



# COVID-19 Student Vaccination Policy

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## 1. Purpose

- a. The University primarily conducts its teaching, academic, research, professional and other activities and operations in person and seeks to create a vibrant and active environment at its campuses and other places of business.
- b. The purpose of this policy is to support the health and safety of Flinders University staff and students by requiring all students who attend on campus or undertake any in-person learning to either be vaccinated against COVID-19 or to comply with the alternative precautions required by this policy.
- c. Under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012*, the University must identify whether there is a risk to the health of those attending our premises or activities from exposure to COVID-19. Where a risk is identified, the University must eliminate the risk, so far as is reasonably practicable. When elimination is not possible, the University must reduce the risk so far as reasonably practicable.
- d. On the basis of Federal and State Government Health advice that the risk of severe illness and/or death from contracting COVID-19 is reduced by vaccination, the University has determined that requiring vaccination is the primary and key control measure against the risk of COVID-19 infection.
- e. The University also follows public health directions. Should a public health direction be issued covering University staff and/or students, such a direction would apply in addition to, and prevail to the extent of any inconsistency with this policy.

## 2. Scope

- a. This policy applies to all University students who attend on campus in the course of their research, study or related activity or who undertake in-person learning.
- b. Subject to s.4.1c, this policy does not apply to the general public visiting or attending events at University locations or to students undertaking fully online offerings, and transnational education offerings.
- c. This policy has been developed in alignment to the [COVID-19 Vaccination Policy](#) which among other things applies in addition to students who are employed by the University.
- d. This policy is in addition to the *Flinders Living COVID-19 Vaccination Policy*.

### 3. Definitions

<b>AIR</b>	Australian Immunisation Register
<b>Approved Vaccine</b>	any COVID-19 vaccination that has been registered or provisionally registered for use in Australia by the TGA
<b>Recognised Vaccine</b>	A vaccine that has been recognised by TGA for the purpose of travel into Australia (see <a href="https://www.tga.gov.au/international-covid-19-vaccines-recognised-australia">https://www.tga.gov.au/international-covid-19-vaccines-recognised-australia</a> )
<b>ATAGI</b>	Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation
<b>campus</b>	any site or location where the University carries on business, operations or activities (including field trips, site visits and events organised by or on behalf of the University)
<b>in-person learning</b>	any university teaching, research, learning or related activity which is attended by students in person on campus or any other location. It includes (but is not limited to) WIL placements, tutorials, workshops, seminars, lectures, site visits, field trips, simulation labs and practicals, as well as informal learning.
<b>public health direction</b>	applicable public health and safety statutory or regulatory requirements and directions of the Commonwealth or the State or Territory of the individual's place of learning
<b>TGA</b>	the Therapeutic Goods Administration
<b>RAT</b>	Rapid Antigen Test approved for use by the TGA

### 4. COVID-19 Vaccination

#### 4.1. Vaccination

- a. Subject to s.4.1.b, students in scope of this policy must not attend at campus or any in-person learning activity from 28 February 2022 unless the individual has by that date made a declaration of either:
  - i. having received at least one dose of an Approved or Recognised Vaccine, and
  - ii. having received or having booked to receive a second dose of an Approved or Recognised Vaccine in a timeframe consistent with the ATAGI recommended timeline for that vaccine,OR
  - iii. a commitment to conducting a RAT within 3 days before attending any in-person learning activity and only attending if a negative result has been achieved.

**NB:** A student who has a medical exemption from the requirement to be vaccinated against COVID-19 must comply with the RAT requirement set out in 4.1(a)(iii) above.
- b. In addition to the requirements of s.4.1.a, students undertaking any of the following activities must, by the time the student is due to attend a placement/location, provide evidence of meeting the applicable third-party vaccination requirements:
  - i. a course where the external body has vaccination requirements
  - ii. a work integrated learning placement that has vaccination requirements
  - iii. a topic that is conducted on an external site that has vaccination requirements.

- c. The University intends to review this policy regularly, having regard to its work, health and safety obligations and relevant circumstances, and may as it sees fit from time to time implement other conditions or restrictions and/or remove or modify the conditions and restrictions in this policy as deemed appropriate including for ad-hoc events, field trips, travel or other activities. The University may also see fit to extend the application of this policy (or any part of it) to general members of the public and other individuals not otherwise in scope of this policy.

#### **4.2. Proof of Vaccination**

- a. Students who have enrolled prior to 28 February 2022 are required to make their declaration by 28 February 2022 and/or provide evidence of compliance with any applicable third-party vaccination requirements (under s.4.1.a and 4.1.b respectively) using the University's lodgement process.
- b. Students who enrol after 28 February 2022 will be required to make their declaration and/or provide evidence of compliance with any applicable third-party vaccination requirements (under s.4.1.a and 4.1.b respectively) as a condition of enrolment.
- c. The University will accept an Immunisation History Statement, a copy of a COVID-19 Digital Certificate or where the student has received their vaccination in a country other than Australia, an international vaccination certificate confirming receipt of a Recognised Vaccine.
- d. The University does not require a full vaccination history, only evidence of COVID-19 vaccination.

#### **4.3. Privacy**

- a. The University collects vaccination information (including evidence of vaccination or a medical exemption) for the purpose of assisting the University to comply with its legal obligations, including under applicable work health and safety laws and public health directions (to help identify, reduce, and manage risks concerning COVID-19) and under legal arrangements that the University has with third parties.
- b. Personal information collected under this policy may be used to process or verify COVID-19 vaccination status, to manage compliance with this and other applicable policies and procedures and the University's legal obligations, and as needed to identify, assess, and manage risks related to COVID-19.
- c. Information provided to the University in compliance with this policy will be stored securely and treated confidentially in accordance with relevant laws and the University's [Privacy Policy](#).

#### **4.4. Compliance**

- a. Compliance with this policy (including any procedures) is required to attend on campus and/or any in-person learning.
- b. Student Administration Services will contact students who do not comply with the requirements of this policy and discuss options for compliance in consultation with the Colleges, including alternative study options where practicable.
- c. If following these discussions, the student does not meet the requirements of this policy, the University will consider whether alternative study options are available, such as converting to a fully online mode (if available), enabling the student to defer their studies, adjusting their course selection or consideration of the remaining requirements that may not require attendance at a University location. In circumstances where the University determines that alternative study options are not available or feasible and the student is required to attend a University or other location to undertake or complete their studies, this may mean they are not able to complete part or all of their course.

- d. Providing false or misleading information to demonstrate compliance with this policy will be considered serious misconduct and dealt with in accordance with the Flinders University [Admissions Policy](#) (3.3) and [Student Conduct \(Statute 6.4\)](#) and any other applicable policies.

## 5. Responsibilities

<p><b>All students</b></p>	<p>a. Comply with the requirements of this policy, including by submitting their declaration and/or evidence of vaccination as required.</p> <p>b. Stay at home if experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how minor, and getting tested for COVID-19.</p> <p>c. Follow and comply with all public health directions.</p> <p>d. Follow and comply with all directions of the University and its staff related to health and safety.</p>
<p><b>Academic Staff</b></p>	<p>e. Publicise, advise and engage with students regarding the requirements of this policy with the support of SAS.</p> <p>f. Work with Deputy Vice Chancellor (Students), in relation to the implementation of this policy.</p> <p>g. Develop alternative study options for students (if required and available under s.4.4c).</p>
<p><b>Deputy Vice Chancellor (Students) or delegate</b></p>	<p>h. Leading the implementation of this policy including monitoring, reviewing and verifying declarations and/or proof of vaccination relating to students.</p>
<p><b>Student Administration Services (SAS)</b></p>	<p>i. Inform students of the requirements of this policy</p> <p>j. Monitor and follow up of commencing student vaccination compliance</p> <p>p. Provide support and guidance to students. This includes discussing and exploring study options in consultation with the Colleges, where practicable, to enable students to continue their studies with the University wherever possible.</p>

<b>Approval Authority</b>	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students)
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\* Unless otherwise indicated, this policy or procedures still apply beyond the review date.

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