

Student Paramedic Non-Ambulance Placement Handbook (2022-23)

Introduction & Context

This handbook contains guidance on the different “non-ambulance” placements Student Paramedics must complete across their three-year BSc (Hons) in Paramedic Science. It contains guidance on the placement criteria, how to complete the electronic portfolio (Pebblepad) and who to contact to raise concerns or queries.

Placement experiences form a fundamental part of the student's development across the three-year programme. The student is expected to complete approximately 1500 hours of combined placement in total divided across the three years.

Understandably most of the Student Paramedics placement is supported and facilitated by two partner Ambulance Trusts; East Midlands Ambulance Service and Yorkshire Ambulance Service, however the student must also complete several “non-ambulance” placements to supplement their Ambulance placement and gain specific knowledge and insight in a particular area of healthcare.

Paramedics are regularly called upon to assess and manage patients with a wide variety of medical or traumatic presentations. Completion of non-ambulance placements allows for the consolidation of learning by experiencing the management of patients in a controlled setting under the supervision of a suitably experienced allied health professionals.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting our students. The knowledge and experience they gain from the placements you provide is invaluable and enhances their education greatly which ultimately will result in them being effective and proficient Paramedics. They should conduct themselves in a professional manner with a positive and enthusiastic attitude to learning, we hope you enjoy spending time with our students.

Finally, should you have any questions regarding our students, or their placements please feel free to get in touch with any member of the placement team who will be happy to help.

Contact Information for Sheffield Hallam University

Name & Position	Contact Details
<i>Hospital Placement Lead</i> <i>(Non-Ambulance)</i> James Stubley Senior Lecturer in Paramedic Science	Office: 0114 2252797 Mobile: 07385 931967 Email: James.stubley@shu.ac.uk
<i>SHU Placement Co-ordinator</i> Kayleigh Woollen	Office: 0114 225 6623 Email: paramedicplacements@shu.ac.uk

Absence and Sickness Reporting

If a student fails to attend a placement area when allocated, please contact either the non-ambulance placement lead or the placement co-ordinator for guidance.

In the event a student is absent due to sickness it is the student's responsibility to inform both the university and their placement mentor. Should a student be sent home during their placement due to illness then the student should report this to the university and the placement team.

Accident and Injury reporting

Should an untoward incident or injury occur involving one of our students on placement guidance can be found at <https://www.shu.ac.uk/health-social-placements>

Electronic Clinical Assessment Portfolio (eCAP)

The eCAP is a document that contains all of the competencies to be completed while attending a non-ambulance placement.

The whole document is classed as a 'pass' or 'fail' assignment for the student.

How to complete any related competencies

It is the student's responsibility to ensure they complete all their competencies while attending a specific non-ambulance placement.

The student should be familiar with the outcomes of their placement with you.

There are no specific competencies for non-ambulance placements. However, many of the student paramedic competencies may be relevant to your particular area, Some competencies must be achieved by the student, some are optional if the placement allows.

The competencies are recorded via a mobile application which the student will access on their mobile device.

The outcome level is classed as either "dependant", "assisted", "minimal supervision" or "proficient". Definitions of these levels are highlighted below,

Level	What should be expected from the student	What is to be assessed
Dependant (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Lacks knowledge<input type="checkbox"/> No awareness of alternatives<input type="checkbox"/> Unable to explain / give reasons for actions	The student demonstrates a lack of knowledge with no awareness of alternatives when performing a desired skill/task. They are unable to explain or give reasons for actions they are performing

<p>Assisted (A)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge is usually, accurate <input type="checkbox"/> Little awareness of alternatives <input type="checkbox"/> Identifies reasons for actions 	<p>The student is able to demonstrate a sound level of knowledge but is able to offer little awareness of alternatives. The student will be able to give reasons for the actions performed.</p>
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<p>Minimal Supervision (MS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Applies accurate knowledge to practice <input type="checkbox"/> Some awareness of alternatives <input type="checkbox"/> Beginning to make judgements based on contemporary evidence 	<p>The student can apply an accurate level of knowledge to the skill/task being performed and is able to off some alternatives. The student will also be able to make some judgements based on contemporary evidence.</p>
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<p>Proficient (P)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Apply evidence based knowledge<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates awareness of alternatives<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrates a sound rationale for actions<input type="checkbox"/> Makes decisions based on contemporary evidence<input type="checkbox"/> Demonstrate the skill required	<p>The student carries out the skill confidently, safely and is effective. There is little to no direction or support from the healthcare professional and the student can prioritise and adapt to any situation safely.</p> <p>The student will make conscious/deliberate planning prior to carrying out the skill; they will be able to provide clear coherent information to the service user prior to the required skill and gains the necessary consent.</p>
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Website

This website is designed for the student, mentor, and placement providers. It contains information on all the elements required for placement. Under placement profile information you will find your institution and a link to your website.

Within this website you will also find Sheffield Hallam Policies and Procedures along with Service Level Agreements for your reference.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a member of the placement team.



Link: <https://www.shu.ac.uk/health-social-placements/profession-information/paramedic-science>

Expectations of our students

We expect our students to conduct themselves in a manner fitting of a healthcare professional. Our students should adopt a proactive approach to their learning/education and should portray their profession in good light. Our students are bound by the code of conduct set by the University and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC).

We fully expect our students to integrate with the team they are working with and work competently and effectively and are expected to perform all tasks asked of them within their scope of practice.

Our students are informed of their placements and they are familiar with their competencies in advance. Students are also informed that it is their responsibility to ensure these competencies have been achieved.

Students are asked to contact the placement area prior to the start of their placement to confirm start times and locations along with any other special requirements. Where appropriate our students are registered with PEMS and will gather information from there.

It is expected that our students will attend in full uniform should this not be appropriate please inform the student when contact is made.

We hope you enjoy your time with our student, but should you have any questions, worries or concerns please contact a member of the placement team.

Thank you.

[Health and Care Professions Council \(HCPC\) standards for Practice-based learning](#)

Standard	Standard
5.1	Practice-based learning must be integral to the programme.
5.2	The structure, duration and range of practice-based learning must support the achievement of the learning outcomes and the standards of proficiency.
5.3	The education provider must maintain a thorough and effective system for approving and ensuring the quality of practice-based learning.
5.4	Practice-based learning must take place in an environment that is safe and supportive for learners and service users.
5.5	There must be an adequate number of appropriately qualified and experienced staff involved in practice-based learning.
5.6	Practice educators must have relevant knowledge, skills and experience to support safe and effective learning and, unless other arrangements are appropriate, must be on the relevant part of the Register.
5.7	Practice educators must undertake regular training which is appropriate to their role, learners' needs and the delivery of the learning outcomes of the programme.
5.8	Learners and practice educators must have the information they need in a timely manner in order to be prepared for practice-based learning.

Guidance for Placement Areas

Introduction

On behalf of the whole placement team, **thank you** for agreeing to support our student's non-ambulance placements. We understand some areas may be used to working with our students in green however others may not. Highlighted below are just a few key messages and links to further guidance.

First contact...

Our students should have attended an induction with the trust placement team, and they will have been given all the information to arrive at the placement area fully prepared. This is still a daunting experience for some of our students who may have had very limited exposure to hospital and ward environments so please ensure the student is familiarised with the area and introduced to relevant team members. Please encourage their involvement and ensure they are feeling supported and guided.

Our students are team players, however ...

Although our students are team players and will happily assist with tasks, they are proficient to assist in. Each non ambulance placement they attend has no formal linked competencies to achieve, however, many of their student paramedic competencies may be appropriate. We'd be grateful if they are given the opportunity to work supernumerary under the supervision of your staff.

Those who supervise our students don't need a formal mentorship qualification, The Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) state Practice Educators must have the relevant knowledge, skills, and experience to support safe and effective learning. While their guidance does suggest Practice, Educators are typically on a relevant register, they do acknowledge other arrangements are appropriate. Our perspective is that this is subjective to the task in hand.

Our students know what they need to achieve, should be proactive in achieving it and initiating the relevant recording (on their phone via Pebblepad),

Prior to commencing a placement block all our students receive a pre-placement briefing which outlines our expectations of them. This includes the relevant student paramedic competencies they could achieve and being pro-active in achieving them. Our students record their competencies via Pebblepocket on a mobile device. While we do produce guidance on this, our students can take you through it.

Finally, thanks again, please let us know what you think ...

We really appreciate all your support and feedback. Our students should conduct themselves with the highest degree of professionalism, in keeping with the profession they wish to join. Should you feel this is not the case, please get in touch with us. Of course, positive feedback is also welcomed!

Student Paramedic Non-Ambulance Placement (1 week): Essential Skills (1st years) Aims

The aim of this placement is for the students to learn "essential" skills.

The emphasis across this year of placement is to expose our students to the clinical healthcare setting; this will be their first placement since commencing on the BSc Paramedic program.

This year we expect the students to be working supported as they build their exposure and experience of being patient facing.

This particular placement is for the students to observe fellow Allied Health Professional's (AHP's) within a clinical practice setting. Particular importance is aimed at patient and service user interaction and overcoming any communication anxieties.

The first year is aimed at supporting others in clinical practice and engaging in relevant discussions surrounding this, the student is expected to start to record basic patient observations accurately.

Student Paramedic Non-Ambulance Placement (7 shifts) (2nd years) Aims

There are specific linked competencies that the students have to achieve across their first year of their BSc program, some of these competencies may be relevant to this placement opportunity, so as an allocated practice mentor or clinical educator you may be asked to witness a specific competency. This should be in the form of an electronic signature via PebblePocket software.

The emphasis across this year of placement is to build upon Year 1 exposure, which has been very much basic assessment, and discussion of management plans. The student will have supported a clinician in the patient / service user care plan.

This year we expect the students to be working more autonomously, still with support but working towards practice with minimal supervision. There will be clinical interventions the students are able to undertake also, surrounding airway and ventilation and intravenous cannulation.

There are specific linked competencies that the students have to achieve across their second year of their BSc program, some of these competencies may be relevant to this placement opportunity, so as an allocated practice mentor or clinical educator you may be asked to witness a specific competency. This should be in the form of an electronic signature via PebblePocket software.

Placement Area:	Duration:	Aim:
Accident and Emergency/ Acute Admissions	3 Shifts	<p>The aim of the student being in this area is to understand the patient journey from when they have handed the patient over to our in-hospital colleagues. The student should actively participate in the assessment of patients to ascertain any differences or additional procedures in the emergency department.</p> <p>It is envisaged that students will work in the resuscitation room, major's and minor's areas and other areas of acute admissions.</p> <p>Completing this placement will allow students to understand the role of the emergency department / acute admission areas and how they fit with regards to the patient journey. It will give the student an insight into how patients are treated beyond the ambulance environment.</p>

Placement Area:	Duration:	Aim:
CCU/PPCI	2 Shifts (ideally 1 day in each area)	<p>This placement is to allow to students to experience patients with a cardiac condition and to understand how these can be managed.</p> <p>It is a good experience for the student to witness a patient undergoing a PPCI procedure (if possible), so they can understand what the catheter lab requires of the paramedic in the preparation and arrival of the patient.</p> <p>On the cardiac ward it would be beneficial for the student to participate in assessments of patients in order that they are able to understand what the department assesses and any differences or additional assessment procedures.</p>

Placement Area:	Duration:	Aim:
Theatre/Theatre recovery	2 Shifts	<p>The purpose of this placement is to refine the students' skills of airway management; Prior to attending this placement, the student will have had their airway skills assessed in simulated practice, including inserting basic airway adjuncts, the use of supraglottic devices (e.g., LMA and/or iGel), direct laryngoscopy as an adjunct to ETI and the use of a bag valve mask to perform bag mask ventilation. They should have the underpinning knowledge regarding airway management however require concentrated exposure in a controlled clinical environment.</p> <p>The student should understand the importance of good monitoring and airway management. It would be beneficial if the student could remain with an anaesthetist for either all the placement or one a day at a time, as this will allow the anaesthetist the opportunity to see the progress of the student and provide continuity for the student.</p> <p>The role of ETI in Paramedic Practice has been deemphasised, routinely this is only an adjunct for specialist practice clinicians.</p>

Student Paramedic Non-Ambulance Placement (7 shifts) (3rd years) Aims

The emphasis across this year of placement is to build upon the last 2 years of exposure, Year 2 will have seen the students increase their involvement with patient / service user assessment, whilst discussing and carrying out management plans. This clinical practice will have been undertaken with minimal supervision.

This year we expect the students to be working more autonomously, aiming to be proficiently working towards practices in assessment, decision-making and management plans, supported with supervision and discussion surrounding treatment plans post exposure. There will be clinical interventions the students are able to undertake also, surrounding airway and ventilation and intravenous cannulation.

There are specific competencies that the students have to achieve across their third year of their BSc program, some of these competencies may be relevant to this placement opportunity, so as an allocated practice mentor or clinical educator you may be asked to witness a specific competency. This should be in the form of an electronic signature via PebblePocket software.

Placement Area:	Duration:	Aim:
Paediatrics	2 Shifts	<p>The aim of the student being in this department is to enhance their exposure and confidence when interacting, assessing and treating this specific patient group.</p> <p>Completing this placement will allow students to increase their confidence with paediatrics and allow access to clinical colleagues experienced within this area of clinical practice.</p>

Placement Area:	Duration:	Aim:
Maternity / Obstetrics	2 Shifts	<p>The aim of the student being in this department is to enhance their exposure and confidence when interacting, assessing and managing this specific patient group.</p> <p>Completing this placement will allow students to increase their confidence when dealing with this specific patient group in the prehospital environment. During paramedic practice this is increasingly undertaken without the presence of midwifery AHP at scene.</p> <p>It will also allow access to clinical colleagues experienced within this area of clinical practice.</p>

Placement Area:	Duration:	Aim:
Community Based Teams	3 Shifts (ideally 1 in each of Mental Health, District Nurses, COPD/Heart Failure / Falls assessment teams (Ambulance service Emergency Care Practitioners could be utilised for the latter two areas))	<p>The aim of the student being in these areas is to enhance their exposure and experience when interacting, assessing and managing this specific patient group.</p> <p>A bulk of the Paramedic profession workload is assessing patients and dealing with complex cases, in particular Mental Health presentations.</p> <p>It will also allow access to clinical colleagues experienced within this area of clinical practice.</p>