



## PREPARING FOR YOUR PLACEMENTS AND COVID-19



### **WHAT IS WESTERN'S RESPONSE TO PLACEMENTS AND OTHER WORKPLACE EXPERIENCES DURING COVID-19?**

At this time, placements – including professional practice, professional experience, fieldwork, clinical practice, workplace experiences or internships – will continue as scheduled, unless we are otherwise notified by the placement provider.

Due to the current global health situation, placements may be subject to change. Schools are in the process of reviewing placements – as a means of minimising any potential risk to students, placement sites and communities.

We know that in some situations, our students can make an important contribution to the community by continuing to participate in their placement. To date, only a small number of placements have been affected. If yours is affected, your School will contact you directly.

### **WHAT IF I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE ATTENDING MY PLACEMENT OR EXPERIENCE?**

Firstly, please speak to your Supervisor directly to let them know of your concerns. You can decline to take up your placement experience because of COVID-19. Your School will need to determine how they will manage the undertaking of the experience at a later time, or in an alternative way.

### **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY PLACEMENT IS POSTPONED, OR CANCELLED AT THIS POINT IN TIME?**

Your School will work with you and the organisation to reschedule the placement or seek an alternative assessment. You may be advised to apply for special consideration, or you may be issued a temporary grade so you can complete your placement at an agreed later time.

At this stage it is not known how long it will take to organise and secure another placement for you. Please keep in touch with your Supervisor.

Your School is in contact with placement organisations and accreditation bodies to identify flexible solutions and alternatives that will continue to provide an experience for you.

### **I'M ON PLACEMENT NOW – DO I CONTINUE?**

Yes. At this time, placements – including professional practice, professional experience, fieldwork, clinical practice, workplace experiences or internships – will continue as scheduled, unless we are otherwise notified by the placement provider.

If you feel uncomfortable continuing your placement due to COVID-19, please contact your Supervisor as soon as possible.

### **WHAT IF I CHOOSE TO STOP ATTENDING MY PLACEMENT?**

If you choose to stop attending your placement, you will need to make contact with your Supervisor as soon as possible.

If you are in an emergency or infectious disease placement, and have concerns, similarly contact your Supervisor.

You will need to complete a special consideration form, and your School will inform you about whether you will need to make up placement hours and where possible, your School will try to support an alternative placement.

Schools will inform you about any impact this may have on your course progression and assessment completion. Your Unit Coordinator will work with you as required.

### **WHAT IF I FEEL UNWELL?**

If you are feeling unwell and experiencing any cold/flu-like symptoms (such as a sore throat, runny nose, a cough or sneezing), you should not attend your placement.

You should:

- Seek medical advice about your symptoms and possible exposure to COVID-19, in line with the latest Government measures.
- Practice social distancing and self-isolation until you are able to be tested for your illness. And follow recommended hygiene practices.
- Contact your Supervisor.
- Contact your placement organisation and let them know.
- Complete the special consideration form online. Once you are symptom-free, you may be able to return to placement, pending advice from your School and placement organisation.).