Your guide to placements
Across Essex, Cambridgeshire and London

Practice makes perfect

www.anglia.ac.uk/fhsc/placements
Welcome

Welcome to the Faculty of Health & Social Care, at Anglia Ruskin University. We are delighted that you have decided on a career as a health & social care professional and are considering studying with us.

As a future health & social care professional and a student within our Faculty you will spend a significant amount of your time outside of the University engaging in supervised and supported practice. This is a crucial aspect of your training and you will be able to work in a variety of different areas depending on the specific nature of the course you enrol on. This might include gaining experience in hospitals, community areas, care homes, day centres or children’s nurseries and youth clubs. You may work with charities or voluntary organisations and for some of our learners there is even the possibility of working abroad. For all of our learners participating in the delivery of care is often one of the most satisfying and enjoyable parts of the course, not only are you developing the skills and knowledge you need but you are also making a positive contribution to the care and welfare of patients and clients.

As your experiences in practice are such an integral part of your training this brochure has been designed to provide you with some of the initial information you may need when considering your options. We hope you find it helpful, and we look forward to welcoming you to the Faculty of Health & Social Care.

With best wishes,

Emily Matthews
Director of Professional Practice
Faculty of Health & Social Care

About your placements

All courses are approved and governed by either the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the General Social Care Council (GSCC) the Health Professions Council (HPC), or the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC). These regulatory bodies require you to have your studies broken down into theory and practice. When considering your course you need to be aware that:

• Youth Work students will require 33% of the course to be a practical experience.
• Adult, Children’s and Mental Health Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work students will require 50% of the course to be a practical experience.
• Operating Department Practice will require 60% of the course to be a practical experience.

During your studies you will be required to experience a full range of shift patterns.

When thinking of undertaking one of these courses please ensure you have given due consideration to the following:

• Your personal issues (e.g. childcare, family commitments).
• Your means of transport and the distance needed to travel to the placement.
• Placements are allocated in both town and rural locations.

COUNTY WIDE PLACEMENT EXPERIENCES

Your placements will be across Essex, Cambridgeshire or London:

• If studying at the Rivermead campus in Chelmsford then your placements will be throughout Essex.
• If studying at our Fulbourn Campus, East Road Campus (both in Cambridge) or at our campus in Peterborough then your placements will be throughout Cambridgeshire.
• It is possible that Operating Department Practice (ODP) students will also have the opportunity to undertake placements in London.

STUDENT QUOTES

I have really enjoyed being able to put the skills I have learnt into practice. The most rewarding part of my placement was going home at the end of a shift after a really busy day and feeling that I made a difference to someone’s life.”

CHARLOTTE BURNS
Children’s Nursing Student

I have had placements in a huge variety of areas. Each placement has contributed invaluably to my course allowing me to gain new experiences and develop new and existing skills.”

HARRIET KINDER
Adult Nursing Student

My Placements allowed me to put theory into practice and actually see for myself how different techniques were performed and carried out. I was able to learn by doing, not watching, this allowed me to be hands on and develop my skills. The best thing about my placements was being able to have my own caseload so I can see women from the beginning of their pregnancy up until after they have given birth. This gives a real continuity of care.”

EMMA BRIGNELL
Midwifery Student
Placement information

ADULT NURSING, CHILDREN’S NURSING & MIDWIFERY
There are five NHS Trust areas in Essex (North, Mid, West, South East and South West) and three NHS Trust areas (Peterborough, Cambridge and Huntingdon including Papworth) in Cambridgeshire. You will be required to travel throughout the Trust area that you are allocated. Please also note that there may be occasions when you could be allocated to neighbouring Trusts.

You will be distributed on your placement between the five Trust areas in Essex and the three Trust areas in Cambridgeshire. Midwifery students are not placed within the Papworth area.

Negotiated placements
During your final year you will need to arrange one of your placements. This is called a negotiated placement and is compulsory for all nursing students. Undertaking a negotiated placement will give you the opportunity to explore different care settings of your choice and allow you to experience a different perspective of care.

The placement you arrange can be anywhere and does not have to be within Essex or Cambridgeshire - Your negotiated placement can even be abroad. Please note that all negotiated placements are subject to final confirmation by the placement team.

Further information will be given to you in the form of a presentation at the end of your first year of study.

MENTAL HEALTH NURSING
Mental health nursing students are split into two Trusts in Essex (North and South) and the one in Cambridgeshire. Almost 50% of your practice experience is community based. We will try to allocate your placement according to your home address, however please be aware that this is not always possible and you will be required to travel throughout the county.

OPERATING DEPARTMENT PRACTICE (ODP)
As an ODP student you will be offered a placement with one of the main hospitals within Cambridgeshire or Essex. ODP students can also be offered a placement within one of several hospitals in London.

SOCIAL WORK
Social work students will have placements in adult and children’s settings in social work, social care, and education or health environments to give you a broad learning experience. You will have experience of statutory work in one of your placements. Placements are negotiated by the University in a range of geographical areas and you may travel up to an hour from home to placement.

You will be required to attend placement for 100 days. The University requires that you are in placement for the full length of the normal working day. If a student misses a planned placement day the day must be made up at another time.

YOUTH & COMMUNITY WORK
You will be actively encouraged to undertake your placement in the widest possible range of youth work settings across the three years in terms of organisational culture, structure and also geographically. Currently students undertake placements in Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk and various London Boroughs.

In Year 1, you will undertake your first practice placement during semester two. You will spend three days per week on this placement and two days per week at University. This will support you in reflecting upon your practice experiences and sharing your work with fellow students.

In Year 2, you will again undertake your second practice placement during semester two. As with your first placement, you will spend three days per week on placement and two days per week at University.

In the third year, you will undertake a community-based placement over two 9-week periods.

Year 1
| Placement | Nursing homes or elderly wards
| Placement 2 | Surgical or medical placement
| You will also be given insight into alternative branch of nursing (e.g. mental health, adult or child) |

Year 2
| Placement 3 | Community Placement (e.g. district nurses, outpatient care) |
| Placement 4 | Acute surgical or medical assessment units |

Year 3
| Placement 5 | Critical care and negotiated placement |
| Placement 6 | Placement suitable for patient management |

STUDENT QUOTES

I take pleasure in working with students and sharing my knowledge with them. Being able to observe a student nurse’s practice developing as a result of my input is intensely satisfying.

SARAH FOLAN
Student Mentor/Ward Sister

I have had some excellent mentors who have given me opportunities to be involved in nursing care. The biggest benefit of going on a placement is being able to learn from experienced nurses while engaging with the patients and their families.

KAREN MABBUTT
Children’s Nursing Student

I value being a mentor so that I can ensure that a student’s education needs are met and that this results in a high standard of care being delivered to the patients on our visit.

KERRY FRETTON
Student mentor/ward manager

All my placements have been excellent and given me the opportunity to learn as much as I can. All of my mentors have been so supportive and given me extra opportunities to get involved.

SAMEENA TURNER
Adult Nursing Student

www.anglia.ac.uk/fhsc/placements
Placements are important as they provide you with all of the clinical and professional skills needed to work as a nurse. The basic skills can be taught in a classroom but to enable you to perfect them you need to be hands on with real patients. Bedside manner, which is a key aspect of nursing care, can’t be taught in the classroom setting.”

LAUREN CLARKE
Adult Nursing Student

I want to become a qualified children’s nurse and working on a children’s ward has given me invaluable experience. I have enjoyed my placement and feel that I have learnt lots of new skills.”

ELEANOR DIXON
Children’s Nursing Student

My clinical placements have provided me with a tremendous breadth of experience across a wide range of environments (from acute wards to people’s homes), and I have had the opportunity to work with clients from all age groups, from 4 to 94. I have enjoyed the variety of work – in mental health nursing, no two days are the same.”

LIZ CRACKNELL
Mental Health Nursing Student
So far I have had the opportunity to go on an observational placement; this gave me invaluable experience of the quality of life that some service users experience and an insight into the complexities of social work.

AMY ROSAS
Social Work Student

I really enjoy the practical aspects, as it involves working in the theatre throughout my training. With hands-on learning, it’s easier to remember procedures as you get to repeat them so many times each day. Also, once I qualify and start working, I would have been exposed to every area of my job role.

YASMIN SESAY
Operating Department Practice Student

I enjoy the work placements as they involve me going out to work with young people in youth work settings, which is exactly the sort of thing I enjoy and why I chose this course. The placements are fundamental to the course as we learn a lot about how we should work as youth workers on them, and gain valuable experience in many areas. I didn’t really know what to expect, but I certainly am happy with the quality of teaching I am receiving and the standards of the facilities available.

MARTIN GODDARD
Youth and Community Work Student
TRAVEL AND SUPPORT

Although every effort is made to accommodate you within reasonable distance to your home address, there will be occasions when you may be required to travel further; more often than not this is during your community placements as they are spread over the whole of the county and public transport can take some time.

If you are a nursing, midwifery or ODP student you will be able to claim back travel expenses if:

• You are receiving a bursary and you have the appropriate car insurance cover.
• The distance to your placement is further than the distance you would normally travel to the University.
• The cost of travelling to your placement is more than the normal cost of travelling to the University.

If you are a nursing, midwifery or ODP student you will be assigned a mentor for the duration of your placement. Social Work and Youth Work students will be assigned a practice teacher. These mentors/practice teachers will support you during your training and sign off your learning outcomes as you achieve them. They will also identify areas that you may need to develop and ensure plans are put in place to help you.

BEFORE YOU START YOUR PLACEMENT

When you start your course you will need to make sure that the following are completed before you can attend your placement:

1. Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) – You will be required to complete a CRB check. A member of the admissions team will send you the necessary paperwork to complete and you will be asked to return the completed forms when invited to attend an interview. The forms will be returned to the University’s Criminal Records Office who will undertake the CRB checking process. Please be aware that this can take on average 4 to 6 weeks and any student that has not had a completed CRB check will not be permitted to go onto placement. Not having a completed CRB check could also result in you being back grouped or intermitted from the course.

You will need to make a note of the application form number and will be able to track the CRB progress through the following website: www.crb.gov.uk

CRB checks are carried out each year of your training, with the exception of social work student who will undergo this every 2 years.

2. Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) - From November 2010 you will also need to undertake an ISA check. Once this check has been completed you will be supplied with an ISA number. This will not be able you to begin your placement without this number. Details about the ISA check will be provided to you when you attend an interview.

3. Occupational Health - The primary purpose of occupational health assessment is to ensure that students are fit to perform the tasks involved effectively and without risk to themselves, or others’ health and safety. Course places at the Faculty of Health & Social Care are offered subject to satisfactory health screening. Each candidate is assessed individually.

The Occupational Health Screening Service for pre-registration nursing & midwifery, social work and operating department practice at Anglia Ruskin University operates from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday throughout the year. This service is available at various sites.

If you do not have a completed occupational health check this could delay you starting the course.

If you are a nursing student, it is a legal requirement that you complete moving and handling training before you go into practice. This training will need yearly updates. If you miss this training it could result in you being back grouped or intermitted from the course.

GUIDANCE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Please note that when going on placement you must adhere to the confidentiality, privacy and professional boundaries expected as a trainee health care professional supported by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and the Health Professions Council (HPC).

Examples of what may be referred to as unprofessional behaviour includes breach of confidentiality; misuse of the internet and social networking sites and persistent rudeness to people, colleagues and others.

Nursing and midwifery students should refer to the NMC code of conduct (The code: Standards of conduct, performance and ethics for nurses and midwives) for further information. If you have not yet seen this code you will receive a copy when you commence your nurse training or for further information please visit: www.nmc-uk.org

Allied health students should also refer to the appropriate professional body standards, available at: www.hpc-uk.org
Locations
We have campuses at Cambridge, Chelmsford, Fulbourn and Peterborough. For details on locations and directions please visit: www.anglia.ac.uk/fhsc/campus

UK enquiries
Call: 0845 196 4000

International enquiries
Call: +44 (0)845 196 2609
Email: angliaruskin@enquiries.uk.com
Visit: www.anglia.ac.uk/fhsc

Information correct at the time of print. All rights reserved.