

PITO Student Nurse Placements – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

(Private, Independent and Third Sector Organisations)

The University of Roehampton are aiming to expand placement capacity across community organisations. We have developed this set of FAQs to provide further information and to help answer any questions you may have.

1. What is a PITO placement?

A PITO placement is based within an organisation in the Private, Independent and Third Sector Organisations.

2. Why do student nurses need PITO placements?

To support the aims of the NHS Long Term Plan (2019). To expand the future Community Nurse workforce (GPFV 2016; NHS People Plan 2020). Roehampton has a unique focus on community and primary care and all students therefore need a Primary Care placement.

3. What are the benefits of hosting student nurse placements?

Hosting a student nurse placement comes with numerous benefits, including the opportunity to inspire and equip the community nursing workforce of the future. Our students bring positive energy and provide professional development opportunities for community nurses, carers, and the wider multi-disciplinary team. Plus, students who undertake placements often become interested in pursuing careers in community nursing.

4. How many care homes in SWL currently offer student nurse placements?

Not nearly enough: we are hoping to change this!

5. How long will the student be allocated to us?

Placement allocations will differ across the programme, but a student will usually be allocated for 6-8 weeks. There is a longer 12-week placement at the end of the programme. They will be full-time (37.5 hours).

6. Does the student need to be in the practice every day?

No, you can arrange for them to spend some time with other services during the placement. These are called outreach opportunities.

7. How many practice nurses are needed to support one student?

One. Each student needs one Practice Assessor (PA). A student also needs a Practice Supervisor, but this could be any registered Healthcare Professional, it doesn't have to be a nurse.

8. What will the student be required to complete during their placement?

Roehampton students have a brand new electronic Practice Assessment Document (ePAD), which they will complete with support. The ePAD offers a flexible approach to completion of the assessment documentation.

9. What if my care home cannot commit to supporting a student alone?

We have had recent success in developing placements that are co-hosted between organisations. This means that two or more care homes can share a student across the week (or alternate weeks, if preferred). This is a really attractive option for care homes who haven't had students previously to be able to develop as a placement provider.

10. What support is available for care homes?

There is a huge amount of support available. The University of Roehampton provides support through Dawn Hunt and Tessa Shields who will be your point of contact and coordinate allocation of students. The University will also allocate a member of staff (Link Lecturer) to provide support.

11. What processes are already in place and what needs to happen to set up a placement?

An educational audit will need to be undertaken with the University – this takes an hour or so to complete.

12. What training will staff need to complete to supervise and assess students?

This depends on what existing qualifications staff have. If nurses are an existing mentor/practice supervisor/practice assessor then they only need a half-day update. If they are new to the role, then they will need to attend a whole day workshop with some additional online learning. Roehampton is currently offering this training for free. All training is currently being delivered remotely.

13. What are student nurses allowed to do during a placement?

This will depend on what stage the student is at during their programme, but below are some examples. The level of supervision will also reduce as the student progresses:

- Work alongside the wider MDT as they provide care for residents
- Patient assessment
- Physical examination
- Vital signs
- Giving medication (unless under PGDs)
- Personal care
- Wound care
- Catheter care
- PEG/NG care
- Taking blood
- Patient education

14. Where can I find out more information?

If you are interested in taking this forward, or just to find out more, please get in touch to arrange a meeting:

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