



Student Protection Plan

Document Title:	Student Protection Plan
Version:	2.0
Date:	November 2025
Approved By:	Board Of Directors
Circulation:	Board of Directors, Academic Board Members, Principal's Executive Group, Quality Assurance Committee, Programme Committee, Assessment & Progression Board, Registry.
Classification:	Public
Review Date	November 2026

Overview

The Student Protection Plan (SPP) is a critical framework for ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of students at Watney College. This plan sets out our approach of student welfare and interest, including physical safety, mental health, academic support, financial protection, and student rights. It aims to create a supportive, safe, and respectful environment for all students, with proactive measures to prevent and address potential risks.

The Higher Education & Research Act 2017 requires Higher Education Institutes to maintain a Student Protection Plan to protect students in the case of material change

1. Mission Statement of the Student Protection Plan

The mission of the Student Protection Plan is to ensure that all students at Watney College have a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment. This plan provides comprehensive protection and support through policies, procedures, and services designed to foster a community where students can thrive academically, socially, and personally, free from harm or discrimination.

Key commitments include:

- The SPP is accessible to all current and prospective students, ensuring comprehensive coverage for all qualifications offered at Watney College. The safeguards outlined in this plan apply equally to all students in line with legal protections required according to Act 2017.
- Minor adjustments to course content may be made annually, with prior notification to students. While these changes typically do not activate student protection measures, students retain the right to raise concerns if they believe the updated course content significantly deviates from what was originally outlined or expected.
- Clear and timely communication of any risks that may affect the continuation of students' studies, allowing students to take appropriate measures in a timely manner.
- Proactive steps to safeguard students if a program is discontinued, a campus closes, or the college itself shuts down.
- Consideration of student needs and impact assessment for any changes, providing necessary advice and support.
- Regular updates to the Office for Students (OfS) on any significant changes affecting the plan.
- Ongoing consultation with students to gather feedback and improve the plan.
- Training staff on the implications of the protection plan when suggesting program changes.

Scope and Application

- The Student Protection Plan is designed to support all current and prospective students enrolled at Watney College, regardless of funding sources (self-funded or government-funded).
 - Tuition Fee Refund and Compensation Policy
 - Complaints and Appeals Policy
 - Business Continuity Plan
 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy

2. Risk Assessment and Mitigation

- Watney College regularly assesses risks to the continuity of studies through a comprehensive Risk Register.
- Identified risks include program discontinuation, campus closure, withdrawal of accreditation, financial instability, and regulatory changes.
- Mitigation strategies include:
 - a) Maintaining adequate fund reserves to manage emergencies.
 - b) Having emergency plans for backup relocation of classes.
 - c) Ensuring staff availability across academic units to make sure uninterrupted teaching.

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Likelihood</i>	<i>Impact</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
<i>Programme closure</i>	Low	Medium	Teach-out arrangements
<i>Loss of awarding body approval</i>	Low	High	Alternative awarding body arrangements
<i>Loss of key academic staff</i>	Medium	Medium	Associate lecturer pool
<i>Financial instability</i>	Very Low	High	Conservative financial planning and reserves
<i>Campus closure</i>	Very Low	High	Alternative delivery arrangements

3. Triggering Event

This law will be enacted under circumstances such as:

Program discontinuation without guaranteed completion arrangements: If Watney College decides to discontinue a specific course or program without a plan for enrolled students to finish, it may leave them unable to complete their studies, impacting their academic goals and future opportunities.

Closure of a teaching location without an alternative site: In the event that Watney College closes one of its campuses or teaching sites without providing an alternative location, students may face significant disruption in their ability to attend classes, potentially affecting their learning continuity.

Institutional closure due to financial or regulatory issues: Should Watney College face severe financial challenges or lose its accreditation or regulatory approvals, it may be forced to shut down

entirely. This would result in the termination of all programs and courses, leaving students unable to complete their studies and potentially needing to transfer to other institutions.

4. Mitigation Measures

In the event of a triggering event:

- **Teach-Out Plan:** Watney College will ensure all enrolled students can complete their current program of study, even if the program is discontinued.
- **Student Transfer Support:** Or The college will facilitate transfers to equivalent programs at other institutions and cover reasonable costs incurred by students during the transfer process.
- **Financial Compensation:** Students may be eligible for compensation for travel, accommodation, or other costs directly caused by program disruption (as per the Student Compensation Policy).

5. Communication and Transparency

Watney College makes sure to provide timely communication with students about any risks or changes affecting their studies. Major changes will be communicated in advance, in a reasonable time with updates provided through the college portal and email.

6. Regulatory Compliance

Watney College is committed to maintaining transparency and regulatory compliance by informing relevant authorities, including the Office for Students (OfS), about any significant changes that could impact student progression. This may include changes to the course structure, program closures, or alterations in teaching locations.

The **Office for Students (OfS)** mandates that higher education institutions notify them of major changes affecting student experience and continuity of study. This ensures that regulatory bodies are aware and can take appropriate action if needed to safeguard students' interests.

Watney College will conduct regular reviews the plan, incorporating student feedback to align with evolving needs and College standards. This continuous review process helps the college remain compliant with regulations, while also addressing student concerns and maintaining the quality of education.

7. Dispute Resolution

- If students are dissatisfied with the outcomes of the mitigation measures, they can raise a complaint under the Student Complaints Policy. Watney College will implement necessary measures in accordance with relevant policies to mitigate disputes.

- Watney College is committed to addressing disputes in a fair and transparent manner. If any issues or disagreements arise, the college will ensure they are handled openly, with clear communication with the students involved. Students can appeal the decision if they are not satisfied with the outcome. The goal is to resolve conflicts efficiently while maintaining student trust and upholding their rights

8. Safety & Security at primary site of study:

- **Campus Security:**

Watney College will maintain security personnel responsible for ensuring the safety and well-being of students, staff, and visitors across the campus. These officers will be equipped to handle emergencies and monitor surveillance systems for any suspicious activities. Security staff will be strategically stationed at high-traffic areas, including dormitories, main entrances, and common areas, to provide a visible and reassuring presence. They will also be easily accessible to address safety concerns and assistance during campus open hours, reinforcing a secure and welcoming environment for everyone.

- **Emergency Awareness:**

Develop and communicate clear emergency procedures for natural disasters, medical emergencies, fires, and other crises. These procedures will be included in student orientation and readily accessible on the college website. Annual drills (fire, active shooter, etc.) will be conducted for both students and staff.

- **Sexual Harassment and Violence Prevention**

Watney College enforces a zero-tolerance policy on sexual harassment, assault, and gender-based violence. Clear reporting processes allow students to report incidents without fear of retaliation. In such cases, Watney College will take immediate action in accordance with its safeguarding policy.

Discrimination and Harassment Protection

Watney College upholds a strict anti-discrimination policy, prohibiting discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and other protected characteristics. The college actively promotes an inclusive culture through regular training, campus events, and dedicated support networks. Clear and accessible reporting systems are in place, enabling the Office for Diversity and Inclusion to promptly address and resolve incidents of discrimination or harassment.

9. Review and Amendment

- This law will be reviewed annually to address new risks and incorporate feedback from students and stakeholders.
- Amendments will be communicated to students through official college channels.

4. Conclusion

Watney College prioritizes the well-being and interests of its students, recognizing that their success is at the heart of the institution's mission. The Student Protection Plan reflects our commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment, where students can pursue their academic goals without disruption. By implementing proactive measures and maintaining open communication, Watney College aims to provide a stable foundation for students to achieve their highest potential, both academically and personally. We are dedicated to empowering our students, ensuring they have the resources, security, and guidance needed to thrive throughout their educational journey.