

What was our placement?:

- 5-week research placement.
- Conducted our own research project.
- Supervised by clinical academic consultant Physiotherapist.
- Supported by Physio Course Team.

Opportunity to work remotely from home, university campus, and trust HQ.



Transferrable Skill Development

Organisation & time management skills

Project & task management skills

Communication & networking skills

Leadership & delegation skills

Team working & collaboration skills

Research project

- Pre-registration AHP Students and Research Careers – awareness and aspirations explored through a questionnaire: a pilot study.

Value of research placements

Scope for the contents of research placements:

- Being immersed in clinical research teams.
- Experiencing collecting clinical data (e.g. from patients).
- Greater collaboration with university academics.
- Gaining an insight of what post-graduate study can consist of from different members of the research team.

Research question

- ‘What are undergraduate AHP students’ awareness of research careers?’

Increases preparedness and readiness for post-graduate study.

Who did we communicate and network with on our placement?

- Clinical educator/research supervisor.
- BSc Physiotherapy Course Lead & Senior Lecturers.
- Trust Practice Learning Facilitator.
- Clinical Academic Physiotherapist from the team.
- Other students on the other non-traditional placements.
- The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy.

Aims

- To explore the awareness of pre-registration AHP students on research career options available to them post-graduation.
- To contribute to the progression of an existing/ongoing study of factors that act as bridges and barriers to facilitating AHP research careers in the UK (A National Survey).

Provides an opportunity to gain skills that fit within the research and leadership Pillars of Practice.

Research Placement Opportunities:

- Presenting our placement & our project to other students and professionals at the end of the placement.
- Presenting our project findings to AHP course teams at UoH as a means of informing future amendments to research-based career-related content delivered to students.
- Opportunities for research publication.

Objectives

- To identify from results of a questionnaire, whether AHP students are aware of research career prospects.
- To identify emergent themes of factors influencing pre-registration AHP students’ awareness of research careers across years of study and AHP profession/course (Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Podiatry, operating Department Practice, & Paramedic science).

Provides an opportunity to communicate with different members of the research team that you will need to communicate with when qualified.

Ethics

- Ethical approval for the conduction of this study was obtained from the University of Huddersfield’s BSc Physiotherapy Programme’s Ethics Board on behalf of the School of Human and Health Sciences Ethics Board – enabled us to gain experience of applying for and awaiting ethical approval.

What did we do to develop the placement for future students?

- Created a student guide to offer guidance, top tips, and ideas for future students undertaking this placement.
- Provided feedback to the Practice Learning Facilitator at the Trust and to our placement Visiting Tutor & Course Lead as a means of communicating what went well/what could have gone better/differently.

Data collection

- 16-question questionnaire created on Qualtrics and distributed via University of Huddersfield’s internal email. 130 responses from students across all six AHP courses at the University of Huddersfield, encompassing all year groups & course types. Provided an opportunity for us to develop skills in primary data collection.

Develop self-reflective and proactive skills to identify key areas for development & reaching out to others for direction.

Data analysis

- Calculated response rates. Line-by-line coding & reflexive thematic analysis.

Where do research placements fit?
4 pillars of practice

