

Fit testing for clinical placement: student guide

MDHS is changing how fit testing is supported for students. From 2026, students will arrange their own fit testing with an external provider and eligible students may apply for a faculty-funded grant to help offset the cost.

Important: Your placement provider should be your first point of contact if fit testing is available through them. The grant is intended for eligible students whose placement provider cannot provide fit testing.

Use this guide to understand what you need to do, when to do it, and what evidence to upload.

1. What is fit testing?

A fit test checks whether a P2/N95 respirator seals properly to your face. At your appointment, you may try several respirator types used in health services. You will receive a result showing which respirators fit you best.

2. Who needs fit testing?

You may need fit testing if you are undertaking a clinical placement in a health service or residential aged care setting, or if your placement provider requires you to wear a P2/N95 respirator.

3. When should I get fit tested?

Complete fit testing before placement starts, during onboarding, or as soon as possible after placement begins, depending on your provider's requirements. Fit testing may need to be repeated if your mask model changes or if facial changes affect the seal.

4. Clinical Placement Mask Fit Testing Grant

The <https://scholarships.unimelb.edu.au/awards/clinical-placement-mask-fit-test-grant> is offered to students who are undertaking student placements and have a compliance requirement to obtain a mask fit test. The grant helps eligible students offset the cost of external fit testing.

Eligibility requirements:

- You must be enrolled in one of the following MDHS courses:
 - Doctor of Physiotherapy
 - Master of Clinical Audiology
 - Master of Nursing Science
 - Master of Speech Pathology
 - Master of Social Work
- Be intending to undertake a mandatory placement as part of your course
- Have not received a previous Clinical Placement Mask Fit Testing Grant in the same year.

PLEASE NOTE: Placement providers should be the first point of contact for being fit-tested. This grant is for students whose placement provider is unable to provide fit testing.

5. How do I book a fit test?

- You can book your appointment online with an external fit testing provider, **FitTest Victoria** (offering a discounted rate for UOM students), using the links below for your preferred location:
 - **Book a Fit Test - Moonee Ponds**
 - **Book a Fit Test - Oakleigh**
 - **Book a Fit Test - Geelong**
- Alternatively, you can source a RESP-FIT accredited fit tester on your own. The best way to do this is via the **Find a Fit Tester database**.

6. If you are unable to shave or remove facial hair

- If you are unable to shave/remove facial hair to have your fit test done, further information can be found here:
[victorian-respiratory-protection-program-guidelines.docx](#)
[Factsheet-for-community-organisations-Supporting-healthcare-workers-who-are-unable-to-shave.docx](#)
- Prior to booking appointments with external fit testers, please confirm that the Singh-Thatta technique is available

7. After your fit test

Upload your fit test evidence to Sonia as soon as possible after your appointment.

Evidence must show

To clear this check, provide evidence that you were successfully fitted for at least two masks. Fit tests are valid for one year from the completion date.

Your certificate or card should include:

- Your name
- The date of the fit test
- The recommended mask make, model and size specific to you
- The overall fit factor result
- Details of fit tester (or organisation)

8. Need help?

If you have questions about fit testing, Sonia uploads or the grant process, [submit an enquiry using the online form](#) and the team will respond as soon as possible.