



Student Teacher Professional Progression in School Year 2021/2022 | National Guidance Advice Note | May 2021

1. Introduction: Student Teacher Progression and Examinations Boards

1.1 As student teachers approach the end of the school placements and their programmes; Examination Boards will consider individual student profiles and subsequently make recommendations to GTC Scotland about student teachers' progression. The following national guidance advice note seeks to inform a common understanding across Higher Education Institution (HEIs), staff and students, Local Authorities, Schools, and other key aspects of the education system, around the criteria for student progression in academic session 2021/22. Furthermore, it draws out of the national guidance the definitions of Groups One to Three.

1.2 In academic year 2020/21 only, when assessing these profiles, there are three categories, explained in the national guidance [COVID-19 Guidance Student Teacher Professional Placements in Scotland Publication date: 19 February 2021](#), into which HEIs will place students:

- **Group One:** Meet the SPR and progress to Teacher Induction Scheme (TIS)/Flexible Route;
- **Group Two:** Extension placement required;
- **Group Three:** Retrieval placement required.

2. Who are Group One students?

2.1 Group One students are those who have passed all aspects of their programme: i.e., they have met the minimum number of placement days required; and they have passed the practicum and academic components of their course. For further information, see [COVID-19 Guidance Student Teacher Professional Placements in Scotland Publication date: 19 February 2021](#) at 4.4.1.

3. Who are Group Two students?

3.1 Group Two students are those who do not meet **one or all** of the following criteria (or sub-criteria) to graduate and to proceed to Teacher Induction Scheme (TIS)/Flexible Route:

1. The requisite number of placement days (at least 55% of the number of direct teaching practice days due to reasons relating to Covid-19; e.g., school closures: national or local) **and/or**;

2. Been observed by a University Tutor, in-person or virtual (Students must have had such an observation of practice in order to progress; however, some schools may have closed or a student may have had to self-isolate on the day of the observation, etc) **and /or**;
 - a. Successfully met the assessment criteria for professional placement having had reduced placement time.

3.2 Where either criterion 1, 2, or 2a, are not met, student teachers should be recommended for extension by Examination Boards. These student teachers are in Group Two (See [COVID-19 Guidance Student Teacher Professional Placements in Scotland Publication date: 19 February 2021](#) at 4.4.2, 4.4.2.1 to 4.4.2.2).

3.3 Where the academic component of a student's programme has not been passed, Examination Boards will follow their usual procedures.

3.4 Group Two students **are those who have not yet met SPR due to Covid-19** and who have not had 18 weeks (PGDE and Concurrent) or 30 weeks (Undergraduate) of student placement time.

3.5 The direct teaching, or Face-to-Face, student placement time is exemplified for undergraduates below (in 3.6) and for PGDE and Concurrent students (in 3.7).

3.6 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% 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);
- 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) can contribute up to a maximum of 20% (8 days) of school placement experience.

3.7 Concurrent Undergraduate and PGDE Students: Concurrent undergraduate and PGDE programmes have an 18 weeks school experience requirement. The school experience necessary to be recommended as having met SPR is calculated, as follows:

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

4. What happens during and at the end of the extension period?

4.1 The extension period of eight weeks will afford students the opportunity, which was not open to them during the previous academic year due to Covid-19, to meet the SPR.

4.2 Group Two students will be supported and assessed jointly, by HEI tutors and staff in school, during the extension period in line with usual programme regulations. All extension students will be observed by an HEI tutor (in-person or virtual) during the extension period.

4.3 The possible outcomes for students in Group Two are detailed below:

4.3.1 Students who are assessed as meeting the SPR **by the end of extension week six** will be able to continue, without a break, in the same school. They will become part of TIS in school week nine with a view to meeting the SFR by the end of the 2021/2022 school year. Alternatively, if they are not proceeding into TIS, their extension placement will conclude at the end of week 8 and they will be eligible to seek employment.

4.3.2 Students who are assessed as not meeting the SPR **by the end of extension week 6** will be advised by their HEI in accordance with programme regulations. The extension placement will conclude at the end of week 8.

4.4 For further information, see [COVID-19 Guidance Student Teacher Professional Placements in Scotland Publication date: 19 February 2021](#) at 4.4.3 to 4.4.4.

5. Who are Group Three students?

5.1 Group Three students are those students who do not meet the required 55% placement days required **and** who, even if they were to undertake the extension period, would still not arithmetically reach the required 55% placement days. This definition is different to the usual understanding of 'retrieval' which comes after a minimum of 18/30 weeks of school placement experience.

5.2 Upon successful completion of a retrieval placement, students in Group Three will be eligible to seek employment and to accept a TIS offer, if eligible, in school year 2022/2023.

5.3 For further information, see [COVID-19 Guidance Student Teacher Professional Placements in Scotland Publication date: 19 February 2021](#) at 4.4.3.

6. Guiding Questions for Examination Boards

6.1 The following questions are devised to support Examination Boards nationally, in allocating students to Groups One to Three.

6.2 Group One

1. Have all of the components of SPR been met and all of the academic components of the programme?
 - 1.1. If yes, proceed to graduation and TIS/Alternative Route.
 - 1.2. If no, consider the criteria for Groups Two and Three.

6.3 Group Two

1. Is the student below the requisite 55% in the number of placement days (inclusive of a maximum of 20% of remote teaching time)?
 - 1.1. If yes, will an extension period enable the student to meet or exceed at least 55% of the school experience placement requirement?
 - 1.1.1. If yes, extension (Group Two).
 - 1.1.2. If no, retrieval (Group Three).
2. Has the student failed the placement component(s) of their programme?
 - 2.1. If yes, has the student had 18 weeks (PGDE and Concurrent) or 30 weeks (Undergraduate) of placement time?
 - 2.1.1. If yes, retrieval (Group Three).
 - 2.1.2. If no, extension (Group Two).
3. Has the student failed the academic component(s) of their programme?
 - 3.1. Examination Boards will follow their usual procedures. See section 3.3, above.

6.4 Group Three

1. Has the student had such a limited time of school experience placement that they cannot reach the requisite 55% in the number of placement days (inclusive of a maximum of 20% of remote teaching time)?
 - 1.1. If yes, retrieval (Group Three).
 - 1.2. If no, extension (Group Two).

2. Has a student failed their placement, yet had the requisite 18 weeks (PGDE and Concurrent) or 30 weeks (Undergraduate), noting that 15 weeks (50% of 30 weeks) is required across the final two undergraduate years (3rd and 4th years)?
 - 2.1. If yes, retrieval (Group Three).
 - 2.2. If no, extension (Group Two).