

Updated Guidance for Staff issued 01/03/2021

Scottish Government published its [updated strategic framework](#) this week. This sets out their priorities and a timeframe for easing restrictions due to COVID-19.

In line with government guidance and because we have reached the end of our original placement suspension period of the 28th of February, the following updates to the recommencement of placement activity were approved by the Crisis Management Group on the 24th of February.

1. From the 15th of March 2021 placement activity due to take place in curriculum areas identified as critical sectors can go ahead. Specifically, this covers placements in Health and Social Care, Early Learning and Childcare.

Application of the risk management process currently in place, including the process of ensuring that the student is not subject to additional risk due to personal health issues, remains mandatory.

Placements in critical sectors planned to take place before the 15th of March can go ahead providing due process is followed and sign off from the relevant SNL/Dean or Curriculum Manager has been obtained.

2. The suspension of all other activity will remain in place until the 26th of April, or until we return to Level 3 should this take place before the 26th of April.
3. Students studying on nursing, midwifery or initial teacher training courses are subject to the guidelines laid down by the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Teaching Council for Scotland. Students in these specific programme areas will be updated directly by their course leaders should circumstances surrounding their access to placement change.

****Please note: in some instances the same individual has been identified as the Placement Manager and the designated signatory. Where this is the case, no further signatures are required. [View Placement Manager and designated signatories here](#)***

The guidelines detailed above apply to both FE and HE. They do not apply to students already in employment who are applying their work-based practice as part of their course of study. In these cases (which includes Modern Apprenticeships) the student will be subject to the Health and Safety measures being applied within their workplace.

Student equivalence in relation to the placement of students across the region is based on the application of the [UHI Placement Risk Management process](#) but the University recognises that colleges may be subject to restrictions relating to local issues or options.

For guidance on the application of the risk management process, documentation storage and any other queries please contact Nicola Smith or Alana MacLeod.