



**Queen Margaret
University**
EDINBURGH



Supporting Cross-sector Placements

April 2023

Paramedic Science Programme

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BACKGROUND

A 3 year undergraduate programme has been developed, but why do we need it now?

- Change in education route for paramedics in 2020 to align with HCPC requirements
- Scottish governments target of increasing paramedics
- Growth of paramedics in the community

QMU is one of 5 contracted universities across Scotland to deliver this programme.



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PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING

Throughout their 3 years of studies, students will undertake:

- A** Ambulance placement within Scottish Ambulance Service
- B** Elective placement with charitable/ non-profit organisations
- C** cross-sector placement within NHS Lothian & NHS Borders in multiple areas

A: Ambulance placement within Scottish Ambulance Service

Ambulance placement is an integral part of the student paramedic development, however, it is more and more clear that student paramedics need to be exposed to multiple clinical areas to be able to provide the best and correct care to any patient they might come across.



- Zlata Skabova,
Paramedic and Paramedic Science Lecturer, Queen Margaret University

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B: Elective placement with charitable/non profit organisations

Students are expected to identify an organisation in the Third sector to meet the learning outcomes of the programme. This is not a voluntary placement, it is a core part of the programme intended for development and understanding of the Third sector in promoting health and wellbeing.

This will help learners to broaden and deepen understanding of how people in our communities live, how they strive to live well and what support mechanisms are available to them out with the formal health and social care services. This will enable paramedics of the future to have greater insight into the needs and preferences of persons in diverse circumstances, including older persons and those living with homelessness, addiction, poverty, or long-term health conditions. Further to that, students will be able to deepen their understanding of social care requirements within our communities and the dignified approaches to support persons across the life span.

C: Cross-sector placement within NHS Lothian & NHS Borders in multiple areas

Why do student paramedics need cross-sector placements?

- Paramedics are generalists, requiring a broad knowledge and skills base
- They need exposure to a wide variety of areas to prepare them for the real world, every day practice of paramedics in 2022
- This also gives them a chance to experience stressful situations for the first time from a learner's perspective, rather than as a newly registered paramedic
- This broadens their understanding of the 'patient journey' and interprofessional working

Cross-sector placement requirements

1st Year

3 weeks of cross-sector placements within care homes, caring for elderly adults

2nd Year

8 weeks of*:

- Assessment of ill adult
- Supporting mental health and wellbeing
- Assessing and supporting maternal and infant health
- Emergency care and triage

*2 week rotation between areas

3rd Year

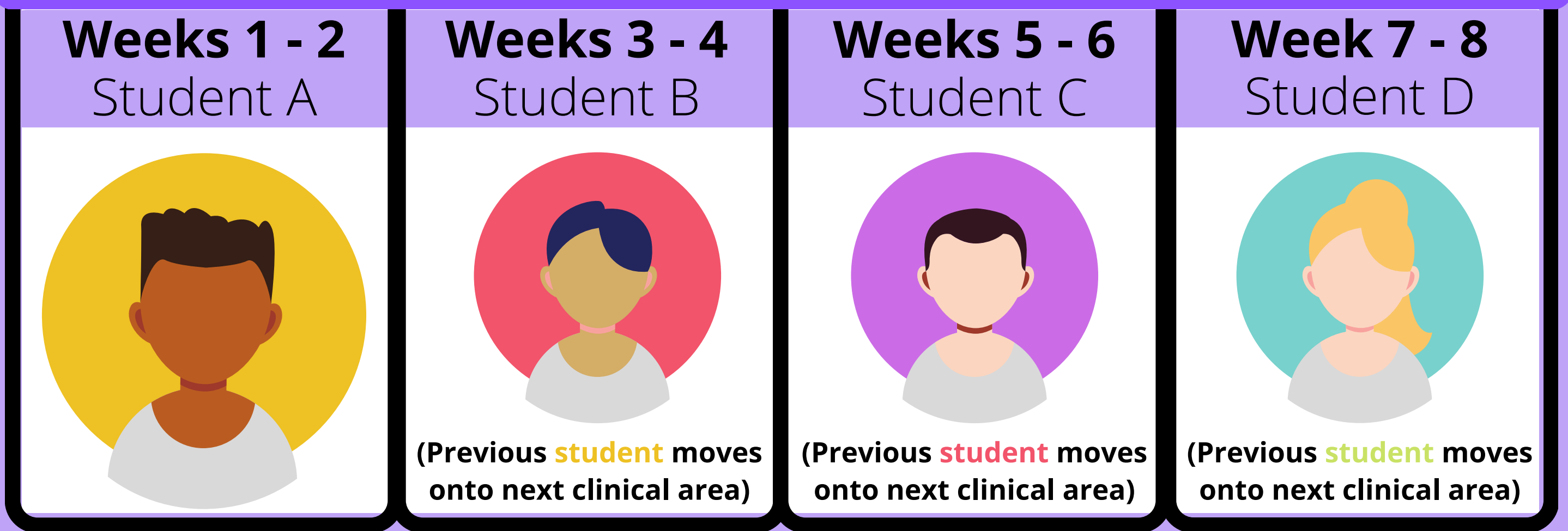
8 weeks of*:

- Assessment of the person with a long-term condition and /or anticipatory needs
- Community and primary care
- Assessing and supporting children & families
- High dependency care

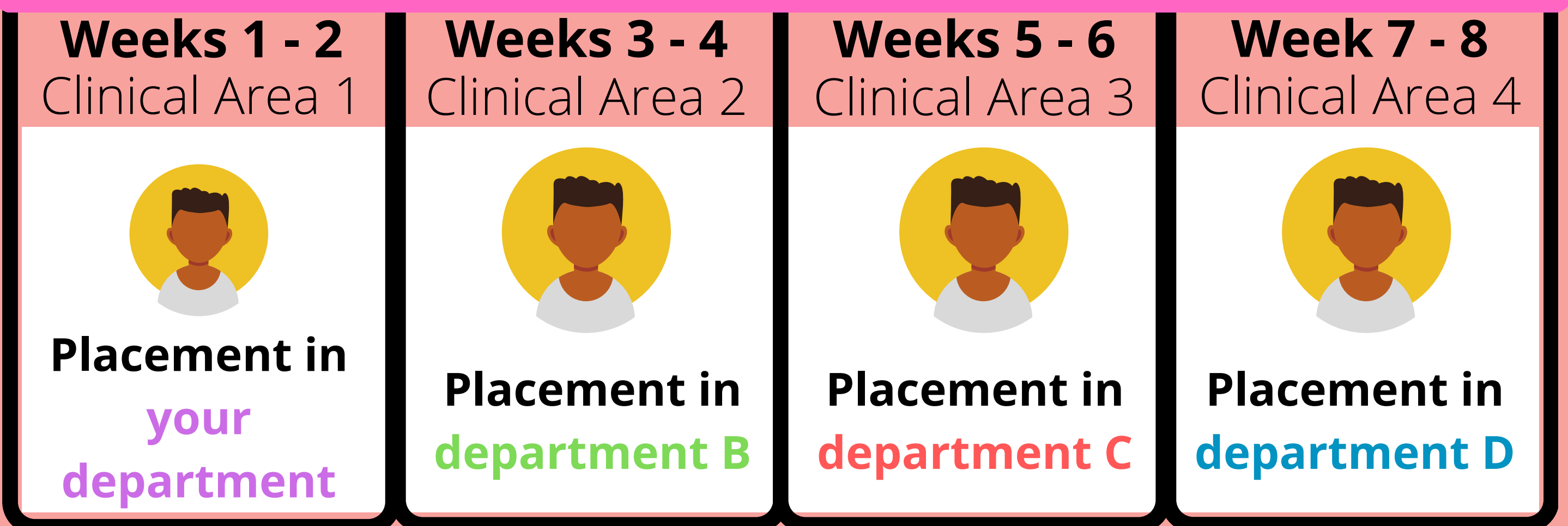
*2 week rotation between areas

So what would it look like...

... for your department?



... for the student?



CPD opportunities

Networking opportunities

Observational & student led

Increase paramedics' awareness of the needs of **your** patient group

Interprofessional working

What are the benefits for you & your team?

Supporting the Placement

The student must be supported by a registrant who is 2+ years qualified (but can work alongside any team member) staff should complete either 'Being and becoming an AHP Practice Educator (TURAS)' or 'Practice Supervisors and Practice Assessors' Learning Resource (TURAS)

QMU provide a brief induction session on how to support a paramedic placement.

Could you host a PAL Placement?

- Students don't need to be from the same program but can be paired to work alongside each other and undertake peer-assisted reflective learning.
- PAL placements can give your area opportunity for staff to widen their own continuous personal development and gain further experience for own career progression.

What is a Practice Coordinator (PC) and what will they do?

In practice based learning there are many different roles/definitions within NMAHP. The term practice coordinator was chosen to distinguish it from these other definitions to avoid confusion. What a practice coordinator is **not** is:

- a Practice Educator
- a Practice Assessor
- a Practice Supervisor
- a Mentor

A practice coordinator oversees the student's placement, however, the student does not need to be directly supervised by the practice coordinator.



A PC's duties will include:

- being the student's main point of contact
- providing a rota
- being the main point of contact for QMU
- conducting the student final assessment
- escalating any concerns

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Paramedic Cross-sector Placement Process

01 Practice Coordinators (PCs) attend **QMU placement info session** to get familiar with BSc Paramedic Sciences resources (PC will be provided with skills logbook, student's self-assessment Practice Assessment Document (PAD) and Practice Placement Book).

02 **Student's 1st day of placement** - induction to location and team, student brings handbook and learning outcomes, and learning plan agreed.

03 PC and student **organise regular check-in sessions** throughout placement.

03.A If necessary, student and PC organise a **mid-placement review** to address issues/ areas for improvement

04 **Final assessment** at end of placement and PC to sign off learning outcomes (see **Appendix 1** for Practice Placement Paperwork)

As a PC, who are my main contacts for support?

For general support, you can get in touch with the **Practice Educator Lead (PEL)** for your area:

- NHS Lothian:
Iain Christie - Iain.Christie@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

For specific placement needs e.g. unexplained absences, assistance with paperwork, grievances etc., contact:

- **ParamedicPlacements@qmu.ac.uk**
 - QMU point of contact will follow up

Cross-sector placements

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

How many hours per week will the student be on placement?

The students will work a standard 40 hour week, including half hour lunch breaks.

Can the student work out of hours?

Yes, they can work outside normal working hours to fit with shift patterns that your service uses be that days, nights, backs and including weekends if that is what normally applies. There are no restrictions on shift working but normal working time directives apply.

Do we need to provide a uniform?

No - QMU will provide uniforms.

Are they insured?

Yes, students are insured while on placement.

Do they need computer access?

No, students will not need access to IT systems or TRAK. However it would be helpful to show them how you keep patient records and what information is available.

Can students go with more than one staff member during their placement?

Yes, it is absolutely fine for students to spend time with other members of the team and is in fact encouraged to let them see others from the same profession as their educator/mentor or from other professions in the MDT. However it is important to remember that only the assigned Practice Coordinator can sign the competencies so feedback from other members of the team about the student to the PC is helpful.

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Have they completed their mandatory training?

All mandatory training has been done before placement and has been recorded on their student passport. This includes: Basic Life Support, Child Protection, Duty of Candour, Fire Safety, Infection Prevention and Control (SIPCEP), Information Governance, Manual Handling, Safeguarding Adults, Violence and Aggression, Process for Raising & Escalating Concerns, Dementia Awareness/Friend and Equality and Diversity.

The violence and aggression training received includes both online modules as well as hand on training provided within the university. Students on their first placement will not have received the hands on training yet.

Are the students allowed to do any hands-on work?

1st year students will have their 1st placement on non-SAS working areas and their learning is typically observational although they may be able to support some basic clinical skills such as history taking or taking blood pressure. 2nd and 3rd years students will have done additional training and placements and may be able to perform some tasks that they would carry out in their normal paramedic role. It is helpful to discuss with the student what they have learnt to date using the detail in their SPAD.

However, it must be stressed that the activities they can do must relate to those which are within the scope of the Practice Educator and the clinical setting. The student may ask you to sign off relevant competencies in their SPAD which they feel they have evidenced in their placement with you however there will be others which will not be relevant.

FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS PRACTICE COORDINATORS

Cross-sector placements

We asked some of our Paramedic Practice Coordinators about their placement experience. Here's what they told us:

100%

responded that they would be likely to take on another paramedic student

64%

responded that this would be **very likely** for them

91%

felt adequately supported by QMU & NHS Lothian during the placement

82%

felt that the resources provided before the placement were helpful

said the placement/experience benefitted their department in some way

“

Happy to have students back in our ward, welcome anytime.

”

“

I would like to see this becoming a more frequent and regular occurrence in MAU.

”

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Practice Placement Paperwork

YEAR Three: Health and Social Care Final Assessment - This will include a review of the Learner's Self-Assessment PAD

This assessment is an opportunity to identify strengths and areas for development and additional learning opportunities for the learner.

KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING

Strengths & Areas to Build On

COMMUNICATION

Strengths & Areas to Build On

ASSESSMENT

Strengths & Areas to Build On

MANAGEMENT

Strengths & Areas to Build On

DOCUMENTATION

Strengths & Areas to Build On

PROFESSIONALISM

Strengths & Areas to Build On

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Practice Placement Paperwork contd.

PC Review of Learner's Self-Assessment PAD

Grade the individual clinical skills as: **Independent** **Not Achieved** *Please circle relevant statement*

Comments: including a review of the Learner's Self-Assessment PAD

Learner:

PC:

Learner's signature:

PC's signature:

Date:

To be completed and added to the Practice Learning and Assessment ePortfolio at end of each semester.

Paramedic Science Programme



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If you would like to host a Paramedic Placement in your department, or need more information, please contact:

- **Zlata Skabova (zskabova@qmu.ac.uk),**

Paramedic, Paramedicine Lecturer & Practice Placement
Module Coordinator, Queen Margaret University

- **Iain Christie (iain.christie@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk)**

AHP Practice Education Lead, NHS Lothian

NHS Education Scotland, have produced an informative video on hosting a paramedic placement.

Scan the QR below to watch:

