

Physiotherapy Programme Observational Placement Outline

- This 1st year observational placement has been included in the Physiotherapy programme in response to educator feedback, to enable students to familiarise themselves with an inpatient setting (acute or rehab), including layout, equipment, staffing, documentation, methods of communication, professionalism, and infection control procedures, prior to commencing their assessed placements. It is not always possible for all students to gain experience within an inpatient environment, and they may be placed in an alternative setting, such as outpatients.
- This placement is entirely observational. Students are not permitted to do any manual handling or be involved in any resuscitation (should this occur) as they will not have completed the necessary mandatory training. The programme team have investigated whether completion of manual handling and basic life support training can occur prior to the placement, but this is not possible due to timetabling constraints. The emphasis of this experience is therefore on observation of practice, and students have reported that they have appreciated the observational nature as it has provided space for them to watch, consider, and reflect, rather than partake.
- Students will be required to wear uniform at all times (as for assessed placements), unless this is not appropriate for specific placements (practice staff to advise). Professional standards including behaviour, appearance and confidentiality will have been discussed in the preparation session and expected to be upheld during the placement.
- Students will have a workbook with directed activities to do whilst on the placement, to facilitate their learning and form part of their undergraduate portfolio. The workbook is issued and explained to students in a preparation session before the observational session. They also have a review/reflection session following the placement where the contents of the workbook is reviewed, and their experiences discussed.
- Students will be allocated in pairs (unless this is not possible) to allow for peer support and learning during the placement.
- This placement is not marked or assessed, although supervisors will be asked to provide brief written feedback on the student's performance during the placement, and confirm the number of hours attended.
- Students who have had previous experience in an inpatient setting, such as a health care assistant or physiotherapy assistant can gain experience in an alternative setting, if appropriate and available. This will be arranged by UWE for individual students as required during the allocation process.

For further information, please contact the physiotherapy placement coordinators at physioplacements@uwe.ac.uk.