

ICITE PROJECT FAQ SHEET

Contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Introduction to the ICITE project..... | 1 |
| What is IRIS Connect? | 2 |
| Where will The University of Auckland use it?..... | 2 |
| Who is funding The University of Auckland’s use of IRIS Connect and is there a cost implication for schools? | 2 |
| How will student teachers in our partner schools use it in their practicum?..... | 2 |
| What are the other benefits of using IRIS Connect?..... | 2 |
| Does the use of IRIS Connect replace any in-person interactions with Supervisors?..... | 3 |
| What training and information will schools get on IRIS Connect, and what is the time commitment?..... | 3 |
| If student teachers or associate teachers need tech support with the tool in school, who will help us?..... | 3 |
| What if my school struggles with a poor internet / wifi connection?..... | 3 |
| What happens if my school already uses IRIS Connect? | 3 |
| What security is in place to ensure safeguarding?..... | 4 |
| Are there any testimonials available from schools already using it?..... | 4 |
| Where can I find out more information about IRIS Connect? | 4 |
| Who do I speak to if I have questions about how IRIS Connect will be used in my school as part of EDPRAC100? | 4 |

Introduction to the ICITE project

The ICITE (**IRIS Connect Initial Teacher Education**) is the use of the IRIS Connect video reflection tool within a number of University of Auckland practicum courses. After an initial, successful pilot in 2021, we extended the use of the tool with a wider range of cohorts. Improving the quality of reflective learning is a critical tool in our approach to helping our teachers progress quickly. The IRIS Connect tools allows reflection, observation and feedback to take place remotely, which means teachers and support roles can assess progress more easily and more frequently. Supervisors and Associate Teachers will also be able to interact regularly with teachers and respond faster to development needs. IRIS Connect improves reflective practice, peer collaboration and mentoring opportunities. These are all key to developing effective teachers and leaders. Users can choose when to record, reflect or share their practice and base this around their developmental needs. It also allows support roles to conduct remote assessments and provide targeted feedback during mentoring conversations, which both strengthens the mentoring relationship and enhances development.

What is IRIS Connect?

IRIS Connect is a video reflection tool designed to enhance student teacher development. Made up of a cloud-based platform and an app that can be downloaded onto any Android or iOS device, it enables student teachers to record their practice, reflect on their teaching and even share practice for contextualised feedback. With its encrypted and permission-led security features, recordings are unable to be accessed or shared by anyone other than the individual user.

Where will The University of Auckland use it?

Student teachers enrolled in all primary and secondary courses will be using IRIS Connect.

Who is funding The University of Auckland's use of IRIS Connect and is there a cost implication for schools?

There is no cost implication for schools. The University of Auckland is funding the use of the tool.

How will student teachers in our partner schools use it in their practicum?

Student teachers can use IRIS Connect for lesson recordings for their development, in a range of ways:

1. Self-reflection: they review the video clip and personally evaluate their practice in relation to their areas of development. Templates may be used to focus this process
2. Feedback / mentoring: they share specific clips of a video with their supervisor or associate teacher to receive feedback or mentoring on an aspect of their practice.
3. Peer/group reflection: in our primary and secondary Grad Dip programmes, students will be guided through peer- and group-based reflection processes using IRIS Connect.

This is strictly controlled, and the student teacher, in collaboration with the school, will decide who to share it with, and when to share it. This is an efficient and secure way to develop through collaboration.

What are the other benefits of using IRIS Connect?

- Users of the tool can watch their lessons, reflect where they need to focus and work on that, or speak to their support role with targeted questions.
- Improved functionality to undertake video observations and supplement with in-person observations.
- Improved functionality to improve skills and progression as users can reflect on a recorded observation.
- Supports more targeted reflections (e.g. student teacher and supervisor or associate teacher now focus on this week's development needs across a number of lessons).
- Supervisors can help from further afield, which allows us to support more remote locations.

- A Supervisor with a specialism can offer support to a student teacher who may be mentored by another Supervisor
- Associate teachers can observe classroom practice that they may normally not be able to due to other commitments –they can view the practice when convenient for them and view specific snippets or whole lessons as needed (depending on what the trainee has uploaded for them to view)

Does the use of IRIS Connect replace any in-person interactions with Supervisors?

IRIS Connect is designed to improve the quality of interactions between the supervisor, associate teacher and student teacher. The professional conversation will be conducted in person wherever possible. The other interactions may be conducted remotely via our digital tools.

What training and information will schools get on IRIS Connect, and what is the time commitment?

The University of Auckland will provide support for schools and associate teachers who wish to take part in actively using the tool. There are excellent explanatory materials and training guides available within the tool. As we confirm placement arrangements, we will be in contact with further information for each school. The use of IRIS Connect by associate teachers and supervisors is not an additional requirement, as it intends to be used as an option for some of the reflections on classroom practice that currently take place in-person.

If student teachers or associate teachers need tech support with the tool in school, who will help us?

It's important to us that a robust support package is available for our schools so if a technical hitch does come up, you can quickly get back on your feet. With that in mind, we have arranged an additional level of direct support, provided directly by IRIS Connect. IRIS Connect have extensive experience in navigating these issues in schools and it makes sense for them to provide this support. You can contact the IRIS Connect Support Team using their Live Chat feature via the Help tab on their platform or website. The University of Auckland Digital Connect IT Support services are also available to assist.

What if my school struggles with a poor internet / wifi connection?

The recording of classroom practice on IRIS Connect isn't contingent on an internet connection, but a connection is required for the upload to the app's server (this can be anywhere—not necessarily at school). IRIS Connect already supports schools all over the world and has developed the software to work in some poor bandwidth locations (e.g. Nepal), they have built in functionality to support video uploads in poor connection areas. Rural locations and locations that are much further afield are one of the motivations for using IRIS Connect for exactly the reason that it provides more options for supporting and developing student teachers beyond physically visiting the school.

What happens if my school already uses IRIS Connect?

University of Auckland students will be temporarily added to your school instance of IRIS Connect for the duration of the practicum enrolment, but with limited sharing permissions. They will only be able to share with their AT (if applicable) and other University of Auckland students on practicum and their Professional Supervisor. ATs will be able to share with our students, but other staff at your school will not. The cost of the student IRIS licences will be paid for by the University. If you have questions about this, please contact the project team at icite@auckland.ac.nz.

What security is in place to ensure safeguarding?

IRIS Connect invest heavily in maintaining the security of their online environment and videos remain encrypted when stored here. Under the default arrangement, once uploaded, only the student teacher has access to the video. They can review the video, edit it, add time-stamped comments, and merge it with other videos to create a show reel. They can then share the video with their supervisors or associate teachers and selected other peers. Once shared, only those with access to the video can add comments for feedback. The student teacher may decide that this video was for their own reflective practice and not share it with anyone.

As part of the procurement process for video reflection we included requirements that mitigate the risks associated with classroom recording. IRIS Connect have a unique product that provides a powerful reflective tool which also has in-school safeguarding built in by design. Classroom practice is recorded using a dedicated IRIS Connect app on a mobile device. This app does not allow playback of videos nor does it store the video alongside other videos on the device. The video is stored within the app itself and is encrypted. Videos cannot be shared, edited or viewed in the app, but they can be deleted. When ready, the app will upload the encrypted video to the IRIS Connect online environment.

Schools can request a level of administrator access that provides oversight of all videos taken within their school. This allows a school leader to monitor the scope and nature of the videos recorded. Please indicate if you would like this facility to be arranged for your school.

Are there any testimonials available from schools already using it?

There are a number of testimonials and case studies on the IRIS Connect website. See the short videos from University of Auckland staff and students on our Practicum Hub site. We will be continuing to evaluate the use of IRIS Connect and will be reaching out to you for your feedback on this.

Where can I find out more information about IRIS Connect?

IRIS Connect maintain a comprehensive support resource at <http://help.irisconnect.com>

Who do I speak to if I have questions about how IRIS Connect will be used in my school?

Please contact the appropriate University of Auckland Practicum Leader, or the IRIS Connect Team on icite@auckland.ac.nz.