

## UCOL Programmes Affected by Government's COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

Kia ora current and future students

We want to keep you all up to date with COVID-19 vaccination requirements. Vaccination requirements are something that (as you will all know) have been quickly evolving. If there is new information about vaccination statuses for students we will share this with you in further communications.

For now:

We encourage all of you to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, no matter what programme of study you are enrolled in with us. If you would like to understand more about the COVID-19 vaccination (including facts and FAQs) you can learn more [here](#).

For those students who take part in a programme with work experience, practicum placements or internships, vaccination is especially recommended, as it may affect your ability to complete your programme, as follows:

The New Zealand Government has already mandated COVID-19 vaccinations for many sectors, including frontline health care workers, primary and secondary education workers, and those in early learning services. As of 26 October, a new mandate has also been announced for workplaces that require vaccination certificates – this includes hospitality, hairdressing and beauty, gyms, social services, and events. The Government has also signalled that other sectors may be included in the future.

In addition to these industries, all businesses have obligations under the *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015* to take all reasonable steps to eliminate, or otherwise control, the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the workplace. To meet those obligations, many organisations who provide work experience, practicum placements, and internship opportunities to our students (“Workplace Providers”) are requiring their staff, including any students working with them in any capacity (and visitors to those workplaces) to be fully vaccinated and to provide proof of vaccination. It is expected that more Workplace Providers will also require COVID-19 vaccination as time goes on.

UCOL’s position is that it will respect and comply with any vaccination requirements set out by the Government and these Workplace Providers, and we expect our students to do the same. This means that if you are unvaccinated, or if you choose not to provide evidence of your vaccination status if asked by the Workplace Provider, you may not be allowed to enter onto the premises of those Workplace Providers.

The flow-on effect may be that your work placements and internships are impacted: these are a learning requirement for many programmes, and therefore your unvaccinated status (or being unwilling to provide evidence of your vaccination status) is likely to impact you being able to successfully complete your programme.

For applicants and students intending to study in 2022, our advice is similar. The mandate in the mentioned industries will be in place for 2022, and many workplaces will likely continue to require staff (and involved students) to be vaccinated. If your chosen programme has a placement, internship or work experience component, we recommend that you maintain the vaccination cover recommended or required by Government. This will reduce the likelihood of your work placements and internships being interrupted, and affecting your ability to complete your qualification.

If you have questions about how your vaccination status may affect your specific programme, please get in touch with us via [healthinfo@ucol.ac.nz](mailto:healthinfo@ucol.ac.nz)