

Work placement suitability guidance

This information sheet aims to provide clarity for both prospective students and employers about the work-based learning requirements for the following programmes:

- FdSc Health and Social Care Practice
- FdSc Integrated Mental Health Care and Social Care Practice

It is an entry requirement of these programmes that applicants have a suitable work placement where you can be supported by a mentor who will assess your practice against national occupational standards in health and social care.

Expectations of the student

- The Foundation Degrees are two years in duration and you should therefore be confident that you will your work placement and commitment from your mentor will be secure for the duration of your programme.
- Your workplace setting must provide the opportunity for frontline practice in health or social care.
- The Foundation Degrees are full-time work-based programmes with the majority of study time taking place in the workplace setting. You will therefore be required to complete a minimum of 700 practice hours each year and will also need to be released for 46 academic study days per year.
- You will need to have completed your workplace induction process including health and safety, manual handling and safeguarding etc, in line with the Care Certificate standards. You must also have had a full DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check undertaken that is still current.
- The programmes are pitched at the Skills for Health (2010) Key Elements of the Career Framework level 4.
- Whilst studying on your programme you will be expected to work within the Code of Conduct for Healthcare Support Workers and Adult Social Care Workers in England (Skills for Care/Skills for Health 2013).
- You will be expected to acquire professional skills by taking responsibility for developing your own practice learning with the guidance of a suitably qualified mentor/supervisor.

Expectations of the employer

- To facilitate the release of students for attendance at University Centre Weston (UCW) one day/week. Please note that this day remains constant throughout the programme e.g. each Monday etc. No study day will be a Friday.
- To ensure a suitably qualified mentor/supervisor is available to guide, support and assess the practice learning element of the degree. A suitable qualification would be either:
 - 997/998
 - City and Guilds 7307
 - FLAP
 - Assessing learning in the work place
 - PGCE
 - Any other equivalent qualification



- UCW require all mentors/supervisors to provide evidence of their qualification along with their ongoing CPD as part of the practice learning Quality Assurance process.
- The practice learning element of the degree requires the students to complete competencies taken from the National Occupational Standards list (NOS). Three competencies each year are compulsory while the other three in the first year and one in the second year are optional. The optional competencies should be guided by workplace requirements (E.g. cardiology competency for cardiology department) and agreed as part of the UCW Practice Learning Plan (PLP) at the beginning of the academic year.
- Mentors/supervisors are expected to meet and review the students' work regularly, as agreed in the PLP and are also required to attend three formative reviews with the student and academic each year.
- UCW provides support to mentors and employers, including a dedicated Workbased Practice facilitator (WPF), Jenny Gamlin, who can come to the workplace to provide additional guidance to employers/mentors and students. The WPF can also attend your workplace to facilitate mentor updates specific to the degree.
- All employers will be invited to the termly partnership meetings held at UCW where they can have the opportunity to be involved in programme development.
- A workplace learning guide will be provided to all employers outlining roles and responsibilities and the information required by UCW in relation to Health and safety, risk assessment and liability insurance. This is part of the Quality Assurance learning requirements.
- As part of the partnership all mentors/supervisors will be given access to the UCW module resources via the Virtual Learning Environment ((VLE). A mentor enrolment form will be provided for completion as part of this process.

Further queries

For further information about the content or structure of the Foundation Degrees please contact:

- Vicki Caldwell, Curriculum Co-ordinator: 01934 411230 vicki.caldwell@weston.ac.uk

For further information about the work placement requirements described above please contact:

- Work Based Practice Facilitator: 01934 411645

For any queries regarding making an application to the Foundation Degrees or supporting your employees to do so please contact:

- Samuel Jones – HE Admissions Officer: 01934 411409 samuel.jones@ucw.ac.uk