

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING PRACTICE PLACEMENTS

Nursing students have a busy timetable right from the start and you will be in classes almost every day. You must attend the compulsory units and you are strongly recommended to attend everything in your timetable, as you will find it very difficult to make up lost teaching time. You will have study time available and there is a library here in the MBC with resources available for you to use.

Practice placements start in week 7 and you will be allocated a placement in practice areas across Northern Ireland, working shifts alongside a practice assessor. This is a vital aspect of your training and you must attend placements in a wide variety of areas to gain your qualification. **You must be able to make arrangements within your private life to accommodate this as family commitments and caring responsibilities, travel or accommodation arrangements cannot be taken into consideration when allocating placements.** You will be asked to sign a statement that you are willing to undertake your placements where allocated. Any time missed during placement must be made up and all absences are recorded even when the time is made up.

Our programmes do not follow the usual University calendar – don't expect long summer holidays at the same time as other University students as you may well be in class or on placement.

The Placement Office is responsible for arranging the placements that give students the opportunity to put theory into practice. Half of the undergraduate programme is spent on practice placements and the particular requirements of your intended field of practice will determine which learning opportunities you go to and when.

In general, practice placements are between three and six weeks in duration and can be in a wide range of settings, for example:

- Community based with district nurse, community children's nurse, health visitor, community psychiatric nurse, community learning disability nurse
- In non-hospital locations such as resource centres, day care facilities, nursing homes or voluntary organisations
- Hospital based nursing such as a ward, outpatients, A&E or theatres

First year nursing students will also have the opportunity to experience an alternative field of nursing outside their intended field of practice. Also, in third year, all students will have the opportunity to undertake an elective placement or an international placement.

- **Adult Nursing Practice Areas**

Practice placements will be arranged in areas across the Belfast, Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts. However, students undertaking an alternative field experience may be allocated to areas across the whole of Northern Ireland.

- **Mental Health, Learning Disability and Children's Nursing Practice Areas**

Practice placements will be arranged across Northern Ireland.

All students must be prepared to travel or stay in accommodation during some practice placements. It is your responsibility to make the appropriate arrangements.