



FUEL SHORTAGES AND PLACEMENTS

The current shortages of fuel are impacting in different parts of the country in different ways and may indeed only be temporary. However as a student undertaking placements on a health and social care programme you may be required to travel to placement or use your car within placement to visit clients.

While we cannot predict all situations, in general you should think about this in the same way as say bad weather or the recent COVID travel restrictions.

Firstly, make all reasonable efforts to get to placement. If you can't, let the placement and the University know. If the placement can hook you up to an on-line or some other sort of virtual experience then that will be ok. There may be work that is placement related that you can be doing too. **The key thing is to stay in touch with your placement.**

As fuel stations manage the situation by allowing key workers to buy certain amounts, you may be able to use your health and social care student status to buy petrol. Please be aware that this is not a given, so do not compromise your safety or the reputation of the University.

The NHS claims department (NHSBA) is unlikely to alter the rules about how much you can claim for travel. If, for example, you need to take a taxi for a journey that is shorter than the distance to Glenside but more costly, you will not be able to claim. Similarly if you need to be working the next day and you cannot get back to your home so book some form of accommodation, this might not be able to be claimed via the NHSBA.

In such cases you should complete the appropriate claim form and we will need to look at each instance individually and present a case to the NHSBA.

If your programme requires the completion of a set number of hours for qualification then unfortunately any time off shifts will have to be made up depending on the leeway in the programme). You cannot be credited for hours that you do not undertake even if the absence was not your fault.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SJB', is located below the main text.

Steve Booth
Director for Practice Learning
29 September 2021