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## Educational Affiliations

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Category:	Education
Approving Body:	Board of Governors
Executive Division:	Education
Department Responsible:	Education Council
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## Policy Statement

BCIT believes in the value of educational affiliations in supporting our ability to meet our mandate and mission. Educational affiliations extend the Institute's ability to develop exemplary learning experiences for students, provide opportunities for faculty development, and create collaborations for applied research and scholarship.

BCIT may enter into affiliations with other educational institutions, business, industry, community organizations, and others. Examples of educational affiliations include joint credentials offered with other post-secondary institutions, specialized programs offered as industry partnership certificates, programs incorporating curriculum developed in partnership with industry or community organizations, and collaborative research projects, among others.

This policy acts in support of BCIT's Strategic Plan, enabling the Institute to achieve its goals and objectives – sustaining the quality of education and the ultimate success of its students.

## Purpose of Policy

The purposes of this policy are to:

- communicate the guiding principles for educational affiliations entered into by the Institute
- assist the Institute in making informed judgements about the desirability of specific educational affiliations
- align with the *BC Colleges and Institutes Act* and expectations of the Ministry of Advanced Education regarding educational affiliations

## Application of this Policy

This policy applies to BCIT employees involved in the development of educational affiliations at the Institute.

## Related Documents and Legislation

### BCIT:

- Policy 2501, Contracts
- Procedure 2501-PR1, Contract Preparation
- Policy 5050, International Education
- Policy 5401, Program Development and Credentials
- Policy 5701, Academic Freedom
- Policy 6500, Research Ethics for Human Participants
- Policy 6600, Integrity in Research
- Policy 6601, Intellectual Property

**Legislation:**

- *College and Institute Act*

**Definitions**

Definitions that apply to Education Council policies are contained in Policy 5100, Glossary of Educational Policy Terms.

**Guiding Principles for Educational Affiliations**

While it is recognized that educational affiliations are developed on an individual basis, the following guiding principles should form the basis of all affiliations.

**1. Alignment with BCIT Strategic Direction**

- All educational affiliations will align with and complement the mission, vision, mandate and strategic direction of BCIT.
- Any educational affiliation will appropriately recognize BCIT's contributions and expertise.

**2. Compatible Goals and Values**

- Educational affiliation opportunities will be considered with organizations that share compatible goals and values with BCIT.
- Educational affiliations should be consistent with the philosophy, values, and goals of post-secondary education within Canada.
- Educational affiliations must conform to BCIT policies and procedures, and respect the process of due diligence.

**3. Purpose**

- Educational affiliations should meet an identified educational or applied research purpose, and enhance the quality, range, and relevance of BCIT's educational and applied research offerings.
- Educational affiliations should be structured around meaningful collaborations where all participants recognize a true synergy that cannot be achieved independently.
- Educational affiliations should be mutually beneficial and respect the expertise and resources that each partner contributes.
- Educational affiliations should facilitate excellence in teaching, learning and/or applied research at BCIT.

**4. Educational Quality and Integrity**

- BCIT has ultimate responsibility for the quality, academic standards, and student experience of any academic award/credential granted in its name, wherever these take place and whoever provides them.
- Academic standards of an award/credential involving an educational affiliation should be equivalent to comparable awards/credentials delivered at BCIT.
- Educational affiliations should recognize the respective roles of the BCIT Education Council and Board of Governors in decision-making over educational matters.
- Acknowledgement of the contributions of BCIT's educational partners should not be done in a manner that interferes with the atmosphere of open discussion and debate in the educational activities of the Institute. Educational affiliations must ensure academic freedom consistent with BCIT's established policy.

**5. Benefit vs. Risk**

- An educational affiliation should have evident benefits for all partners, while minimizing risk to any partner.

- BCIT will enter into educational affiliations with partners who can demonstrate appropriate academic, financial, and legal standing.
- All educational affiliations must be open to public scrutiny such that both internal and external stakeholders are satisfied that the affiliation is not compromised by private interests.
- All educational affiliations should protect intellectual property.
- All affiliations will be subject to periodic review, no less than once every five years.

## Scope

This policy applies to affiliations entered into by the Institute with an identified educational or research purpose.

The policy does not include:

- Contract training or other industry partnerships, unless these are intended to lead to the offer of a BCIT credential
- Articulation agreements between BCIT and other post-secondary institutions that are included in the BC Transfer Guide
- Agreements with other institutions/organizations for the sole purpose of providing practicum/clinical placements, work experience, and/or co-operative education
- The development/approval process of new programs (domestic or international) (refer to BCIT Policy 5050, International Education, and Policy 5401, Program Development and Credentials)
- Affiliations that do not involve education such as procurement, finance, and facilities

## Procedures Associated With This Policy

5801-PR1, Educational Affiliation Development Process

## Forms Associated With This Policy

- Educational Affiliation Briefing Note template
- Memorandum of Understanding template
- Educational Affiliation Agreement template

## Amendment History

1. Created 2017 Apr 06

## Scheduled Review Date

2020 Apr 06