

Self-directed learning (SDL) on placement guidance

The CSP do not provide guidance on the amount of time students should be given for self-directed work whilst on placement. Therefore, UWE in line with other HEIs, recommend that students are given up to the equivalent of a half day per week for SDL whilst on placement. This may be given as one half-day or spread throughout the week as suits the student, educator, and service.

The SDL could include the following (not an exhaustive list):

- Looking up and providing evidence of knowledge/understanding of conditions, interventions
- Reflective practice: learning agreement (SWOCs, personal development plan), reflective pieces (see two templates appendix 3 of CPAF)
- CPAF Learner section completion for halfway and final appraisals
- Presentation or project work
- Evidence-based practice review: relevant standards, guidelines, journal articles
- Participating in networking opportunities: email discussion groups (e.g., iCSP), social media professional networking groups (e.g., @weAHPs on Twitter)

The amount, timing and frequency of SDL will vary between placements and students and should be discussed and agreed between the student and educator at the start of placement based on the following considerations:

- Placement learning opportunities and caseload: some placements naturally have downtime within the day for students to do SDL.
- Learning needs of the student: most students benefit from SDL time for prep or consolidation throughout the day.
- If an Access to Placement Plan is in place that specifies any reasonable adjustments.
- Opportunities to complete SDL outside placement: some students have no other commitments outside placement (e.g., caring, financial, commute) and are able to complete SDL in the evenings or weekends so may opt not to use placement time for this.

Students are required to provide suitable and sufficient evidence of their agreed SDL in an agreed timeframe to enable up to half a day per week to count towards placement hours.

SDL hours cannot be completed during any period of absence (planned or sickness) or used to make up hours missed due to absence.

Please note placements that are fully or partly non-clinical (e.g., research, leadership, project) may have significantly more SDL as part of the normal placement expectations.