

## Preparing for Success on your Nursing Programme: Placement Commitments

During your nursing programme you will spend a considerable time caring for people in practice areas. These placement experiences will be in a range of settings and will make up half of your programme. These are extremely exciting and valuable learning opportunities during which you will work alongside our clinical colleagues and be able to apply your theoretical learning to real-life practice.

As you embark on your nursing programme it is important that you have a clear understanding about the commitments that are required from you during these practice placements. Understanding these commitments at the start of your programme will enable you to consider and plan how you can manage this aspect of the course.

We would like you to read carefully the information and acknowledge you agree to the level of commitment required for this degree as part of your declarations made via your Practice Education Management System (PEMS) account: <https://pems.brookes.ac.uk> (log-in using your Brookes ID (student number) and password).

The principles of allocation are outlined in [PRE-QUALIFYING PLACEMENT1 ALLOCATION N&M, OT, ODP, PT, PARAMEDIC and SOCIAL WORK](#). It is important that you read this document before signing the declaration.

### Placement Allocations:

- Your placements are carefully planned to ensure you have an appropriate range of learning experiences. We work closely with our clinical partners to ensure our students have access to a suitable range of placements and therefore you should be aware that it is only possible to change an allocated placement in exceptional circumstances. Personal preference or cost is not considered a valid reason to request a change in placement. For further information regarding requesting a change of placement see: [Requesting a change of placement](#).
- Placements are allocated during blocks of time that have been agreed with our practice partners. You cannot be in placement at any other time unless it has been agreed with your Placement Lead. It is important that you do not book holiday during your placement time as it will not be possible for you to catch up your practice hours at other times during the year.

### Travelling to placements:

- You will be expected to travel to placements outside of the immediate teaching location. You will need to fund the upfront cost of travel, parking, and accommodation. However you may be able to claim back these expenses through the [Learning Support Fund](#) travel & dual accommodation expense ([TDAE](#)) scheme.

### Reasonable adjustments:

- There are wide ranges of individual health, disability or learning needs that may require reasonable adjustment(s) and/or accessible learning arrangements to be made in practice placements to provide a positive learning environment and to offer the opportunity to achieve the requirements of the programme. This document: [GUIDELINES: REASONABLE ADJUSTMENT, ACCESSIBLE LEARNING ARRANGEMENTS AND INCLUSIVE PRACTICE: FOR HEALTH IMPAIRMENT, DISABILITY AND SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFERENCES FOR HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL WORK PRE-REGISTRATION PROGRAMMES](#) outlines the process to support students with the assessment, identification and agreement of reasonable adjustments. These will be considered at the point of allocation.

### Shift patterns:

- You will be expected to work the full range of shift patterns during your placements. This will include days, evenings, nights and weekends.
- During your placement blocks, you will need to prioritise working the shifts that you have been allocated. This means that you will need to make alternative plans for supporting other commitments (e.g. employment, caring responsibilities, sporting commitments) so that you can attend your placement shifts. It is particularly important, if you have a part-time job, that you can work flexibly within this so that you can prioritise placement shifts during these blocks.

### Covid-19:

- At the start of your programme you will need to complete a Covid-19 vulnerability assessment form and You will be provided with your [Covid-19 vulnerability level](#). We shall use this to ensure we allocate you to

an appropriate placement and that Covid-19 reasonable adjustments are considered and where possible put in place. As the Covid-19 community and hospital levels fluctuate you may experience your placement stopping and starting which could impact your progression through the programme.

- We expect all health and care students and learners and those starting programmes in September, to ensure they have had both doses of a Covid-19 vaccine unless they are medically exempt. This will protect them, their families and those patients they may be caring for and enable them to take part in their clinical learning placements. This follows [government guidance](#) advising that those working in social care must be fully vaccinated and a number of NHS trusts and Private and Voluntary sector (eg care homes, charities, private hospitals, GP surgeries) are now requiring this from all patient-facing health and care staff. If you are unable or unwilling to be vaccinated this may impact upon whether we are able to provide you with a placement and this will affect your progression through your programme.

Please contact the Placement Lead for your course if you require any additional clarification about any of this information or refer to the sources of support in the following table:

Sources of Support	Type of Support	Contact Details
Placement Lead	The Placement Lead for your course has an overall responsibility for management of placements so can help you with general concerns and clarification about placement information.	<p>Adult Nursing Oxford: Paul Ong <a href="mailto:prong@brookes.ac.uk">prong@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Adult Nursing Swindon: Lesley Crabtree <a href="mailto:lcrabtree@brookes.ac.uk">lcrabtree@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Children's Nursing: Liz Jestico <a href="mailto:ejestico@brookes.ac.uk">ejestico@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Mental Health Nursing and Dual Registration Nursing: Emma Inness <a href="mailto:einness@brookes.ac.uk">einness@brookes.ac.uk</a></p>
Link Lecturer	You should contact your Link Lecturer for support in relation to your specific allocated placement.	The contact details for your Link Lecturer will be contained within the PEMS allocation email that you will receive for each placement.
Practice Education Unit (PEU)	The Practice Education Unit provides administrative support for placements. This team manages TDAE claims so contact them if you have questions about this.	<p>Adult Nursing Oxford: <a href="mailto:adult-nursing-oxford-peu@brookes.ac.uk">adult-nursing-oxford-peu@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Adult Nursing Swindon: <a href="mailto:peu-swindon@brookes.ac.uk">peu-swindon@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Children's Nursing: <a href="mailto:childrens-nursing-peu@brookes.ac.uk">childrens-nursing-peu@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Mental Health Nursing: <a href="mailto:MHN-peu@brookes.ac.uk">MHN-peu@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Dual Child and Mental Health Nursing: <a href="mailto:mhn-cn-peu@brookes.ac.uk">mhn-cn-peu@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Dual Adult and Mental health Nursing: <a href="mailto:mhn-an-peu@brookes.ac.uk">mhn-an-peu@brookes.ac.uk</a></p>
Student Support Coordinators	The Student Support Coordinators can offer general student support and signpost you to many helpful services such as wellbeing and financial support services.	<p>Oxford: <a href="mailto:studentsupport-marston@brookes.ac.uk">studentsupport-marston@brookes.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Swindon: <a href="mailto:hls-swindon-ssc@brookes.ac.uk">hls-swindon-ssc@brookes.ac.uk</a></p>
Financial Aid	This is a university service that may be able to offer you advice and support in relation to financial challenges.	<p>More information here: <a href="https://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/finance/financial-aid/university-financial-aid/">https://www.brookes.ac.uk/studying-at-brookes/finance/financial-aid/university-financial-aid/</a></p>

**We hope that you really enjoy your placements during your nursing programme.**