

Update for Applicants and Students on Health and Care Professional Programmes

At Canterbury Christ Church University, we are proud to provide our students with the confidence and experience to practice in an evolving and dynamic health care service enabling you to provide compassionate and evidence-based care to those you support and care for.

Practice Learning Experiences

All our Health and Social Care programmes which lead to professional registration, require practice learning experiences. These must take place in a wide variety of placement settings and will commence in your first year of study (or second year of study for those undertaking a 'programme with Foundation Year'). This is part of preparing you for the world of work and supporting you to succeed in your chosen profession.

Most of these placement settings are within organisations providing care and support in local communities, hospital, and social care settings. These organisations routinely deliver care and support to individuals across the population, with a wide variety of health and social issues. In your studies, you will have placements with similar risk profiles to those faced by those in your chosen profession.

Preparing you for placements

Our priority is to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all our students while on placements.

Before you can attend placement, the University will help you to understand your own individual health risk profile, using a risk assessment of your fitness to attend placement. Where necessary, this includes Occupational Health Assessment, which may mean further action is required by you, or the University, before you can be allowed into placement. This is because your health and wellbeing are extremely important to us.

We work in partnership with our placement providers to support you into a safe practice learning experience. This means that your placement organisation will have risk assessments in place to provide a safe environment. We and placement providers follow Government health and safety advice, and you must comply with all local risk management requirements to minimise risks whilst at the University and on placement.

Covid-19 impact

You will be aware the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly changed our lives. It has affected all health and social care services. We will manage continuing Covid-19 risks in the way described above, using risk assessments, and Government and professional guidelines which will change as the risks alter over time.

The University will reserve the right to **cease placements for students** where risks are increased. This action will take account of advice, direct requests from Placement organisations, or Government, Professional, Statutory or Regulatory body guidance. If this occurs, we will make all reasonable efforts to enable you to complete your programme within the expected time frame. These reasonable efforts may require changes to the curriculum design and placement schedule.

Students with high level risk profiles

Some students may have, or may develop, personal or health circumstances that place them at greatly increased risk within placement settings, which cannot be reasonably managed. This level of risk may prevent you from completing your chosen programme. If this happens, we will discuss your study options with you. This includes:

- An interruption until your circumstances change, and your risk is reduced.
- An interruption until additional health measures are available to reduce your risk (e.g. vaccination).
- Transfer to an alternative non health or care programme where we can manage your personal level of risk.