



Temporary measures to assist international language students during COVID-19

20 October 2020

Dear ILEP members,

Further to previous letters of 25th September and 10th October, and the letters from Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS) to ELE provider representative bodies of 18th August and 9th October, I would like to advise you of the position with regard to the measures announced by Government on October 19 in response to COVID-19.

The Government's Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 Plan for Living with COVID-19 sets out the Framework for Restrictive Measures in Response to COVID-19 for adult education, which includes ELE, as *Move online - On-site attendance only when essential* at Level 4 and *Recommendations based on situation and evidence* at Level 5.

The framework was complemented by yesterday's announcement that, while schools remain open, higher and adult education providers should move to primarily online with exceptions only for essential activities.

ELE providers should immediately move online, with appropriate protective measures in place for any essential attendance on site.

This is an exceptional, short term and temporary measure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Once restrictions return to level 3 or lower in the provider's location then the standard ILEP criteria of in-person tuition will reapply.

All other ILEP criteria remain including, but not limited to, attendance requirements and the keeping of attendance records, the requirement to provide a minimum of 15 hours of student contact per week and have no more than 15 students in a class.

Students are required to enroll and 'virtually' attend in the same way as if they were physically present in the classroom. There is no change to the hours a student may work and the standard ILEP criteria remain.

The online renewal system remains available to Dublin residents and students are required to register as usual. Outside Dublin, students should establish if their local registration office is open.

These measures are in place to facilitate students continue their education through the provision of online learning and only apply to students already resident in the State and who are eligible to register on a Stamp 2 permission. **Prospective students seeking to enter the State should wait until in-person tuition has been resumed.** Failure to do so may result in such students being refused leave to land and being refused registration. Providers are requested to bring this to the attention of prospective students.

I and my team are, as always, available to address any issues or queries which may arise.

Regards

Emer Mullins
Principal Officer
Registration Office