

Policy Name:	Life Model Policy		
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Chapter	015	Responsible Office:	OAAR
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Policy Statement

NSCAD recognizes the challenges of being a life model and aims to establish a respectful, professional environment in which they can work.

Reason for Policy

As part of the curriculum at NSCAD, life models are often required in classes to support the pedagogical objectives of the curricula. During a session, life models adopt poses for varying periods of time allowing students to respond. Life models may be costumed, draped, or nude, depending on the preconditions established at the time they are contracted. Because of the challenges of this work which include the physical stresses of sustaining poses and the complex politics of being observed, it is vital that a policy help to define safe spaces in which life modelling can occur. This policy is for the benefit of life models, students, instructors, and visitors.

Policy Applies to

- All units of the university

Who Should Read this Policy

- All members of the university community
- All regular staff members
- Deans, directors, and division heads
- Human resource representatives

Contacts

Office of the Dean
Office of the Vice-President (Academic & Research)
Human Resources

Definitions

Life Model: Professionals who are trained to adopt poses for varying periods of time allowing students to respond. Life models may be costumed, draped, or nude, depending on the preconditions established at the time they are contracted.

The Policy

1. Protocol

- 1.1. The Dean's Assistant schedules all life model bookings.
 - 1.1.1. Instructors are to submit their life model requests via the Form Portal *Request for a Life Model* form.
 - 1.1.2. Instructors must submit their life model requests at least three weeks before their session.
 - 1.1.3. Instructors will receive notification of a booked model with the model's contact information via a Machform notification and email from the Dean's Assistant.
- 1.2. Instructors should get to know models' names and preferred pronouns at the beginning of a session and thank them for their hard work at the end of class. This will help build a positive relationship.
- 1.3. Models should be provided with a safe and clean environment, access to breaks, water and comfortable seating.
- 1.4. No one other than the model should walk on the model stand. It needs to be kept as clean as possible.
- 1.5. Wheeled podiums should be secured when in use to ensure safety of the model.
- 1.6. If a student is uncomfortable with unclothed or clothed models, they should discuss this with their instructor if possible before the scheduled life model session.

2. Code of Conduct

- 2.1. Students should address any problems they may have with the model moving, the pose, etc. to the instructor, not the model.
- 2.2. Under no circumstances should any student touch the model, make comments or exhibit behaviour that could be considered as inappropriate or sexual harassment. Permission must be obtained to readjust any element such as pose, drapery, or props.
- 2.3. If a student or instructor feels a need to tell models that they like their work, tell them by making a comment about the poses, e.g. "Great gestures". Do not comment on their bodies. NSCAD will not tolerate an atmosphere in which objectification and sexualization become factors. Remember, the nature of their work is their poses, not their bodies.
- 2.4. Models and students alike who are uncomfortable with any inappropriate behaviours on the part of any person in the studio should see the instructor. It is the responsibility of the instructor to address and mediate situations which may arise in the class when the life model is in class.
- 2.5. Talking, cell phones, and especially whispering are highly distracting and insulting to a model who is posing for you, everyone should refrain from distracting behaviours.
- 2.6. Photography via camera or cell phone for any reason is strictly prohibited in the studio unless otherwise properly facilitated by the instructor with the model's consent. The intent (i.e. student reference material, documentation, promotion) for photography should be clearly discussed with all parties and agreed upon beforehand.
- 2.7. Students and instructors should not leave the studio while a model is posing as scraping furniture and clanging doors are also distracting. If leaving is unavoidable, one should close the door behind themselves to minimize noise.
- 2.8. Models should be given the opportunity to take frequent breaks, so everyone in the class should try to anticipate these breaks.
- 2.9. Any student unable to comply with these protocols and codes of conduct will be asked to leave for the duration of the class and may be banned from future classes with life models.
- 2.10. NSCAD has both a Respectful Workplace and a Sexual Violence Policy, copies are available on the NSCAD Website. Complaints of sexual violence are taken seriously.
- 2.11. Models should contact the Dean's Assistant if they have any issues or concerns. Complaints of bullying and discrimination will be referred to Human Resources. Complaints of sexual harassment and violence will be referred to the Director of Opportunity and Belonging.

2.12. As per the Sexual Violence Policy, an employee cannot provide consent to one in a supervisory role. Therefore, intimate relationships between instructors and models are prohibited. Relations between models and students are also prohibited.

3. Compensation

- 3.1. Models are paid uniformly throughout the College at a wage set annually.
- 3.2. Instructors are required to submit timesheets on behalf of the model after their session and should submit timesheets as soon possible after the session to ensure the model gets paid in a timely manner.
- 3.3. NSCAD is to provide models with 24 hours' notice of a session/class cancellation. Best efforts to reschedule the modelling session will be made. If for some reason the session is not rescheduled, or the model cannot make the rescheduled session, payment for the cancelled session will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Forms and Tools

[Life Model Application](#)

[Request for a Life Model](#)

[Time Sheet](#)

University Policies

5.7 [Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment](#)

5.8 [Sexual Violence Policy](#)

5.11 [Occupational Health and Safety](#)

160-001 [Code of Conduct Policy](#)