

# Master of Teaching Placement FAQs



Professional experience placements are a key part of both the **Master of Teaching (Primary)** and **Master of Teaching (Secondary)**, providing hands-on experience in real classroom settings. This FAQ document has been designed to answer all your questions about placements, including what to expect, how they are organised, and requirements.

## Placement Structure & Requirements

### How many placements are required?

The minimum total number of days of professional experience set by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for approval of initial teacher education programs is 60 days for a two-year FTE graduate entry program.

At the University of Newcastle professional experience is completed as follows:

- 1 x 20-day placement (4 weeks)
- 1 x 40-day placement (8 weeks)

### Can I stack all placements at the end of the degree?

Placements are embedded within the program structure and should be completed in sequence. Students can only complete as part of a scheduled course. There is flexibility to complete placement courses at times suitable to your personal situation but this impacts the length of time it will take to complete the degree.

### Are placements different for Primary vs Secondary?

Yes. While the total placement days are the same, the structure differs slightly:

Primary: placements focus on generalist classroom teaching across multiple key learning areas.

Secondary: placements are aligned to your teaching areas and subject specialisations.

## Scheduling & Timing

### When are placements scheduled?

Placements are scheduled within specific teaching periods and align with school NSW terms. Dates are provided in advance. Please see [2026 placement calendar](#) for exact dates.

### Are placement dates flexible?

Placement dates are fixed and must be completed within the allocated timeframe. While you can choose when to enrol in a

placement course to suit your personal circumstances, placements can only be undertaken during the scheduled delivery of that course.

### What happens if I can't attend all placement days (e.g. travel)?

You may defer your placement to a later term.

### Are placement dates the same for Primary and Secondary?

Yes, refer to [2026 dates](#).

## Attendance & Commitment

### Do placements need to be completed full-time?

Yes. Placements are full-time (5 days per week).

### Do placement days need to be consecutive?

Yes. Placements are completed in continuous blocks on consecutive days.

### Can I complete placement part-time (e.g. 3-4 days per week)?

No. Placements are an immersive, full-time requirement.

### What is the weekly time commitment during placement?

Equivalent to a full-time teaching load, including school hours plus lesson planning.

### Can I work while completing placement?

It is recommended to reduce or pause work commitments during placement.

## Location & Delivery Options

### Can I complete my placement interstate?

Yes.

### Can I complete my placement internationally?

This can be discussed with your program convenor.

### Which countries are available for international placements?

Vietnam (subject to change annually).

## Placement Allocation & Responsibility

### Do I need to organise my own placement?

No. The University (The Professional Experience Unit [PEU]) organises placements on your behalf through partner schools.

### Where are placements located?

The PEU makes every effort to allocate students to schools that are as close as possible to their residential address, with a general guideline of within approximately one hour travel time.

## Missed Days & Completion Requirements

### What are prerequisites for final placements?

Final placement cannot be completed prior to successfully completing LANTITE and completion of EDUC6785.

### What happens if I miss placement days?

NESA requires ITE students to complete 60 days. Any missed days will need to be made up.

## Career Outcomes & Opportunities

### Are there paid placement opportunities?

Waiver B is an approved pathway that allows you to complete part of your final placement through paid teaching.

- You must be employed in a school in your approved teaching area
- A portion of your placement can be counted through this paid role
- You will still need to complete additional supervised (unpaid) days to meet the full placement requirements
- It must be approved by the University and meet specific criteria

It provides flexibility, but the placement still needs to be completed full time and within the scheduled block.

### How do placements contribute to teacher accreditation?

Placements are a mandatory requirement for graduation and are essential for meeting NESA accreditation standards for becoming a qualified teacher.

## Other resources

- [Webinar: Master of Teaching](#)
- [2026 placement dates](#)
- [newcastle.edu.au/study/postgraduate/teaching](https://newcastle.edu.au/study/postgraduate/teaching)

