BHSc Clinical Myotherapy and Chinese Medicine – COVID19 FAQ

Last updated: 15th May 2020

N.B. This advice is accurate at the time of writing and subject to change.

**Where can I find out more about the University's response and support during COVID-19?**

Across Torrens University and THINK Education, we are now focused on a blended online mode of delivering education and learning in response to coronavirus (COVID-19). Our top priority remains the health, safety and well-being of our community. This coronavirus resource page will provide the latest updates and information about the global pandemic and our response, guided by government advice. We hope the information we provide here will give our community of students, staff, families and stakeholders guidance and reassurance, helping to ensure your continues safety and well-being.

Our website includes an extensive list of FAQ’s and further information that we encourage you to read carefully: [https://www.torrens.edu.au/covid19](https://www.torrens.edu.au/covid19).

For specific information on support for students facing significant hardship, please click on this link.

This document provides some additional course specific information to support your continued study and Trimester 2 enrolments.

**Will the Melbourne campuses be open for Trimester 2?**

Trimester 2 will be delivered primarily online. Let us explain why.

Our first consideration is always the health and safety of our students and staff. This consideration will inform our future approach in responding to COVID-19. We will not transition classes back to face-to-face delivery until there is clear public health advice allowing us to do so. Most importantly, we will do so at a time that is least disruptive to your learning.

Our campuses will likely open in a staged manner in line with government advice. For Trimester 2, The campus will only re-open to run essential practical intensives. Outstanding practical training and assessments from trimester 1 will be prioritised, and are expected to be scheduled between weeks 5-9 of the trimester.

We are following the latest advice from relevant government and health authorities, and at this stage there are no plans to re-open the campus to resume face to face classes. We will continue to monitor this and will advise on Trimester 3 plans nearer the time.

We are confident that our online education is of high quality and is equivalent to our face-to-face delivery. We feel assured that the quality of our online educational approach, our curriculum and teaching staff will ensure a successful Trimester 2.

We will always try to communicate any decisions well in advance of any change in delivery, to allow preparation for any changes.
What do intensives look like and when will they be held?

If you’re enrolled into a practical subjects in Trimester 2, the subject will run in a hybrid delivery format with theory covered online through the trimester, and practical intensives towards the end of the trimester to assist you to apply your knowledge and develop your practical skills.

We are currently undertaking additional risk assessment planning to ensure the ongoing safety of our staff and students during the intensive workshops. The sessions will run with a number of additional safety measures including additional PPE, increased cleaning schedules, social distancing, decreased student-student contact, lowered class caps, and on-site controllers to support safety measures. The specifics will be confirmed by your lecturers prior to the workshops.

With the exception of some subjects that require specialist facilities at Fitzroy, the majority of practical intensives will be scheduled at the Flinders St Melbourne campus. The duration of the practical intensives will vary according to the needs of the subject and will ensure that subject learning outcomes can be achieved.

Outstanding practical training and assessments from Trimester 1 are expected to be scheduled between weeks 5-9 of the trimester. Depending on the subject, these may be scheduled over consecutive days, or may be timetabled to run over 2 weeks – the decision for each subject will be made to support learning. For units with a practical examination, the exams will be usually be scheduled on a separate day after the intensives to allow students the opportunity to absorb and develop the practical skills before applying them in an exam.

Please note that the science subject intensives that generally involve less person-to-person contact may be scheduled earlier in the trimester, with social distancing and risk assessment measures in place. Please look out for this information from the science team.

Are the intensives compulsory?

If students feel that they are not in a position to complete the practical intensives during the scheduled time, they should communicate their concerns to their lecturer and complete an assessment special consideration form outlining the reasons. Your academic team and Program Director will then discuss options with you.

We have put in place additional risk assessment strategies to protect the safety and health of all staff and students.

How much notice will we get before intensives commence?

Planning for the intensives timetable is already underway. Dates and times will be provided to students once enrollments for Trimester 2 are finalised to help us avoid clashes with scheduled classes. We will endeavor to give as much notice as possible to help your planning.
If T1 intensives are being held concomitant with T2 subjects, how will we manage the increased study load?

We are planning to limit the impact on your Trimester 2 study wherever possible. We do recognise that there will be an increase in study load and will be supporting students with increased flexibility on your Trimester 2 assessment submissions.

If you have an assessment due at the same time as an intensive you are completing, you will have the opportunity to apply for an extension. If you need some extra time, you’ll be asked to submit a special consideration form to your lecturer who will support you from there.

Is there an option to reduce the required external placement hours due to enforced COVID-19 social distancing restrictions?

The number of external placement hours are mandatory requirements by Associations and private health insurance companies, and therefore cannot be reduced. Students will be given additional flexibility with due dates to accommodate the challenges in accruing hours at this time.

N.B. Myotherapy students are encouraged to accrue points via online professional development and telehealth appointments (see PDP Guidelines in the Myotherapy Professional Development Blackboard page - E-portfolio).

Clinical Practicum subjects are not timetabled for Trimester 2, when will be able to make up these classes?

Planning is underway to schedule extra clinic sessions later in the year to support students to make up clinical hours. Priority for additional hours will be given to those awaiting graduation and will likely be offered through the trimester and over the summer school period.

Does a delay in the graduation ceremony affect our ability to practice once we’ve finished our course?

Students who complete their studies can apply for their academic transcript once final approval for graduation is granted by the relevant academic committees. The graduation ceremony is the formal presentation of your testamur but does not impact on your ability to practice.

What support is available for international students who need to extend their visas to accommodate the extra time required to complete their course?

International students are encouraged to liaise with Student Services for more information regarding visa requirements and associated questions.

When will we be notified about changes to assessments in Trimester 2?

As a result of the change to academic delivery methods, some changes to assessments have been made to allow you to complete subjects where possible off-campus. These changes have been carefully considered to ensure that learning outcomes continue to be met.

You will receive information from your lecturer in each of your subjects to confirm how you will be assessed. The assessment briefs and marking rubrics for these assessment tasks can be found on
Blackboard. Please read this information carefully and reach out to your lecturer if you are unclear on any of the assessments.

**When will the Fitzroy library re-open?**

We are monitoring the COVID-19 situation closely. The Fitzroy campus and library will remain closed during Trimester 2. We have been working very closely with the library staff to build a strong collection of online resources to support all subjects.

**Are we still expected to continue with clinic placement hours?**

Students should continue with clinical placement hours where available and possible. Many Chinese Medicine and Myotherapy practitioners continue to work, and students may choose to continue their placement. We recommend that students observe telehealth appointment, which would be considered a suitable alternative to normal WIL arrangements and will be counted towards placement hours.

**Will studying fully online be recognized by Associations and regulatory bodies?**

The associations and regulatory bodies recognize the need for creativity and flexibility in the delivery methods and learning and teaching approaches during this time. For Chinese medicine students, AHPRA understands and endorses the need to make short term changes to elements of the delivery of our accredited CM program as a result of COVID-19.

**Has the subject availability for my course changed?**

Following the change of delivery mode, there have been some amendments to the annual subject availability to improve options for students in trimester 2. The updated delivery schedule can be found on the student hub:
