UWE Placement and Practice Learning Update September 2020

Last update July 2020

This is coming out to you as a Practice Learning Co-ordinator – if you could circulate to your Practice Educators and Supervisors I would be grateful.

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.

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

Placement Dates (Reminder)

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 24th 2021, to allow for this potential variation.

Level 2 students University day will be a Friday

Level 3 students University day will be a Thursday

The majority of teaching for level 2 and 3 students will be on-line this semester.

Portfolio Submission

Portfolio submission for both levels is 24th May 2021, this later date is to allow for delayed starts and therefore later finishes. However, students should aim to have their Pebblepad portfolio completed as close to placement completion as possible and once completed it should be submitted. Students should not wait until the submission date.

Pebblepad (On-line Portfolio)

The Learning Technology Team have been working hard and have produced a number of resources to assist in the use of Pebblepad and these can now be found on Practice Support Net but more specifically a Pebblepad section.

Changes (Reminder)

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 (Reminder)

We are 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.

Module Schedule

I have completed the Module Schedule for both Level 2 and 3 and have attached for your information. Due to the staggered starts this year, I am asking students to amend to meet their placement dates and to share with PE/PS when they have done this.

Practice Tutor Allocation

All level 2 and 3 students have been allocated their University Practice Tutor. The Tutors this year are:

Rachel Hubbard, Rob Lomax, Patrick Moreno, Hayley Smith, Des McDermott, Rachel Levarre-Waters, Celia Keeping, Anna Elliot, Meg Niven Withers and Liz Reilly.

Risk Assessment Update

Professional Practice Covid-19 Self-Assessment Tool (New)

An email communication to commence the above process has now gone out from the Practice Placement Office to all level 2 and 3 students. Students have been advised that fail to complete the risk assessment will result in them not going out on placement. If a student identifies as amber or red they are atomically referred to Occupational Health who then undertake an assessment about placement suitability. This could result in a student only being able to work from home. The majority of students have now completed this and for those with health concerns we are just waiting on responses from Occupational Health.

DBS

For those students whose DBS is over 3 years old, the HASS Student Administration Team will be contacting them for it to be undertaken again. If students are signed up for the on-line 'Update Service', this will not be necessary. If they are asked to redo, they are being encouraged to sign up for the 'update service' as it will make DBS checks much simpler for them in the future.

Just to confirm when students re register they are asked to complete a Self-Declaration related to both DBS and health. Again failure to do so will result in a delay to students going out on placement.

In addition, students have been reminded of the importance of locating their original DBS documentation.

Learning and Development

Managing Practice Learning

The MPL course has commenced on-line, over six half-day sessions this year, through Blackboards Open Education Platform. Not quite sure how this happened, but I have over 60 people registered. First session was last week and thankfully it did go quite well, no major IT issues.

Offsite Practice Educators and Supervisors (CPD)

The OSPE/S events were delivered on-line, over 2 half-day sessions last week, again through Blackboards Open Education Platform. Numbers were far smaller than I would have liked, nonetheless, the sessions appeared to go down well, with participants saying they found them useful. We will be moving to an expectation that the OSPE/S, that we work with directly, will attend at least one event a year as a means to maintain CPD. I have attached the main PowerPoint with added spoken word – this will ensure all your staff have an update. Please encourage them to watch/listen.

One of the key things to come out of the sessions was the need, especially in the current climate, for some additional events – support type meetings. I would be grateful if you could advise what you offer your Off Sites and Supervisors. Wondering if we could collaborate in some way. All thoughts welcome.

I hope this is helpful, but if there is anything else you think I should include please do let me know.

Kind regards

Kate Bramford

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