Helping students make the most of their clinical placements

Our pledge

UNISON wants all employers to pledge that during their clinical placement students will:

• be treated with dignity and respect at all times
• have a formal induction within the first week of their placement that includes information about the purpose of the placement
• be offered a placement that is flexible enough to work around any access needs that they may have
• have the opportunity to visit their placement in advance and meet their practice supervisor(s)
• be adequately supervised while on placement
• the level of supervision provided should reflect their learning needs and stage of learning
• be given protected time to meet with their practice supervisor for feedback
• be supernumerary if they are nursing/ midwifery students or learn in a safe and supportive environment if they are AHP students
• have a placement experience that is fit for purpose – ie that provides plentiful, varied experiences and exposure to procedures and evidence-based materials
• undertake only the roles and procedures that they have been prepared for
• be given adequate time to complete their paperwork
• have the time and space to reflect on the care they have given with other professionals
• have regular breaks throughout the day

UNISON wants all employers to agree to work with universities to ensure that:

• students are given adequate notice (at least six weeks) of their placement
• students know where to go and how to get additional help and support if they need it
• students have their personal circumstances and requests taken into account when placements are allocated.

UNISON also wants employers to pledge that practice supervisors will:

• have protected, dedicated time away from practice to spend with their student
• have time to plan for a placement in advance
• have time to observe and assess students
• have time to provide feedback to students and complete any necessary documentation
• have the time and resources to maintain their own professional knowledge
• be able to provide support and supervise students in a setting that is appropriately staffed

Employer