



Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology

CLINICAL EXPERIENCE

Clinical experience is gained during Clinical Practice Placements where Trainees develop core competencies across the three years of training. Clinical Practice Placements are an integral part of the Programme at UEA. Trainees gain experience of working with clients across the life-span, working in residential and community settings, and with people who have severe and/or enduring problems using a range of therapeutic/clinical approaches.

Clinical Practice Placement Base

Trainees are allocated to a clinical base upon offer of their place on the Programme. These bases are chosen so that Trainees will be able to undertake their four core placements within or as close as possible to their base NHS Trust.

Clinical Practice Placement Specifics

Trainees undertake two placements per year.

Core Placements

Trainees undertake four core Clinical Practice Placements during the first two years of their training.

All core placements are standard placements and run consecutively. Some Trainees will complete their Adult Clinical Practice Placement first, and others will begin with their Older Adult Clinical Practice Placement in the first year. The same is true in the second year of training with Learning Disabilities and Child Clinical Practice Placements.

Specialist Placements

Trainees undertake two specialist placements in their final year of training. Specialist placements can either be Standard or Year-Long in format. Most Specialist Placements are run as Standard placements however, some Supervisors prefer to offer Year Long placements due to their specific area of specialty.

Standard Clinical Practice Placements

Standard Clinical Practice Placements are approximately 70 days in length.

Year Long Clinical Practice Placements

Some specialist Clinical Practice Placements span the training year. If a Trainee completes Year Long Clinical Practice Placements, they complete their two specialist Clinical Practice Placements concurrently with placement days split evenly across both placements. It is recommended that Trainees speak with their Advisor and/or current third year Trainees when considering whether to choose Standard or Year Long Clinical Practice Placements for their third year.

Placement Overview Table

Year	Placement Number	Placement Specialty	Placement type
1	1 and 2	Core Placements: Older Adult and Adult	Standard
2	3 and 4	Core Placements: Learning Disabilities and Child	Standard
3	5 and 6	Specialist placements	Standard/Year Long

Allocation of Clinical Practice Placements

Allocation by Base

Trainees are allocated to Supervisors offering Clinical Practice Placements within their geographical base. If this is not possible, a Clinical Practice Placement in a neighbouring base will be allocated where possible.

Allocation according to Learning Needs

When allocating Clinical Practice Placements, the learning needs of the Trainees are considered, in order to ensure that they have met all HCPC and BPS requirements by the end of training. Every Trainee's learning needs are recorded at the end of each placement and are used to plan future placements. A record of learning needs is also given to future Supervisors in order to help shape Clinical Practice Placements appropriately. In addition, any special requirements (e.g., disability or life circumstances) will be taken into consideration when planning Placements.

Trainee Monitoring during Clinical Practice Placements

There are a number of review meetings which take place throughout the placement between Trainees, Clinical Practice Placement Supervisors and the Trainee's Advisor. These include Initial Placement Meetings, Mid Placement Reviews and End of Placement Meetings.

Initial placement Meeting and Placement Contract

The Advisor meets with the Supervisor and Trainee at the beginning of the first placement for an Initial Placement Meeting to agree a Placement Contract. This initial contact may be by telephone rather than face-to-face.

This discussion will cover arrangements for work particularly related to the specialty, identifying particular aspects of work that the Trainee needs to develop, and supervision arrangements. Where there is team supervision the placement contract will specify what experience is to be gained with each of the Supervisors.

In Clinical Practice Placements 2-6, the responsibility for agreeing the placement plan generally rests with the Trainee and Supervisor (unless this is the first time that a Supervisor has provided a placement for the course, in which case the Advisor will join the Initial Placement Meeting).

Initial placement meetings can also involve the Advisor if the Trainee has any particular health concerns or needs Advisor support.

Mid-Placement review

The Trainee, their Advisor, and all the relevant Supervisors meet half-way through a placement for the Mid-Placement Review. Where it is not possible for all Supervisors to be present, one designated Supervisor should seek views from other team Supervisors in advance to be shared at the meeting, and feedback should be shared following the meeting.

It is expected that the Advisor conducting the mid placement review will meet with the Trainee and Supervisor separately and then hold a joint meeting.

Topics for discussions are: -

- To review the progress of the clinical contract
- To give mid-placement feedback to the Trainee on her/his clinical work
- To allow the Trainee to comment on the adequacy of the placement
- To set targets based upon the above for the second half of the placement and resolve any problems identified
- To give mid-placement feedback to the Supervisor, on her/his supervision.

Mid-placement qualitative feedback is essential both for the Supervisor and the Trainee. All parties should try to set aside positive or negative personal feelings when making evaluations.

Following the mid placement review, the Advisor will write a summary of the discussion on the standard MPR form and copy it to the Trainee and the Supervisor(s). A copy of this form will also be placed in the Trainee's file. This will contain a summary of progress in the placement an action plan of outstanding placement work.

End of placement arrangements

At the end of the placement the Supervisor completes the Supervisor's End of Placement Form and discusses this with the Trainee. Trainees are also asked to provide feedback about the placement and supervision on the forms provided. This should be done after the Supervisor's assessment is completed.