



## Principles for ethical international student recruitment

### The London Statement

In March 2012 education officials from the UK, Australia, Ireland and New Zealand issued a joint statement of principles for ethical international student recruitment, 'The London Statement'.

The London Statement sets out 7 principles that agents should follow:

### The Ethical Framework

The Statement of Principles is based on an underlying ethical framework of:

**Integrity** - being straightforward and honest in all professional and business dealings;

**Objectivity** - not allowing professional judgment to be compromised by bias or conflict of interest;

**Professional competence and due care** - maintaining professional knowledge and professional service, and acting diligently;

**Transparency** - declaring conflicts of interest to all clients, especially when service fees are charged to both the education provider and the prospective student;

**Confidentiality** - respecting and preserving the confidentiality of personal information acquired and not releasing such information to third parties without proper authority;

**Professional behaviour** – acting in accordance with relevant laws and regulations and dealing with clients competently, diligently and fairly; and

**Professionalism and purpose** - acting in a manner that will serve the interests of clients and the wider society even at the expense of self-interest; recognising that dedication to these principles is the means by which the profession can earn the trust and confidence of stakeholder groups (individual clients, the public, business and government).

## **The Principles**

- Principle 1** Agents and consultants practice responsible business ethics.
- Principle 2** Agents and consultants provide current, accurate and honest information in an ethical manner.
- Principle 3** Agents and consultants develop transparent business relationships with students and providers through the use of written agreements.
- Principle 4** Agents and consultants protect the interests of minors.
- Principle 5** Agents and consultants provide current and up-to-date information that enables international students to make informed choices when selecting which agent or consultant to employ.
- Principle 6** Agents and consultants act professionally.
- Principle 7** Agents and consultants work with destination countries and providers to raise ethical standards and best practice.