

Work Experience Placements Guidance for Students

Due to the clinical nature of some services, patient safety requirements, and departmental capacity, the following restrictions currently apply:

- **General Medicine:** Year 12+ only
- **Paediatrics:** Year 12+ only
- **Radiology:** Year 12+ only
- **Speech & Language Therapy:** Year 12+ only
- **Nursing:** Placements for students in Years 10 and 11 are currently under review and opportunities remain very limited
- **Pharmacy:** No work experience placements available. Students can access our Pharmacy Masterclass programme instead
- **Health Care Sciences:** No work experience placements available. Students can access our Health Care Sciences Masterclass programme instead
- **Theatres/Surgery:** No work experience placements available
- **Mental Health Services:** No work experience placements available

For students who are unable to access an NHS placement, particularly those in Years 10 and 11, there are a number of alternative opportunities that can help them gain valuable experience and develop transferable skills for future healthcare careers. These may include:

- Northumbria Healthcare Masterclasses
- Care Homes within the local area
- Roles with charities, community groups, youth organisations, hospices, care providers or organisations such as St John Ambulance
- First Aid and health-related training programmes
- University outreach and widening participation programmes
- Voluntary work that involves regular interaction with the public, vulnerable individuals, or community groups

For students aspiring to study **Medicine**, we would particularly encourage them to seek ongoing volunteering opportunities rather than focusing solely on obtaining a one-week placement. Whilst work experience can provide a useful insight into healthcare, medical schools are more interested in evidence of a sustained commitment to helping

others, reflecting on those experiences, and developing key attributes such as compassion, communication skills, resilience, teamwork and professionalism.

We regularly receive applications from students who believe a single week of work experience will be sufficient to strengthen a future medical school application. In reality, long-term volunteering and meaningful engagement within their community can often provide more valuable experiences and demonstrate a genuine commitment to caring for others.