



To whom it may concern

The holder of this letter is a student at the University of the West of England (Bristol) undertaking studies on a health or social care programme.

The NHS (England) recognises that health and social care students are included in the classification list of essential workers:

List of essential workers (England only)

- all NHS and social care staff, including:
 - doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff, including community pharmacists and their staff, students on clinical placements, volunteers and unpaid carers
- (Ref - NHS Oct 2020)*

The Welsh Government have issued a similar position statement:

Welsh Government/ HEIW Position statement - Student key worker status - 18.09.20

This position statement confirms medical, nursing, midwifery, allied health profession and healthcare science students as having continued key worker status when undertaking practice placements as part of their programme of learning.

Travelling to University and Placement

The student is required to undertake essential placements in order to complete their studies and take up a post in health and social care. They should be permitted to travel to undertake these placements in line with the essential worker status referenced above and the Department of Health and Social Care Guidance: “(students) should be able to continue to travel to and from their university as required, this being for education purposes”

(Ref – DHSC Oct 2020)

And a similar statement has been issued by the Welsh Government:

Welsh Government/ HEIW recognise that as key workers, students may also be required to cross localised lockdown boundaries in order to continue their placement experience. Wherever possible, Universities and Placement Providers will work to support students’ continuation of their allocated placement. In doing so, students must adhere to all safety guidance from a national and local organisational perspective.

(Ref Welsh Government 18.9.20)

(Ref - Welsh Government – 18-09-20)

Essential worker status also enables students in the above groups to receive COVID-19 testing and seasonal flu vaccinations.

Steve Booth
Director of Professional Placements - October 2020