**Uniform/Clothing Guidance for students studying at UWE**

This guidance will help to ensure you meet the levels of professional appearance required for your profession and to comply with health and safety requirements. Each partnership organisation will have their own guidance and policies for staff, which students must also adhere to. Please make yourself fully aware of the organisational policies before you commence placement.

**Attending Clinical Skills Sessions at UWE:**

Depending on your programme of study, you may be required to wear uniform to clinical skills sessions, some students won’t need to, as their professions do not wear uniform. Your programme/module leads will notify you as to whether uniform is or is not required.

For all students attending clinical skills sessions, we ask you to be aware of the principles below, to keep everyone safe. Please Note: **Principles 1 and 2** MUST be adhered to in clinical skills sessions. The session instructor/lead will not allow attendance, if there is a health and safety risk.

**Principles:**

1. **NAILS:** Long nails can risk scratching people and can be an infection risk (breeding ground for bacteria). Make sure nails are short enough to be safe and comply with infection control practices. Most organisational policies will ask staff (which includes students) not to wear nail extensions, gel nails or varnish (which can chip/break and therefore be a risk to patients/service users health)

**\*NO ATTENDANCE IF NAILS ARE LONG AND/OR POINTED\***

1. **SHOES:** Closed shoes offer protection from spills and dropped objects, whereas open shoes risk injury or contamination. Shoes should therefore be wipeable or washable. Avoid open backed shoes, as they do not offer support when moving and handling, putting all people at risk of injury. If croc style shoes are worn, they must have a heel strap

**\*NO ATTENDANCE IF SHOES ARE STRAPLESS OR WITHOUT HEEL STRAPS\***

1. **HAIR AND HEAD COVERINGS:** If your hair reaches your collar it will need to be tied/pinned up to prevent injury, as it could get caught or pulled and to avoid it coming into contact with clinical procedures. A head covering, such as a hijab or turban may be worn – they need to be well secured (clipped) and/or tucked into your collar
2. **UNIFORM/CLOTHING:** They need to be clean and you should be able to move freely, without restriction. Uniforms need to be correct according to the organisational policy. Uniforms should be laundered at 60 degrees (minimum) to reduce micro-organisms, including MRSA.
3. **BARE BELOW THE ELBOW:** Ensures correct handwashing procedures, that prevent infection risk. Please check organisational policies for guidance, if there are reasons that may prevent you being bare below the elbow
4. **FALSE EYELASHES:** There is an infection risk if they fall off, as they are synthetic, they cannot biodegrade like real eyelashes and predisposes the wearer to eye infections
5. **JEWELLERY:** No jewellery, except a plain band ring and plain studs, as jewellery harbours bacteria, which can be transferred to people. No hooped earrings, as they can be caught or pulled (remove or tape if necessary). Ear spacers to be plugged or taped.
6. **WATCHES:** Fob watch are acceptable, but wrist watches may compromise infection control
7. **TATTOOS:** Visible tattoos are acceptable, providing they do not cause offence, in which case a tattoo cover product would be required