

For enquiries about elective
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School of Health Sciences Elective placements

www.nottingham.ac.uk/healthsciences



Contents

- 3 Your elective placement
- 4 Aims of the elective
- 5 Identifying your own learning
- 6 Where you can go
- 8 Midwifery electives
- 9 Nursing electives
- 10 Physiotherapy and sports rehabilitation electives
- 11 Erasmus+ and Moodle

Front cover image:
Undergraduate student studying behind the
Social Sciences Building, Malaysia Campus.

Your elective placement

As a School of Health Sciences student, you will have the opportunity to undertake an elective placement locally, nationally or internationally.

An elective placement is your chance to choose a placement in an area of healthcare that you find interesting. For many students, this is an exciting part of the course where they can take charge of their own learning and experience healthcare practice anywhere in the world.

Perhaps you want to see what work in a rehabilitation centre is like? Or help mothers and babies in developing countries? Whatever passion you have, the elective placement allows you to explore career pathways while developing your personal and professional skills.

This booklet will explain how to choose a placement, how to identify learning outcomes and explain individual division requirements.



Students studying in the Derby Course
and Student Centre, Royal Derby Hospital.

Aims of the elective

The aim of the elective placement is to immerse yourself in a setting that will widen your perspective of healthcare practice. It is an opportunity to encourage personal growth, pushing your boundaries and challenging how you look at culture and diversity.

When deciding which placement to choose, it may be useful to think about these questions:

- Do you want to explore healthcare practice abroad or stay in the UK?
- What would be a good addition to your CV for your future aspirations?
- What aims do you want to achieve?
- What skills do you want to develop?
- What are you passionate about?
- What area of healthcare practice or related to practice you would like to observe/experience in more depth?

Identifying your own learning

You will design formal 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.

You should ensure that the learning outcomes you set yourself have the five SMART characteristics, as this will lead to you being able to make the most of your elective placement as a learning opportunity and to reflect on your learning experiences in a structured way.

Setting SMART outcomes

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

- Specific
- Measurable
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Timely

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 of Cultural Personal and Professional Development'. It involves independently creating a webfolio around this cultural competency learning outcome.

For further information visit

www.nottingham.ac.uk/careers/advantage



Students speaking to an advisor at the Elective Fair.

Where you can 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. This is because it is most important that you achieve what you want to, not that you simply go somewhere!

Outcomes can be achieved in different places. Past students have gone to the following countries:

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|----------------|------------|
| • Albania | • Gibraltar | • Nepal | • Tanzania |
| • Australia | • Hong Kong | • New Zealand | • Thailand |
| • Barbados | • India | • Norway | • Turkey |
| • Bolivia | • Ireland | • Peru | • Uganda |
| • Canada | • Italy | • Philippines | • USA |
| • Cape Verde | • Jamaica | • Romania | • Vietnam |
| • Cyprus | • Japan | • Scotland | • Wales |
| • Denmark | • Kenya | • Seychelles | • Zambia |
| • England | • Malawi | • South Africa | • Zimbabwe |
| • France | • Malaysia | • Spain | |
| • Germany | • Malta | • Sri Lanka | |
| • Ghana | • Namibia | • Sweden | |

Approximately 25% of our students do their elective placement outside of the UK. This is an excellent way to immerse yourself in another culture and experience healthcare in a different country. Each year the School of Health Sciences hold a cross school Elective Fair, this is an opportunity to talk to students who have been on their elective placement, meet staff from local trusts who provide elective opportunities, companies that offer elective placements and talk to a member of staff from your faculty/division.



Midwifery students at the Elective Fair, held every year.

Midwifery electives

During your midwifery programme you will experience a two-week national or international elective placement of your choice. Although you can opt to undertake your elective placement abroad, an experience in the UK is just as valuable.

You can spend the whole period in one placement area or the first week in an area and the following week in another. You can even do several insight visits during the two weeks. All elective placements are observational.

“My elective midwifery placement in a large high-risk referral hospital in Takoradi, Ghana, was the experience of a lifetime. The lack of resources and money made me realise the importance of basic midwifery skills in the care of women in labour. I feel that this experience has prepared me for my transition to a newly qualified midwife acting as the woman’s advocate.”

Georgette Hinchliffe, BSc Midwifery

Nursing electives

During your nursing programme you will experience a four-week local, national or international elective placement of your choice. You can opt to undertake your elective abroad, or in the UK. Both can be just as valuable.

Where you choose will depend upon your personal learning outcomes and situation. You can spend the whole period in one placement area or in some circumstances you may opt to split the time, including another area during the four weeks.

“This elective opportunity has helped me understand the importance of clinical judgement, and I appreciate that this is a skill which develops with knowledge and experience. For me, my elective experience stands out amongst my other placements. I thoroughly enjoyed my elective, the area I went to is an area I would definitely consider as a registered nurse”.

Chloe Khurana, BSc Nursing

Physiotherapy and sport rehabilitation electives

As part of the physiotherapy and sport rehabilitation programmes you are required to organise and undertake a three-week elective placement.

It is usual for the placement to be completed in one three-week block in one unit or specialist area/setting/team. Any proposed alternatives to this should be discussed in advance with a member of the Division Clinical Education team.

The elective placement is a compulsory element of the clinical education programme and must be successfully completed (pass/fail) before you can graduate.

You should organise the placement well in advance of the participation date which is usually at the end of semester six.

It is advisable that you make enquiries well before the start of semester six, and potentially up to 12 months before as some placements are very popular. Overseas placements need more time to organise, so the sooner you make enquiries the better.

You may decide you would like to go back to a previous placement for further experience or try a completely different area of clinical practice. Previous students have found it useful to make initial enquiries either by phone or email.

All elective placements require approval from clinical education staff prior to commencement and must be situated with a relevant healthcare/sports professional who is eligible to supervise you.

Erasmus+

The Erasmus+ programme is a European-wide initiative based on subject-specific exchange agreements between schools and departments at Nottingham and academic counterparts at partner universities across Europe.

Under the Erasmus programme, undergraduate students have the opportunity to apply to undertake a work placement in another European country. Study placements take place at one of our European partner universities.

For further information please contact your identified Erasmus+ Division Lead.

Moodle

You will be able to find general information about the elective placement process by visiting the relevant Moodle page. This will support you through the elective process which includes completing an elective plan, a risk assessment and in the case of nursing and midwifery a submitted assignment in the form of an electronic webfolio.

This information is available in alternative formats.
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The University of Nottingham has made every effort to ensure that the information in this brochure was accurate when published. Please note, however, that the nature of the content means that it is subject to change from time to time, and you should therefore consider the information to be guiding rather than definitive. You should check the University's website for any updates before you decide to accept a place on a course.

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