

AHP Student Placement Flashcard Series

Role Emerging Placements

Role Emerging Placements (REP) or Long Arm Placements

These are placements that take place in an organisation that does not have an established Allied Health Professional role for that profession. The AHP educator/supervisor oversees the student's experience externally from a separate host organisation, the training course or a supervisor from their own profession. This may also be known as long arm supervision or distance educator. They are more common in occupational therapy education but are applicable across other allied health professions (1). Role emerging placements are also common in arts therapies training and can provide services with a new experience of specialised therapeutic input, with opportunities for evaluation.

Examples of this include Diverse Placements, where students experience settings outside of the more traditional NHS and social care environments. Research and student feedback suggests that it helps prepare students for work in different settings and gives them the confidence to apply their skills in new areas (2).

Many AHP professionals are increasingly finding the opportunities to work in diverse settings and successful student placements in new services may promote workforce expansion.

Example

Dramatherapy student placement at Medway Hospital

The Kent & Medway AHP Student Expansion project has helped to set up a role emerging Dramatherapy placement through collaboration between Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge and Kent & Medway Foundation Trust. This will be a six month placement, two days a week across the Acute Frailty Unit and Elderly Rehabilitation wards. The trainee will be managed on placement by an occupational therapist. Clinical supervision will be provided weekly by an external supervisor, who is a Dramatherapist.

This will be the first time that this service has experienced Dramatherapy or hosted a trainee from one of the arts therapies.

For more information on Dramatherapy: www.badth.org.uk

For some more guidance and information:

Clarke, C., Martin, M., Sadlo, G., & de-Visser, R. (2015). 'Facing Uncharted Waters': Challenges experienced by Occupational Therapy Students undertaking Role-emerging Placements. *International Journal of Practice-Based Learning in Health and Social Care*, 3(1), 30-45.

<https://doi.org/10.18552/ijpblhsc.v3i1.212>

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/allied-health-professions/helping-ensure-essential-supply-ahps/placement-expansion-innovation/resources>

References

1. <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/allied-health-professions/helping-ensure-essential-supply-ahps/placement-expansion-innovation/resources>
2. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330434459_Role_Emerging_Placements_Skills_Development_Postgraduate_Employment_and_Career_Pathways

Created by Nicki Mcrae & Iain Spink

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