COVID-19: What does it mean for ITAC students?

If you are on or about to start a placement, follow the instructions of your school. Please be understanding, flexible and patient.

Those considering enrolling or who are in the early stages of their course:

- All students are provided with a free 4-month extension on enrolment (total 16 months) to cover any COVID related delays especially in regard to completing your placement.
- We strongly recommend all students to attend our free and live webinars held most weeks. Pre-recorded lectures are also available in the student portal.
- Even if there are temporary restrictions or lockdowns, students can still work through theory modules, complete assessment and contact trainers as usual.

Approaching schools:

- Schools are less likely to consider placement requests in January or February or in the last 2 weeks of term. No teachers will be available over holiday breaks.
- Touching base with the school early in your course might help later on. Schools are more likely to accept you if you give them plenty of notice i.e. several months.
- In this environment, the easiest way to organise a placement is to speak with your contacts (family members, friends, children’s teacher etc.) about placement opportunities.
- As many schools are experiencing staff shortages (teachers and aides) explaining how your placement can help with that issue is recommended.
- Don’t forget to consider high schools and special needs schools because fewer people consider them for placement or employment.
- Remember to be respectful and courteous in all interactions as school staff are under a lot of pressure especially school managers such as assistant principals.

After organising placement:

- Remember that ITAC require at least 14 days’ notice before your first placement day however we prefer as much time as possible.
- While in normal times we would visit all students on placement, some schools do not allow visitors and prefer that we collect video evidence. We will contact you if this applies.

For those who do not plan to get vaccinated:

- Most jurisdictions have current vaccine mandates for all school staff – including TAs.
- Even where there are no mandates, schools continue to require proof of vaccination.
- There are no exceptions/exemptions to the government’s 100-hour placement requirement.
- Because of this, we advise unvaccinated individuals to not enrol as you will not be able to complete the placement requirement.
- ITAC will not consider refunds on the grounds of vaccine opposition.

Mandates:

- Many jurisdictions across Australia now require staff to be vaccinated. Most require staff to wear a mask at all times. If you have an exemption, please contact ITAC and your school prior to beginning placement.
• Learn the requirements that apply to you by speaking to your school and/or by going to the website of the Department of Health and the Department of Education in your jurisdiction. Also check and ensure that you are following all local requirements such as your school’s COVID Safe Plan.

Read the latest requirements at the links below:

• Western Australia
• New South Wales
• Victoria
• Queensland
• ACT
• South Australia
• Northern Territory