

## **SHU Policy on Lone Working**

- ✓ PLEASE REFER ALSO TO
  - ✓ [UK GOVERNMENT CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\) ADVICE](#)
  - ✓ [STUDENT GUIDANCE](#) POLICIES ON
    - 'AGILE WORKING FOR STUDENTS ON PLACEMENT'
    - 'TRAVELLING TO AND FROM PLACEMENT SAFELY – COVID-19 UPDATE'
    - 'USE OF STUDENT'S OWN VEHICLE ON PLACEMENT'
    - 'STUDENT WEATHER ADVICE'
- AND**
- ✓ GUIDANCE ON STUDENT WORKING HOURS/ATTENDANCE ON PLACEMENT ON THE [PROFESSION INFORMATION](#) PAGE FOR YOUR SUBJECT GROUP

## **Policy Statement on Students Visiting Clients in the Community**

Some students may be required to use their own transport to carry out their duties while on placement (i.e. for community practice learning experience). If this is the case, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that their (or the policy holder's) motor vehicle insurance covers them for this kind of work and that their vehicle is roadworthy.

**PLEASE NOTE - students are not permitted to transport patients/ clients/ service users in the student's own vehicle.**

Neither the University nor Placement Provider can accept any liability relating to, or from, the use of student's vehicles to or from their placement setting.

## **Health and Safety of Students on Practice Learning Experiences, Visiting Clients in the Community**

Students have health and safety responsibilities both to themselves and others who may be affected by their actions. Students are required to comply with University and College Health and Safety Procedures. These outline what is to be done to safeguard the health and safety of all of those affected by the University's activities, including adherence to policies and guidance on Covid-19.

Consequently, the College does not endorse students undertaking any activity independently without the supervision or authorisation of a registered practitioner and this would include students who have been asked to escort service users/ patients/ clients unsupervised. All Placement Providers who manage community placements will hold policies on Escorting Service Users/ Patients/ Clients and students must refer to these.

Regarding generic issues about students working unsupervised, the Nursing and Midwifery Council guidance states that "The student's mentor is responsible for determining the amount of direct and indirect supervision which is required. The named mentor is accountable for their decisions to let the student work independently".

Exceptions exist in respect of students who are studying on Social Work, including the combined Learning Disability and Social Work, programmes; please refer to the document 'Social Work - Personal safety guidance for students undertaking placements and home visits'.

Part of their validated course requires students to undertake placements within a family or service user setting which may require students to be supervised from a distance by personal tutors or workplace mentors (in some cases this could be family members).

There may be times when Physiotherapy students may be working on their own or with an assistant e.g. on a community placement if deemed appropriate by the student's clinical supervisor. However, students will have, always, access to their clinical supervisor via telephone.

## **Health and Safety for Bioscience students**

Bioscience students are accompanied by an Agronomist/Senior member of staff initially but when they are confident in the work they are doing and have had the necessary training, they may go to sites alone, providing that they have authorisation from their supervisor.

Bioscience students may also spend time undertaking field work as part of their placement. All procedures have undergone a risk assessment and either have equipment to control the risk plus full protective equipment is provided to further reduce any risk. There are specific Health and Safety Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which includes a section on lone working at Eurofins Agrosciences. Each student is provided with a copy with this SOP at their induction and is further referenced during their training.

Lone working this is only undertaken after consulting/agreeing with the student's supervisor, the student has been trained in emergency procedures/use of equipment/first aid, and they have access to communication links. Students are given adequate rest periods if lone working extends over a significant period.