

Covid-19 information

Information for applicants for skilled migration who studied part or all their qualifications during 2020 and/or 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic meant applicants may have experienced interrupted study and migration plans. Your study location may have changed and the qualification you were studying in 2020 and/or 2021 may have been modified to include remote learning and school and higher education institute closures. Many International English Language Testing System (IELTS) testing centres were also closed because of COVID-19.

AITSL's skilled migration assessment criteria remain and have not been modified. AITSL is committed to providing a reliable, thorough, evidence-based skills assessment, ensuring suitably qualified teachers join Australia's education system.

To support applicants impacted by COVID-19, AITSL has introduced some flexibility in how the current assessment criteria can be met.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global public health emergency that has resulted in extenuating, and unique circumstances. To assist AITSL in considering the impacts arising from COVID-19 globally, the evidence requirements for applicants who have studied with an institution outside of Australia in 2020 and/or 2021 have been amended. The new evidence requirements will provide AITSL with the necessary information to determine whether the changes to your situation still meet our requirements.

What might this impact look like?

Possible impacts to evidence requirements may include:

- the location (country) of your study changed
- modules were studied online in a location different to that of your university or institution
- teaching practice was completed remotely due to school closures
- teaching practice was adapted in some other way
- other changes to your study

How will AITSL assess qualifications studied in 2020 and/or 2021?

To give applicants the best opportunity to meet our assessment criteria, AITSL requires additional information if you have studied with an institution outside of Australia in 2020 and/or 2021. AITSL can only consider complete applications and AITSL cannot provide pre-assessment.

Please take note of the additional evidence requirements and if required, provide them as part of your application. This will help your application to be assessed efficiently.

At all times, AITSL may choose to seek further information from you or a third party (for example, your institution) in support of an assessment. Where an applicant cannot provide sufficient evidence as part of their assessment, or it cannot be validated by a relevant third party determined by AITSL, an application will be found unsuitable.

Time frame

The amended evidence requirements apply to anyone who has studied their initial teacher education (ITE) program in 2020 and/or 2021 with an institution outside of Australia. If required, AITSL may request further information about how COVID-19 affected the study or study arrangements of your qualification during the assessment process.

I have studied my initial teacher education qualification during 2020 and/or 2021 with a higher education institution outside of Australia

If your ITE was studied with a university outside of Australia during 2020 and/or 2021, AITSL needs additional evidence that outlines how your study was or was not affected by COVID-19. This evidence will allow AITSL to assess your application in a manner comparable to Australian ITE qualifications and requirements.

What if my study during 2020 and/or 2021 was not impacted by COVID-19?

If you studied with an institution outside of Australia during 2020 and/or 2021 and you were not directly impacted, AITSL requires that your awarding institution provides a statement advising that your studies were not impacted by COVID-19. You will find the information you are required to provide in the section 'What additional information needs to go on the supervised teaching practice statement?'

What supervised teaching practice undertaken in 2020 and/or 2021 will AITSL consider for ITE study at an institution outside of Australia?

1. Remote/alternative Supervised Teaching Practice undertaken because of COVID-19

Remote/alternative supervised teaching practice (STP), undertaken because of COVID-19, and as part of your ITE qualification, will be considered, and assessed on a case by case basis.

Remote/alternative STP likely to be assessed suitable will:

- have been supervised
- will have provided you the opportunity to practice the key aspects of teaching such as lesson planning, teaching, assessing and classroom management
- will have been with the curriculum and age range relevant to your nominated occupation.

Applications where all 45 days have been undertaken via remote/alternative STP are not likely to be found suitable.

2. Face to face STP outside the nominated occupation

AITSL will also consider face to face supervised teaching practice where only half (23) of the 45 days you have undertaken were within the age range and setting for your nominated occupation. The remaining days may have been face to face with an age range outside your nominated occupation.

What additional information needs to go on the supervised teaching practice statement?

The requirements for a supervised teaching practice statement are outlined in the [Guide to applying for a skills assessment](#) and must be submitted with your application.

When requesting a supervised teaching practice statement from your awarding institution, please ask them to also include all the following additional information:

- Impact of COVID-19 on the qualification
- Impact of COVID-19 on the location of study
- Impact of COVID-19 on supervised teaching practice days

Please see the specific information requirements in each section below.

Impact of COVID-19 on your qualifications and approved modifications

Qualifications not modified for COVID-19

If there were no changes to your qualification, the learning outcomes and assessment tasks, ask your institution to provide a statement noting that your completed ITE qualification has not been impacted by COVID-19.

Modified qualifications

If there were changes to your qualification, e.g., remote/alternative STP, changes to learning outcomes or assessment tasks, ask your institution to provide a statement noting that your completed ITE qualification:

- has been impacted by COVID-19
- meets modifications approved by an external governing body
- that your qualification continued to meet its initial learning objectives and that the qualification (where relevant) leads to teacher registration in your country.

Supervised teaching practice – 45 days

For all ITE qualifications studied in 2020 and/or 2021, your supervised teaching practice statement (STP) should outline the number of days, school setting and age range of students for the STP undertaken and what mode the STP was completed. For example, face to face, by remote teaching or other alternative scenarios.

In the instance of remote or alternative STP, please ask the institution to include:

- a short description of the remote/alternative STP including:
 - how you were supervised and assessed
 - how the STP provided an opportunity for you to engage in classroom practice including but not limited to, planning, teaching, assessing and classroom management relevant to the nominated occupation
 - how you engaged with the curriculum relevant for your nominated occupation.
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How to submit the additional information

The additional information can be provided as part of a modified STP statement.

Alternatively, you can provide the additional information on a separate document and upload it as an 'other' document during the online application process.

AITSL can only accept additional evidence that has been provided by your awarding institution. It must follow existing document guidelines and be provided in colour, signed, dated and on official university letterhead.

Occupation checklists

Before you submit your application, it is important that you review the checklist for your nominated occupation. All evidence as listed in the occupation checklists still needs to be submitted with your application.

A suitable assessment, as part of the COVID-19 modifications, must still demonstrate that it met the skills assessment criteria before any approved modifications were made.

All assessable ITE qualifications must demonstrate that they:

- have been successfully completed
- be comparable to the educational level of an Australian bachelor's degree (Australian Qualification Framework level 7) or higher
- include at least one year full-time (or part-time equivalent) higher education (university) level ITE study relevant to the nominated occupation
- include at least 45 days of supervised teaching practice in the relevant setting and age range.