

Typically students are allocated to the same base placement for year 1 and 3 and to a different placement for year 2 experience. The course team strongly believe that students benefit from working within different department structures. Students, having experienced this, support this belief. They gain a greater understanding of differing techniques, protocols, equipment and staff, enabling them to gain a breadth and depth of clinical education. Students report that the change in placement makes them more confident when going into new departments for their 'special' placements and for job interviews.

There is an element of student choice in year 3 and students are able to negotiate a placement which will aid their final year research studies.

Provision for supervised clinical experience

Practice placement providers are spread across a wide geographical area. The imaging departments of thirteen hospitals are used for regular recurrent supervised clinical experience. Increasing use of satellite hospitals is being planned where this would enhance the student experience. In addition to base hospitals a further four 'special' placement departments are used.

There is an on-going staff development programme for practice placement supervisors and clinical liaison officers. This involves approximately 4 meetings and development sessions at the University each year and annual road shows by the course team. Additionally the visiting lecturer model means that placement staff can be supported on a more ad hoc basis by an academic tutor.

The course team is conscious of the shortcomings of purely counting numbers of examinations as an indicator of competence. Assessment therefore includes a variety of modes and includes coverage of relevant National Occupational Standards and professional body requirements. The emphasis is on quality and breadth of experience at sufficient depth to enable competencies to be met.

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