



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.