



School of Medicine: Special Circumstance Policy for Placement Allocations

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Student Placements/Special Circumstances

During your Medical course you may be placed at **any** of our partner Trusts. These placements will cover hospitals, clinics and surgeries throughout Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire.

All students are expected to experience both the large teaching hospital environment (Derby and Nottingham University hospitals) as well as the smaller district general hospital environment (currently Lincoln, Boston, King's Mill and Chesterfield).

There is a limited capacity within which it is possible to take account of special circumstances for allocating placements. Prior to allocation of placements all students will be given the opportunity to submit special circumstances to be considered prior to allocation of placements.

The following list is intended to act as a guide for circumstances which may be considered as special circumstances when arranging allocations and attachments to particular sites. It is not intended to act as an exhaustive list, but rather is intended to help both students and staff understand which issues are likely to be considered.

Location of personal accommodation, non-possession of a vehicle, employment, sporting and social commitments are all expressly excluded from consideration unless combined with any of the factors listed in the [potential special circumstances section](#)

Usually a specified period of time will be allocated for students to notify the School of any Special Circumstances they wish to be taken into account prior to allocations being made to each clinical phase. It should be noted that it is the student's responsibility to alert the School of Medicine of any special circumstances during this period.

Evidence will be required to be submitted to support your application for special circumstances.

It may be necessary for students submitting special circumstances to have a meeting with a Clinical Sub-Dean (CSD) or the welfare team for support and advice.

Please note that if your special circumstance request is accepted in one of the clinical phases of the course, this special arrangement is not automatically carried over into the next clinical phase. You are required to apply separately for each of the clinical phases of the course even if your circumstances are ongoing and unchanged.



Potential Special Circumstances

These are the special circumstances that may be taken into account. However, they do not automatically mean the request will be accepted. Approval of Special Circumstances does not normally mean that students are allowed to do all their clinical placements at one site. The Medical School Welfare team will try to help facilitate students managing their own special circumstances without necessarily changing the placement location i.e. liaison with the placement providers to allow time off for medical appointments and to attend treatment. Richness of experience across sites is an acknowledged principle of placement allocation.

Health/Mobility Issues

While students will always be granted occasional leave of absence to attend health appointments that fall within an attachment, consideration for special circumstance applications will be given;

- Where regular contact with a specific named healthcare provider is required which would otherwise be impossible to continue if allocated to a specific placement location.
- Where a student has an illness/condition that is made worse by travelling long distances, they may be accommodated by allocation to a placement site where accommodation is provided.
- Where a student has emotional/personal circumstances which evidence suggests will become worse by travelling to a particular site, they may be accommodated by allocation to a placement site where accommodation is provided.

Child Care Issues

Where the student is the primary carer for a child/children aged 16 or younger and would experience difficulties in caring for their child/children if allocated to a specific placement location.

In this circumstance experience at a district general site may be gained by accommodating allocation during the school holiday period or for one of the shorter placements.

Dependents

Where a student is the primary carer for an individual who is dependent on that student for activities of daily living and which would limit the student's ability to travel to attachments.



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Again, the School may be able to support experience in a district general hospital-in this circumstance a meeting with a CSD may be required. Students are requested to provide evidence of their caring commitments as soon as possible.

Sporting & Other Representative Activities

Where a student participates in sporting or other activities representing their country at **international** competitive level which would suffer if allocated to a specific placement. Proof is required to show that this activity is non transferrable to another location. A discussion with the student and possibly their lifestyle coach and the CSD may be required.