 Appeals must be submitted within 10 working days of decision.

10.3 Appeal Panel composition:

- Independent Chair
- Academic member not previously involved
- Quality assurance representative

10.4 Academic judgment shall not be subject to appeal.

11. PART XI — ACADEMIC RISK ESCALATION

11.1 Programme-level risk > Quality Assurance Committee

11.2 Institutional academic risk > Academic Board

11.3 Material regulatory risk > College Oversight Board

11.4 Financial/compliance risk > Audit, Remuneration & Risk Committee

11.5 Ultimate accountability > Board of Directors

12. PART XII — AMENDMENT AND VERSION CONTROL

12.1 Amendments require:

- Academic Board approval
- Oversight reporting to College Oversight Board
- Board ratification where material

12.2 All published versions must state:

- Version number
- Approval date

- Review date
- Approving body

“End of document”