



COVID-19 Further Guidance Student Teacher Extension Placements in Scotland Publication date: September 2021 (v.1)

1. Purpose

In the context of a severely interrupted year for students undertaking initial teacher education (ITE) programmes, this guidance confirms the procedures for Group 2 extension students, set out in [COVID-19 Guidance Student Teacher Professional Placements in Scotland Publication date: 19 February 2021](#) and provides extended guidance to cover instances of absence due to Covid-19. Following this further guidance will allow a recommendation to be made to the General Teaching Council for Scotland that a student has met the Standard for Provisional Registration (SPR) and enable the student teacher to progress into probation. This guidance has been agreed by all bodies set out above and has been shared with key partners including the Scottish Government's Covid-19 Education Recovery Group (CERG).

2. Background

Group 2 student teachers are student teachers who had not met all of the criteria to graduate at the end of session 2020/21, and therefore to proceed to TIS/Flexible Route. Some student teachers, possibly through no fault of their own, did not meet all of the following criteria to enable their recommendation for TIS/Flexible Route:

1. the requisite at least 55% of the number of in-person placement days;
2. observation by a university tutor (in-person or virtual) and successful meeting of the assessment criteria for the professional placement.

Those 'Group 2' student teachers who were recommended for extension became eligible for an eight-week extension placement to afford them the opportunity to fulfil attendance requirements, and to meet the SPR through in-person or virtual observation by a university tutor.

This guidance has been developed by the Association of Directors of Education in Scotland, the General Teaching Council for Scotland, the Scottish Council of Deans of Education, and the Student Placement Management Group and is intended to enhance the guidance provided in:

[COVID-19 Guidance on Student Teacher Professional Placements for Teacher Education Institutions in Scotland - August to December 2020 \(29 June 2020\)](#)

[COVID-19 Guidance Student Teacher Professional Placements in Scotland Publication date: 19 February 2021](#)

3. Progression of Group 2 Student Teachers

Assessment of individual Group 2 student teachers will take place in accordance with programme regulations, drawing upon a range of evidence. The extension placement must be assessed by the end of week 6, by the method accredited for the student's particular ITE programme. Students must meet the same attendance requirements as those set out in [COVID-19 Further Guidance: Student Teacher Extension Placements in Scotland: August 2021](#).

3.1 Undergraduate Students:

Throughout their degree programmes, 30 weeks of school experience is required for an undergraduate student. Furthermore, 50% of that time, 15 weeks, needs to be fulfilled in the final two years of the programme.

The minimum school experience necessary to be recommended as having met the SPR is calculated as follows:

- 30 weeks requirement for undergraduate school experience;
- 15 weeks (50% of 30 weeks) is required across the final two undergraduate years (3rd and 4th years);
- At least 55% of the pre-COVID school placement experience requirement (55% of 15 weeks is 8 weeks, i.e., 40 days) is applied **across the final two undergraduate years** (3rd and 4th years): 55% of 15 weeks is 8 weeks, i.e., 40 days;
- 8 weeks, i.e., at least 40 days, requirement of school experience is necessary for student teachers looking across their final two-year profile (i.e., across 3rd and 4th years). The 55% requirement does not apply to the final undergraduate year alone and;
- Remote teaching (See 3.5 in original guidance document) can contribute up to a maximum of 20% (8 days) of school placement experience.

3.2 Concurrent Undergraduate and PGDE Students:

Concurrent undergraduate and PGDE programmes have an 18-week school experience requirement.

The minimum school experience necessary to be recommended as having met the SPR is calculated as follows:

- 18 weeks requirement for selected concurrent and PGDE school experience;
- At least 55% of the pre-COVID school placement experience requirement: 55% of 18 weeks is 10 weeks, i.e., 50 days;
- Remote teaching (See 3.5 in original guidance document) can contribute up to a maximum of 20% (10 days) of school placement experience across the academic year 2020/21.

The calculation of the minimum attendance of 40 days for undergraduate, and 50 days for PGDE and selected concurrent degrees, takes into account the number of days already accumulated across session 2020-21 for each student, in addition to the days accrued in the extension placement this session.

Subject to observation by a university tutor and successfully meeting the SPR by the sixth week, students will be recommended to GTC Scotland and can proceed into the Teacher Induction Scheme or Flexible Route (2021-22). In the remaining two weeks of the extension, a student's status would continue to be that of a student teacher while the University Board of Examiners meet and registration with GTCS is completed. If the student is deemed to have met the SPR, is

eligible for TIS and fulfilled all other requirements, by end of week 6, employee status and salary would commence at the beginning of week 9.

In the event of students not fulfilling requirements and meeting the SPR by the sixth week, students will not be able to proceed onto TIS in 2021. Students from each Higher Education Institution (HEI) will proceed according to their own course requirements and regulations, and may be eligible for TIS in 2022.