

UWE Update July 2020

Dear all,

I hope you are keeping safe and well.

It has been a busy time in terms of placements for the upcoming academic year and I thought now was a good time to send an update on placements, changes, Managing Practice Learning (MPL) and Offsite Practice Educators and Supervisors (OSPE/S) events.

We have approximately 100 students over level 2 and 3 to place this year and we have been busy reviewing student placement, risk assessment, and confidentiality forms, which amount to approximately 300 documents. In addition, colleagues and I have been in communication with you about placement numbers, your risk assessment processes, and start dates in light of Covid-19. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank you for your continued support.

Although, things are gradually re-opening we remain in unprecedented and ever changing times and we have asked students to remain both **patient**, in terms of information coming out to them, but also **vigilant** in terms of checking their emails.

Sarah Davies is now in the process of sending student placement forms out to you and we have advised students that placement offers will be staggered and for some of them the information may not be available for some time to come.

Placement Dates

Level 3 placements are planned to commence Monday 28th September onwards, with a completion date in March 2021. Later starts will of course have later finish dates. University days whether attending UWE or on line will be on Thursdays once students are out on placement.

Level 2 placements are planned to commence Monday 5th October onwards with a completion date in February 2021. Again, later starts will of course have later finish dates. University days whether attending UWE or on line will be on Fridays once students are out on placement.

We do anticipate that placement start and finish dates will vary this next academic year depending on both the individual student and the organisation.

For this reason, portfolio submissions for both levels will be in May 2021, to allow for this potential variation.

Students have been told to contact the Placement Provider via email and/or telephone call as soon as the offer of a pre-placement visit is received. They have also be advised that this initial placement visit may be virtual through systems such as Microsoft Teams, Skype, etc. If they are asked to attend virtually and have any concerns about the system they are being asked to use, they know to contact UWE IT Support.

Changes

Written Tasks

We have removed the two written tasks in the portfolio from both level 2 and 3, and some of the content these covered will now be incorporated into other module written assignments. The context analysis will remain, with more focus on the students own learning about the service users content. The observations remain an academic, as well as a practice piece of work, and should always include legislative and policy context, issues of identity for both the student and service user, anti-oppressive discussion/practice, service user and carer feedback, models of intervention and social work theory. Everything should be referenced. Whilst there needs to be one list of references uploaded to Pebblepad, referencing pieces of individual work is good practice and should be encouraged.

Absence Line and Timesheets

We are anticipating moving to an absence line and on-line timesheet for the 2020/21 academic year for both level 2 and 3. This means that the students will, in addition to informing the placement, have to contact the absence line when they are not going to be attending placement. The on-line timesheet must be completed weekly and will require the supervisor/practice educator to also sign off each week. This system is used by other professional courses and experience indicates it is a much more robust mechanism for recording placement hours/days. Having a concrete record of student attendance should hopefully cut down queries about the total number of days completed and therefore speed up payment being authorised to agencies.

Learning and Development

Managing Practice Learning

The [MPL course](#) will be delivered on-line, over six half-day sessions this year, through Blackboards Open Education Platform. Whilst the course is predominately for supervisors for both the 70 and 100 day placements, it will also be suitable for Social Workers wishing to become Practice Educators, they will, however, be required to undertake a further 2 half day sessions.

Dates:

Wednesday 9, 16, 30 September and 7, 21, 28 October 2020
10:00 – 13:00

[On-line booking](#)

Offsite Practice Educators and Supervisors (CPD)

The [OSPE/S CPD](#) events will also be delivered on-line, over 2 half day sessions this year, through Blackboards Open Education Platform. The course is for Offsite Practice Educators and is mapped to Social Work England's standards for maintaining continuing professional development – [Standard 4 – maintain my CPD](#). However, it is also suitable for Practice Supervisors.

Both OSPE and supervisors should aim to attend at least one UWE event a year (two half-day sessions).

Dates:

Tuesday 8th September 2020

Thursday 10th September 2020

10.00 – 1.00

[On-line booking](#)

Kind regards

Kate