

Pregnancy and your studies guidelines



If you are pregnant during your studies, the following guidelines apply to ensure the wellbeing of both you and your baby and that you receive the support you need.

Important: Medical certificate required

As soon as possible, you will need to provide a medical certificate from your health practitioner (Doctor, Midwife or Obstetrician) identifying your approximate due date and clearly stating that it is safe for you to participate in all requirements of your program, including laboratory classes and clinical placements (Fit for Practice).

Pregnancy and vaccinations

If you are not fully protected against all the diseases specified for compliance for placement, please note that your health practitioner (Doctor, Midwife or Obstetrician) will not allow you to complete certain vaccinations if you are pregnant. This will limit your placement opportunities until after your baby is born. You can have your vaccinations soon after the baby is born, even if you are breastfeeding. Click [here](#) for the Australian Immunisation Handbook's information on vaccination for women who are planning pregnancy, pregnant or breastfeeding.

Clinical placement in the first and second trimesters

In general, pregnancy should not prevent a student from undertaking a clinical placement in the **first and second trimesters (weeks 0 to 28)**; however, there are some clinical placements that may be more harmful to the mother and the developing baby. A risk assessment will be undertaken by Bond University in conjunction with the placement provider before a placement can be confirmed. If the assessment determines an unacceptable level of risk, Bond University reserves the right to not permit a pregnant student to attend placement.

Clinical placement in the third trimester

If special consideration is sought to attend placement in the **third trimester (from week 29)**, a new risk assessment will be undertaken by Bond University in conjunction with the placement provider. The new risk assessment will require authorisation from the Executive Dean and Bond University Manager Work Health & Safety. If the assessment determines an unacceptable level of risk, Bond University reserves the right to not permit a pregnant student to attend placement. If attendance at placement in your third trimester is approved, you will need to provide a medical certificate from your health practitioner (Doctor, Midwife or Obstetrician) to Bond University and your placement provider **on a weekly basis after 34 weeks' pregnancy** clearly stating that you are 'Fit for Practice'.

What to do if you are unable to attend clinical placement

If your health practitioner (Doctor, Midwife or Obstetrician) determines that it is not safe for you to attend clinical placement, please request a medical certificate and make an appointment with HSM's Office of Student Affairs and Service Quality (SASQ) as soon as possible. Email SASQ_HSM@bond.edu.au.

Returning to your studies and/or clinical placement after the birth

After the birth, when you are ready to return to your studies and/or clinical placement, you will need to provide a medical certificate from your health practitioner (Doctor, Midwife or Obstetrician) to Bond University and your placement provider stating that you are medically fit to return to work (Fit for Practice and Return to Studies clearance).

Breastfeeding on placement

Your placement provider will be advised that you are to be given time during your placement to have your baby brought to you for breastfeeding breaks, or to express your breast milk and have it stored in a suitable facility. For more information, visit <http://www.health.gov.au/breastfeeding>.

Note on participation in laboratory classes for pregnant students

Chemicals known to have reproductive, teratogenic or carcinogenic effects are used in small amounts in undergraduate chemistry and biochemistry practical classes, always with appropriate engineering and personal protective controls in place. Chemical exposure in cadaver labs is monitored and maintained at safe levels according to Australian Standards[®]. Laboratory staff can source relevant information for you on request.

Please seek guidance from your health practitioner (Doctor, Midwife or Obstetrician) to determine if there are any limitations on your participation in lab classes. Suitable arrangements may be made to modify your activity during lab classes where necessary.

Note on specific placement providers

Please note that some health care facilities may not accept pregnant students on placement due to their specific Workplace Health & Safety requirements. This includes some mental health facilities.

Support for pregnant students and new parents

You may require a support plan to help you balance your needs as an expectant mother and/or new parent with the demands of your studies; please see our [Disability Office](#) for advice.

For more information

To discuss these guidelines further, please contact SASQ_HSM@bond.edu.au.