An Introduction to Nursing Placements

All students who study a nursing programme at the University of Lincoln are required to undertake practice placements.

The placement team at the University is supported by the NHS trusts within Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire as well as the private, voluntary and independent sector organisations providing placements, training and support so students can benefit from a wide range of learning opportunities across a breadth of geographical areas.

It is hoped that this brief introduction to practice placements will give you the information you need to decide whether you would be in the position to offer nursing students a practice placement within your organisation.

Please feel free to contact Rachael or Karen at any time to discuss placements

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Or for more information, visit our website at www.nursingplacement.blogs.lincoln.ac.uk
Nursing at Lincoln

The University of Lincoln currently offers two pre-registration Nursing degrees—Adult and Mental Health.

In order for students to be accepted to the course, they need to have achieved pre-entry academic requirements, pass a numeracy, literacy and situational judgment test, and finally an individual interview.

Both of these programmes are full time and accredited by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC). This three year programme of study and practice skills development results in students progressing to become a registered nurse.

Students have 7 placements over the 3 years ranging from 4 weeks to 14 weeks in length. One of these placements is an elective placement where the student can choose and arrange where they would like to go. This placements differs from the other 6 competency assessed placements in that there does not need to be a registered mentor or nurse although a named supervisor is required. This placement is 4 weeks in length, and the students are not formally assessed against the NMC competencies. This means a wide range of organisations can offer this placement as long as the student nurse can demonstrate its relevance to health i.e. EMAS, overseas health communities, drug and alcohol services, health promotion or development.

Placement Requirements for Students

The NMC determine the requirements of theoretical study and assessment and practice placement competences and assessment. This requires preparation of registered nurses to become a mentor.

In respect to practice placements, all nursing students must:

- Spend 2300 hours in practice during their nursing programme (set number for each placement)
- Experience a variety of settings to ensure opportunities to meet all of their competencies and requirements
- Be supervised by a registered mentor who assesses the student against the NMC competencies (with the exception of Elective placement)

Examples of Nursing Placements

- NHS hospitals
- NHS community settings
- NHS and private mental health services
- HMP services
- GP surgeries
- Care homes
- Specialist services i.e. Addaction, CAMHS, Sexual Health
- Military services
- Private hospitals
- St Barnabas
- Children’s services

Examples of Elective Nursing Placements

- Overseas—Various health related services across the globe
- Revitalise - Holiday centre for disabled and people with long term conditions
- EMAS
- Gyms/fitness centres
- Children’s Nurseries
- Schools
- Forensic Services
What are the benefits of taking nursing students?

There are many advantages that student nurses bring to an organization, including:

- Your organization will be contributing to the skills development of the future nursing workforce, which will mean better outcomes for service users in the long term.

- Supporting a student gives the staff involved invaluable experience in the supervision and training of others contributing to their Continuing Professional Development (CPD) as well as helping towards revalidation.

- Students bring new ideas that might be of benefit to your organisation and the service user group you work with.

- The NHS provides a nominal tariff payment of around £85 a week per student to placements who support a student.

- You become part of the mentor register linking organisations together.

What’s involved in providing a placement?

An organization offering placements to student nurses will need to undertake/provide the following:

- The required amount of placement hours.

- Appropriate learning opportunities to meet competencies.

- An appropriate person who can act as placement co-ordinator to arrange the placements and be the contact with the University.

- At least one trained and registered up to date mentor who will plan and co-ordinate learning objectives and assess the students competencies, hold an induction and 3 review meetings with the student over the placement with a final grading of skills development and behavior (competency assessed placements).

- A named person to act as a supervisor of the student whilst on the elective placement with them, negotiate learning opportunities, carry out an induction and review meetings to check their progress (elective placements).

- An educational audit (competency assessed) or a self audit (elective placements) to ensure health and safety and other requirements are met.

- To sign and return a partnership agreement between the University and your organisation.
What happens if we decide to take a student

- You will be offered a visit from a member of the placement team to discuss how to become a placement provider.

- You will complete a checklist to ensure that all documents and necessary points have been covered.

- We will provide details of appropriate training opportunities that you can access.

- Your practice will undergo a formal placement audit to ensure you can provide a suitable and safe placement.

- We will agree when you would like to take your first student and allocate them to you.

- The student will start placement and you will be offered support from a member of the nursing team staff at the University.

- A follow up review will be conducted after your first student has completed their placement.

Support

Your staff and organization will be supported fully throughout the process of setting up your placement, taking your first student and continually whilst you are working with the University of Lincoln.

You will be assigned a link tutor from a Practice Support Team that will visit and complete audits, visit you for support whilst you have students and give you feedback on your student evaluations of placement experience. You will have their contact details should you need any information or support.

You will have access to the placement team by contact uolpractice.support@lincoln.ac.uk who will ensure your enquiry is dealt with and passed to the right person.

We will contact you regularly to find out what availability you have for students, to see how you are progressing with students you have, and to give you general news.

You will be able to access mentor updates and other training offered by the University in order to develop both individual staff and your organization.

You will have access to our placement support website and receive a 6 monthly newsletter to keep you informed of any developments in nursing and the University.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this opportunity