



AHP Student Placement Flashcard Series

Research Placements

Research offers an important set of skills for Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) to master as they make their way through their career. Some AHPs even go on to develop research skills further at Masters level. However, even for those that don't, research skills can prove particularly helpful for improving patient care through audits and data.

Learning these skills early on is important. It is also a really interesting way for students to develop. Teaching students early on about the career benefits derived from the research skills set enables them to become involved in the process from an early stage in their AHP journey.

Patient care is ever-evolving, and clinicians are always striving to improve service delivery. Often though, they do not have the time to complete research to support this. Having one or more students on a research placement provides clinicians with valuable help to carry out this all-important research. Have you ever had a project or audit you wanted to get done but haven't found the time? Research placements may be your answer.

Many clinicians are now favouring a **hybrid** approach when facilitating research students. This could involve students working on their research projects remotely, whilst also incorporating clinical days, enabling them to experience the benefit of both skills sets whilst helping them understand the overlap and put their research project into context.

Examples

Research projects undertaken by two Occupational Therapy students at Kent County Council

Both students had clinical time with their educators, whilst also having remote days to work on their research projects.

The projects were linked to the senior OT's level 5 Diploma in Operational Management; this not only gave the Occupational Therapist assistance to undertake the research, but also gave the students vital experience within the field of research, helping them to better understand what is involved to improve patient care.

Research Placement at Medway Maritime Hospital

A physiotherapy student completed a research project within the Critical Care team at Medway Foundation Trust, using a hybrid model.

She incorporated clinical working alongside remote days where she assisted with several research projects; one which has since been joint published with her educator. This crossover of experiences allowed her to fully understand the projects and put them into context.

For some more guidance and information:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/allied-health-professions/helping-ensure-essential-supply-ahps/placement-expansion-innovation>

<https://www.csp.org.uk/professional-clinical/practice-based-learning/creating-quality-learning-environment>

<https://www.rcot.co.uk/alternative-practice-placements>

Created by Nicki Mcrae & Iain Spink

Brilliant care through brilliant people



Visit us at www.kmpt.nhs.uk

