



Undergraduate medical student paid opportunities with placement providers

Dear colleagues

As you may be aware, over the last two academic years the School of Medicine supported the national initiative for Year 5 medical students to take up paid opportunities in local Trusts and Primary Care. This was in support of frontline NHS staff delivering clinical services and originally came about following a [letter](#) from the Medical Directors of NHS England & NHS Improvement and Health Education England.

We had very positive feedback from both clinical staff and students and are keen to support this initiative. Students were able to gain a unique experience working in healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic as well as gain additional opportunities for learning and practising clinical skills. We know from conversations with you that you valued the student contribution.

Students may well be struggling with the cost of living crisis and so paid clinical opportunities would help them financially as well as support their studies. We are keen to see an equitable distribution of opportunities for interested providers.

Principles

There were a number of principles which we all worked to at the time. We have revised these as below.

1. Students were, and are likely, to remain “essential workers”¹. They are essential for the delivery of patient care in the future and so teaching and supervising students on clinical placement should be seen as essential work within the health service.
2. Students can volunteer to perform up to 12 hours paid supervised work per week – this would be in addition to a student’s placement time. We would envisage that this would predominantly be out-of-hours work with appropriate supervision and the ability for each student to continue to complete workplace-based assessments. The experience could also count for placement recovery, if students miss time on placement due to self-isolation for example.
3. Students will be recruited and employed by a Trust or GP Practice.
4. We are advising students that they will be eligible to join the NHS pension scheme if they are employed by a Trust. This will then allow them to benefit from the scheme including a death in service payment.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested#list-of-essential-workers-and-those-prioritised-for-testing-england-only>

Recruitment Process:

If you are keen to utilise students in this way to support your clinical services, please forward your job advert to Zoe Shepherd-Scott Z.Ferguson@leeds.ac.uk. We will then circulate all roles to students via Minerva, with students being asked to get in touch directly with Trusts/practices to finalise recruitment.

Please note that if you do get University of Leeds Y5 students applying, please can you notify Zoe of their names so we can monitor.