**Remote OT placement with the UoB Midwifery team.**

During the Covid-19 lockdown we looked for creative and alternative placements to help our first year MSc students progress through the academic year and asked for help from our interdisciplinary colleagues. We were fortunate enough to work with colleagues within our School of Health Sciences who rose to the challenge and offered their support. One such placement offer was from the lovely Jo Gould, who is a lecturer from the midwifery team. Jo offered to take three of our students under her wing to develop a joint midwifery and architecture teaching project. We thought we would share the students’ experience as it may offer new ideas for those of you who have been working virtually/remotely and may be thinking of how you could do this and support our students on a placement too. Below is a short piece from Beth, Zoe and Raquel outlining their experiences and what they learnt.

*Audrey Yong, Practice Placement Tutor.*

*Covid-19 has had profoundly disrupted the NHS this year, and as students we felt this global disruption when our intermediate placement was cancelled due to the current pressure on NHS resources. Our amazing team of tutors and lecturers did a fantastic job searching for placement opportunities and we were lucky enough to have the chance to embark on a virtual placement. Our educator was from the Midwifery department from the university, and we worked remotely via Microsoft Teams on a project to design an innovative birth space. At first we gathered crucial information from service users (family and friends) regarding their birth experiences, which allowed us to come up with potential topics for research. Next, we talked to expert midwives (from Kingston hospital) to gain an understanding of current midwifery practice. A plethora of topics then emerged from our research surrounding maternity care and pregnancy which included: the birthing environment, multisensory environments and nature-related influences, obstetric violence, personalising care, human rights during birth, the role of midwives, active birth, partners, inclusivity and diversity as well as occupational therapy theory.*

*Our hard work and dedication powered our research and service-user focus, and during our weekly interdepartmental discussions about the interactive toolkit led to a unique learning experience. We benefited from working as part of an interdepartmental team with midwifery lecturer Jo Gould, who provided us with core midwifery resources, areas of research and current practice of birthing environments. Occupational therapy lecturers Audrey Yong and Paul Boyle helped us focus on occupational therapy policies, theory and practice. This has been essential in preparing us for practice as well as being very relevant to our current ‘teams’ module, which we are grateful for.*

*We are all very proud of the work that we have produced and the skills and knowledge we have gained from this experience. We have published an article in OT news magazine as well as presenting at some conferences later this year and in 2021.*

*Why don’t you have a look at our toolkit edublog - http://blogs.brighton.ac.uk/thebirthspace/*