



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE of INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING (AIU) STUDENT SOCIAL MEDIA & ONLINE SAFETY POLICY

PURPOSE

This policy establishes clear expectations for the safe and responsible use of social media by AIU exchange students and outlines procedures for responding to harassment, bullying and cyberbullying.

This policy aligns with:

- The School Education Act 1999
- The Children and Community Services Act 2004
- The Criminal Code Act Compilation Act 1913
- The Privacy Act 1988
- The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
- Guidance from the eSafety Commissioner

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- All inbound and outbound AIU exchange students
- Online activity occurring during the exchange program
- Social media platforms, messaging apps, gaming platforms and digital communications

POLICY STATEMENT

AIU expects students to use social media:

- Respectfully
- Responsibly
- Safely
- Lawfully

Students remain subject to:

- Australian law (for inbound students)
- Destination country law (for outbound students)
- School policies
- AIU Code of Conduct



SOCIAL MEDIA USE EXPECTATIONS

Students must:

- Treat others with dignity and respect online
- Avoid posting discriminatory, offensive or harmful content
- Respect privacy of host families and peers
- Obtain consent before posting images of others
- Avoid sharing confidential or personal information
- Comply with platform age requirements

Students must not:

- Engage in harassment, bullying or intimidation
- Share inappropriate or sexualised content
- Share illegal content
- Impersonate others
- Use social media to damage reputations

PROTECTING YOURSELF ONLINE

Students are encouraged to:

- Use strong passwords
- Enable two-factor authentication
- Adjust privacy settings
- Avoid sharing location in real-time
- Avoid sharing travel details publicly
- Avoid sending personal images
- Think before posting

Students should understand that:

- Content posted online can be permanent
- Digital behaviour can affect visa status and school placement
- Laws apply online as they do offline

PROTECTING YOURSELF OFFLINE

Online interactions may create offline risks. Students should:

- Never meet someone alone without informing a trusted adult
- Avoid sharing personal addresses publicly
- Report any online grooming behaviour
- Seek assistance immediately if feeling unsafe



HARASSMENT, BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING

Definitions

Harassment: Repeated or serious behaviour that intimidates, threatens or humiliates.

Bullying: Repeated unreasonable behaviour intended to cause harm.

Cyberbullying: Bullying conducted through digital platforms including social media, messaging apps or online forums.

Cyberbullying may include:

- Threats
- Humiliation
- Exclusion
- Sharing private images
- Impersonation
- Hate speech

Certain behaviours may constitute criminal offences under WA law.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT HARASSMENT OR BULLYING

If a student experiences harassment or cyberbullying:

- Do not retaliate.
- Save evidence (screenshots, messages).
- Block or mute the person where appropriate.
- Report immediately to:
 - AllU Local coordinator
 - Host parent
 - School representative
- If serious or threatening, contact emergency services.

Serious matters may be reported to:

- Western Australian Police
- The eSafety Commissioner
- School authorities

AllU will support students through reporting processes.



GROOMING AND ONLINE EXPLOITATION

Students must report any situation where:

- An adult requests secrecy
- Inappropriate images are requested
- Gifts or favours are offered in exchange for secrecy
- Pressure is applied for private meetings

Such behaviour may constitute criminal conduct.

IMAGE-BASED ABUSE

Sharing intimate images without consent is illegal in Australia.

Students must:

- Never share explicit images of themselves or others
- Immediately report threats involving image sharing

INTERACTION WITH HOST FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

Students must:

- Respect host family privacy
- Avoid posting private family matters
- Comply with school technology policies
- Avoid posting defamatory comments about host family or school

CONSEQUENCES OF BREACH

Breaches of this policy may result in:

- Warning
- Behavioural agreement
- School disciplinary action
- Relocation
- Program termination
- Reporting to authorities (where required)

Serious misconduct may affect visa status.



MONITORING AND SUPPORT

AIU does not actively monitor student accounts but may:

- Investigate reported concerns
- Require removal of harmful content
- Work with schools and host families
- Refer matters to authorities where necessary

REPORTING CHANNELS

Students may report concerns to:

- AIU Coordinator
- Host parent
- School wellbeing staff
- AIU 24/7 emergency contact

In Australia, urgent matters may be reported to:

- Police (000)
- eSafety Commissioner

REVIEW OF POLICY

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- After any incident pertaining to this policy
- As part of continuous improvement

Policy last reviewed	February 2026
Approved by	General Manager
Consultation/Noting	AIU Management Team
Next scheduled review date	February 2027