School of Health Sciences
Elective placements

www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthsciences

For enquiries about elective placements please contact:
The Electives Team
e: shs-electives@nottingham.ac.uk
w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthsciences
This booklet provides an overview of the elective placement process. It includes information about choosing your learning outcomes, how to organise and prepare for your placement, how the module will be assessed and the support available.

Your elective placement is an excellent opportunity to take responsibility for your own learning, experience working in a different kind of environment and to look at things through a different lens.

Map showing countries visited by previous students
Countries previously visited are shaded in dark blue
Before your elective

Before you go on your elective placement you will set your own personal learning outcomes and develop a group learning outcome. These will be included in your Elective Plan, which will outline personal and professional development you wish to achieve. Ensure that the learning outcomes you set are SMART (see below).

**Setting SMART outcomes**
SMART is an acronym commonly used to identify five key characteristics of high quality targets:

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Timely

You should ensure that the learning outcomes you set yourself have these five characteristics, as this will lead to your being able to make the most of your elective placement as a learning opportunity.

**Personal learning outcomes**
You will design three (or possibly more) personal learning outcomes which you wish to achieve through completing your elective placement. This is a fantastic opportunity to take your learning into your own hands, as you will personally be deciding exactly what you want to gain from your elective placement.

Here is an example of a SMART personal learning outcome which could be set by an adult nursing student wishing to do their elective placement in a maternity unit:

> "While on my elective placement, I will participate in the postpartum nursing care of a mother who has given birth naturally and a mother who has had a caesarean, in order to better understand their contrasting needs."

**Group learning outcomes**
You will be working with a group of approximately nine other students from your facilitated group; together you will choose a group learning outcome related to cultural competency. After your elective placement your group will put together a webfolio showing the progress each of you has made towards the group outcome. You will then present it together to the rest of your facilitated group. This will enable you to improve your cultural competency, receive support from one another as peers, and develop your teamwork and public speaking skills.

**Nottingham Advantage Award**
There is the opportunity to complete a Nottingham Advantage Award module based on a cultural competency learning outcome. The title of the Advantage Award module is ‘Elective Webfolio’. It involves independently creating a webfolio around this cultural competency learning outcome.

**Further information:**
- e: she-electives@nottingham.ac.uk
- w: www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/advantage

**Where to go**
When deciding where to apply to do your elective placement, you need to think carefully about what type of placement would best suit the learning outcomes you have set yourself. Your learning outcomes should dictate where you choose to go for your elective placement; not the other way round.

**Elective placements in the UK**
Many students choose to do their elective placement in the UK. Master of Nursing Science student, Laura Plumb, said the following about her elective placement in a secure mental health hospital in England:

> "I enjoyed every single second of it and met so many inspiring people. I learnt no end about severe mental health, which I couldn’t have done from my course alone."

Please note that if you wish to do your elective placement locally, you should not contact placement providers directly. Instead you should contact the Student Mobility Advisor, who will advise you on how to proceed.

**Elective placements overseas**
Approximately 30% of our students do their elective placement outside of the UK. This is an excellent way to immerse yourself in another culture and experience nursing in a different country.

**Choosing a placement provider**
Below are a few suggestions for questions to consider when you are choosing where to apply to do your elective placement:

- What sort of placement will be well-suited to achieving your learning outcomes?
- Are you able to choose a placement which will benefit you in terms of what you plan to do for your dissertation or your future career?
- What sort of placement would you personally gain the most from?
- How will you fund your elective placement?

For more information about how to arrange your elective placement please visit the relevant Moodle page. For BSc (Hons) students this is the ‘Personal and Professional Effectiveness for Nursing Practice 2’ (B7204) module Moodle page. Master of Nursing Science (Hons) students need to visit the Moodle page for modules B7310 and B7311.

**Risk assessment**
Once your placement provider has agreed to give you a placement, you will need to complete a risk assessment document in PebblePad. This is to ensure your placement is safe and that you are fully prepared for it.

**Risk assessment content:**
- Information about your placement, accommodation and, if applicable, flights
- Rescue and emergency contact details
- Insurance details
- Contingency plans
- Health and medication
- Cultural details
- Personal safety

You will not be allowed to go on your placement until your facilitator has approved your risk assessment.
During your elective

While on placement, you will collect evidence to show how you are meeting your learning outcomes.

This can include a range of media including:
• written reflections
• photographs
• videos
• audio recordings

You must ensure you follow the guidelines on confidentiality, consent and copyright provided by the School of Health Sciences when collecting evidence.

After your elective

Assessment
You will create a webfolio in PebblePad to present evidence showing how you have met your learning outcomes. There is not an exact word limit for this piece of work, however, the amount of time you spend on creating your webfolio should be equivalent to the amount of time you would spend on a 2,000 word essay. Your webfolio will be part of your assessment and will be graded by your facilitator.

Suggested sections to include in your webfolio
• Introduction
• Personal learning outcomes
• Group learning outcome
• References

Assessment criteria
BSc (Hons) Nursing students: Your webfolio will be marked according to the standard level two marking criteria. For more detailed information see the module Moodle page ‘Personal and Professional Effectiveness for Nursing Practice 2’ (B7204).

Master of Nursing Science (Hons) students: Your webfolio will be marked according to the standard level three marking criteria. For further information see the Moodle pages for modules B7310 and B7311.
Support

You will be supported by a member of staff who will facilitate elective groups throughout the process.

Peer mentoring
You will be able to apply to be supported by a peer mentor during and after your elective placement. The peer mentors will be students from the year above who have previously undertaken an elective placement.

The key topics you would discuss with your peer mentor are the progress you have made towards achieving your learning outcomes and issues surrounding cultural competency.

Your mentor’s role would be to help you to reflect on the experiences you have on your placement and what you can learn from them.

For more information about peer mentoring email: shs-electives@nottingham.ac.uk

Example webfolio

Below is an annotated screen shot of an example webfolio created in PebblePad.

You will be able to create individual folio pages for each section of your webfolio, a list of these folio pages will appear on the navigation column on the left.

You can create your own banners and backgrounds.

You will be able to format the colour, size and appearance of the text in your webfolio. You can also insert links to assets you have created in PebblePad and websites.

You will be able to include photos, videos, diagrams, audio recordings, reflective writing and other media as evidence in your webfolio. Guidance on appropriate material will be available.
Further information

Below are the details of the key sources of information related to planning and undertaking your elective placement.

**Moodle**
You will be able to find general information about the elective placement process by visiting the relevant Moodle page.

**BSc (Hons) Nursing students** should visit the ‘Personal and professional effectiveness for nursing practice 2’ (B7204) module Moodle page.

**Master of Nursing Science (Hons) students** should visit the Moodle pages for modules B7310 and B7311.

**Email**
If you have any questions or queries, please contact the electives team:
e: shs-electives@nottingham.ac.uk

**Conclusion**
Things to think about:
What would you like to achieve from undertaking your elective opportunity?
Where would be the best place for you to achieve this?

Once you have made a choice be patient – consider your options and enjoy the experience.