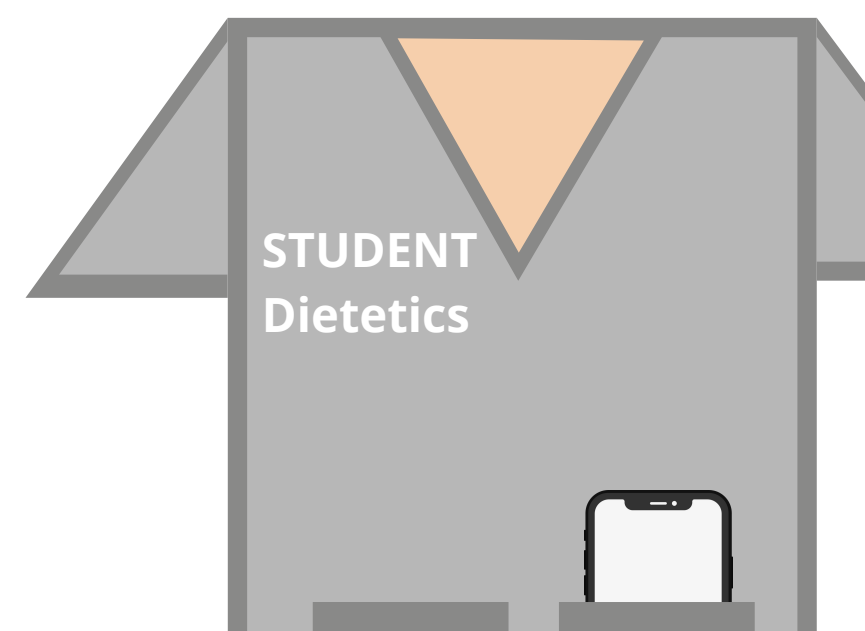


Organised by the NHS Lothian Dietetics Practice Placement Steering Group (PPSG)



Placement Types

PRIOR TO COVID-19

Multiple PEs for 1 student

- A: 4 weeks
- B: 12 weeks
- C: 12 weeks

SEPTEMBER 2020

Multiple PEs for 1 student

- A 2 weeks virtual now run by the universities with support from PE
- B: 12 weeks
- C: 8 weeks – patient facing only

JANUARY 2021 (CURRENT)

Multiple PEs for 1 student

- A 2 weeks virtual now run by the universities with support from PE
- B: B & C combined, changed to 1x 16 week placement

Working across:

WGH, SJH, RIE, Renal, Weight mgmt., CENT, East/Midlothian & Edinburgh Community, Paeds, REAS, Bariatric surgery

8 WEEKS

- 1 Induction/Re-Orientation
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 Shadowing in team
- 7 Independent Practice
- 8 Independent Practice

12 WEEKS

- 1 Induction
- 2
- 3
- 4 Split: majority acute, some community
- 5
- 6 DM/Health Promotion
- 7 QI & NA Activity
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11 Split: majority acute, some community
- 12 Final review

16 WEEKS

- 1 Induction
- 2
- 3
- 4 Shadowing team 1
- 5
- 6 Shadowing team 2
- 7 Shadowing team 2
- 8 Shadowing team 3
- 9 Midpoint review
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14 Shadowing team 4
- 15 Independent Practice
- 16 Independent Practice

Completed placements:

SEPTEMBER 2020

5x 12 week placements (returned Jan '21 for 8 week placements).

MARCH 2021

3x 16 week placements

MAY 2021

3x 16 week placements

Planned placements:

STARTING 12.07.2021






3x 16 week placements

STARTING MID NOV 2021

5x 16 week placements

Preparation:

The Dietetic PPSG met regularly to discuss the programme and planned the September programme with those teams who were happy to support. By January all teams were willing to be involved again as their services were re-established.

-  The existing 12 week programme was tweaked to accommodate teams which had not yet fully re-mobilised
-  Training was undertaken by those teams who made use of NHS Near Me for patient contact.
-  The PPSG established mentoring support sessions for the students as they realised that coming out on placement during a pandemic was going to be stressful for them.
 - A group of band 5 clinicians set this up and meet via teams with the students every 3 weeks.
 - Students were also assigned a personal mentor as well as their placement supervisor.
-  The induction programme was changed to a virtual one, delivered via MS Teams.
-  The PPSG used the COVID-19 resources available on the NHS Lothian intranet pages.

WHAT WENT WELL? *For the student and the service*

- 1 "We quickly realised that it was business as usual and that we could train students in the new world we are in."
- 2 "Staff anxiety was high [prior to the placements] but this reduced once the students arrived."
- 3 "Positivity and enthusiasm from staff to support the students was great."

WHAT WERE SOME LEARNING POINTS?

- 1 Accommodation is challenging for dietetics in general; **careful planning and rotas regarding desk space** ensured all teams were able to accommodate their student(s).
- 2 It was decided that **working from home was not an option** for students as the PPSG felt the clinical governance around IT security was too big a risk.
- 3 **More staff can work from home** now, allowing the students to be **physically present** within the clinical setting with the PE's.
- 4 Teams have used Near **Me consultations** with the students and this has worked well.
- 5 Teams and clinicians have learned to be **flexible and adapt how they train**.

*"I still think PE need to be **more creative** in how we deliver our teaching to ensure that the students achieve their learning outcomes. **We don't have the time luxury we had before** so need to be **proactive in pushing the students to achieve.**"*
- 6

FEEDBACK		
Students	The Teams	
Most student feedback received was positive. One student, however, reported that she wasn't made to feel particularly welcome in some teams, and felt she was a burden to the clinicians - this was taken to the PPSG and dealt with here.	"We have found the reduction from 2x 12 week placements (24 weeks) to 16 weeks a significant challenge. The students have all struggled to achieve their learning outcomes and as a result we had to extend a placement for one of our recent students. This has been a concern from all PEs across Scotland and this has been fed back to the cluster."	