

School of Physiotherapy - Clinical Education information

Clinical placements: Students in Year 1 will undertake one week clinical placement, students in Year 2 undertake two weeks of clinical placement or one week of clinical placement and one week of alternative experience. From the middle of Year 3 to the middle of Year 4 of the course, students undertake four 5 week Core Clinical placements. In the final semester of fourth year, students undertake two 5 week Elective Clinical Placements in specialist areas of practice such as Women's Health, Paediatrics, Sports Physiotherapy, Spinal Cord Lesions, Oncology, Rehabilitation and Hydrotherapy. Students in the double degree Physiotherapy/Ergonomics will complete only 1 clinical elective.

Allocation of clinical placements: Our aims are to ensure that students are given a wide range of experience in various settings and specialist areas and that placements are allocated as fairly as possible.

For the Core Clinical Program students are allocated to one of the Clinical Schools and undertake all four placements within that Clinical School. The dates of clinical placements are fixed, and the range of experiences is dictated by the requirements of the Australian Physiotherapy Accrediting Authority (ACOPRA). There is therefore little capacity to accommodate students' individual preferences for either timing, type and location of clinical experiences in the Core Clinical Program.

In addition, all students are expected to undertake at least one 5 week clinical placement in a rural setting.

Clinical placement notification: Students are advised of their placements via rosters on the year level clinical noticeboards. Students can apply for a change of roster, but opportunities are limited. Once the roster has become final, further changes can only be made in exceptional circumstances.

Clinical placement information for students: Information about facilities can be found in the Clinical Affiliation Guide in the School of Physiotherapy Reception area. Students must contact their nominated agency contact person *at least* two weeks prior to the commencement of clinical placement. Student in Clinical Schools will have a nominated contact person within that organisation.

Uniform: The School of Physiotherapy polo shirt is available in short or ¾ length sleeve. Shirts should be worn with a front pleated navy trousers (jeans not permitted), navy wool jumper, cardigan or vest and closed toe shoes. Tailored navy shorts may be acceptable at some clinics. **Name badges must be worn at all times whilst at clinic.** See noticeboards for further information about purchasing badges & uniforms.

Police check: Most agencies now require that students on clinical placements present a police record check on the first day of placement. The Clinical Affiliation Guide indicates whether the clinical venue requires a police check. Police check forms are available from the School of Physiotherapy Reception. Payment is the responsibility of the student.

Immunisations: Prior to attending clinical placements, it is strongly suggested that students undergo a medical examination with a view to preventing or detecting disease. To further reduce health risks, it is strongly recommended that :

All students be immunised against Hepatitis B

All students be immunised against Rubella, Measles and Mumps

All students be up-to-date in their immunisation against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and tetanus.

Tuberculin testing be undertaken prior to attending hospital clinics, with follow-ups as necessary.

Students are also recommended to have an Influenza vaccination annually and Varicella (chicken pox), if non immune.

Students with an infectious condition such as HIV or HBV should take every reasonable precaution to ensure that no other person is placed at risk of infection, as advised by their treating doctor.

Banyule City Council arrange for staff to come to the University to provide Health Sciences students the opportunity to have vaccinations. Payment for vaccination and testing is the responsibility of the student.

First Aid: Students must show proof of first aid training (must include CPR component) prior to attending Year 2 clinical placements. Cost of training is the responsibility of the student.

Confidentiality agreement: Students must sign a confidentiality agreement each year prior to attending clinical placement. This agreement certifies that students understand their legal obligations relating to patient confidentiality and privacy. Confidentiality also applies to information regarding fellow students. Some agencies may also require students to complete another confidentiality agreement.

Timesheets: All students must complete a timesheet for every clinical placement undertaken. Students are responsible for recording their clinical hours and ensuring it is signed by their supervisor. Timesheets are available from the School of Physiotherapy website or at Reception.

Insurance: Students attending clinical placement are covered by University insurance. Information about student insurance can be found at:
<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/insurance/>

Incident reporting: The protection provided by the University's insurers depends on the timely reporting of incidents that could conceivably give rise to litigation or claim in the foreseeable future. The University's insurer may deny liability for claims where the incident was not reported. In the event of any incident involving injury, illness, property damage or loss or the potential for such to occur, an "Incident & Hazard Report" form must be submitted to the clinical coordinator within two days,

the agency supervisor must be advised immediately and the student must comply with the protocols of the clinical agency. Incident report forms can be found at: http://www.latrobe.edu.au/hr/forms/incident_report.pdf or can be obtained from the Clinical Co-ordinator.

Withdrawing from a placement: Withdrawal from a clinical unit is subject to the same rules as withdrawal from any other unit of study. Further information regarding withdrawal from placements and additional or making up clinical time can be found in the 2006 School of Physiotherapy Undergraduate Clinical Manual or from the Student Services Officer.

Contacts :

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