

Position statement: provision of flexible shift times for students travelling to distant placements

Background

All pre-registration students are expected to travel to distant placements on some occasions during their programme. Students are informed of this expectation prior to commencement on the programme and are advised to make sufficient provision for this, and to be prepared to organise the necessary transport arrangements to attend the regular shift pattern of their allocated placement.

We are aware that public transport provision in some areas is limited which may make attendance for the normal shift patterns extremely challenging. In these cases, placement providers have agreed with the Department of Health Sciences that some flexibility can be negotiated (within reasonable adjustments) between the student and the placement team.

Process to be followed in event that student has difficulty with start/finish times of shifts due to transport issues:

1. Student explores all possible means of transport to the placement (this will include all forms of public transport, car sharing, traveling with other students etc)
2. Student provides evidence to Practice Assessor/ Practice Learning Link (PLL) team to demonstrate that attendance at set shift times cannot reasonably be managed due to transport issues
3. Student proposes a compromise to PA, making clear how they can manage shift requirements for at least some of the shifts during the placement period (considering nights, weekends, etc) and requesting specific flexibility (negotiated start/finish times) for the remainder of the placement experience
4. PLL team support student to liaise with placement area's learning environment manager (or equivalent) to discuss student's proposal where required. Agreement is reached through negotiation.
6. Learning environment manager reports outcome to PLF (as required) to establish consistency in approaches and sharing of good practice between placement area