



Online study, student attendance and working hours during COVID-19

17th April 2020

Dear ILEP members,

While colleges are physically closed at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I understand many of you are seeking to facilitate your students continued education in Ireland through the provision of online learning.

One of the requirements for an English Language Programme to be included in the ILEP is that Non-EEA students must be physically attending the programme on a full-time, daytime basis. Where a college is physically closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and seeks to facilitate students continue their education through the provision of online learning, the requirement that students must be physically present has been suspended. This is an exceptional, short term and temporary measure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Where a college is physically closed and no courses are being provided, then students will be considered to have met their attendance requirement during the college closure. This is a pragmatic move to ensure no student is unfairly penalised for non-attendance outside their control. However, where a college is providing courses online, then students are expected to complete same.

Students who hold Stamp 2 permissions and who attend colleges which have physically closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, may in these exceptional circumstances, work 40 hours a week. This is conditional on the student completing their course online if this service is provided by their college and represents a short term and temporary measure.

If a student does not complete an online English Language Programme, where provided by the college concerned, and has worked more than 20 hours a week during the time the college is physically closed, then they will have breached the conditions of their permission to remain and risk being refused a renewal of that permission.

Regards

Brien Henderson

Principal Officer
Registration Office