

Work Experience Guidance for Professional Health courses

(Nursing, Physiotherapy, Social Work and Nutrition & Dietetics)



Whilst relevant work experience is ideal, we understand that it has been difficult to obtain work experience during Covid-19. We review applications on an individual basis, and consider all aspects (personal statement, academic profile, references, work experience). Even if you don't have relevant social work/healthcare/rehabilitation experience prior to applying, we will consider an application if you can demonstrate the following:

- You have met the mandatory academic entry requirements, or currently working towards these qualifications with the view of receiving your results by September 2021.
- You have demonstrated an informed choice to embark on a career in Nursing/ Social Work/ Physiotherapy/ Nutrition – and have shown an understand of what the career entails and what our course offers.
- You have shown the NHS care values and University values through your work experience and academic studies, have examples of these and reflected on how these apply to the course. (*e.g. demonstrated teamwork and effective communication working in retail by ..., and will apply this to a multi-disciplinary health setting by...*)



The focus is the relevant skills and attributes you have, rather than the type of work experience. If you are shortlisted for interview, you will be asked to expand and reflect upon the skills you have gathered and apply these to your studies and career. Use your personal statement to sell your skills and attributes, whilst showing your interest for the subject and career.

If you have already submitted your UCAS application but have gathered additional experience, you are welcome to send supplementary information to add to your record. Please email this to admissions@winchester.ac.uk. Subject to interview availability, we will re-review an application. Please note, this only applies to students that have not yet been interviewed and received a tutor decision, and we are unable to guarantee that supplementary information will result in an interview.



Please be aware that the health courses do have a cap on numbers. Universities and associated accrediting bodies also require applicants to have certain academic qualification prior to enrolment. We advise applicants to apply by the UCAS on-time deadline of 15th January 2021 (ideally before). We can only shortlist a portion of applicants for an interview. If we are unable to shortlist for an interview, we will provide feedback for future applications or offer you alternative courses at the University.

Have a question or want some more info?

- **Ask our students** what they think of studying with us
- Talk to us - head to winchester.ac.uk where we'd love to chat to you
- Book to attend our next **virtual open day**

Preparation for Application

There are lots of different ways you can prepare your application ready to secure an interview and hopefully gain a place. Below are some of the ways we think you can prepare to show off why you are right for the course.

What does the Career Involve?

Listening to podcasts and watching videos is useful and is a great way to research the profession and understand the role.

When watching/listening to resources, it is useful to consider and reflect upon the following:

- When listening to professional talk about their roles, what is inspiring and motivating to you? Why do you want to engage in similar work?
- How have the professionals dealt with difficult situations? When have you dealt with similar situations or developed similar skills?
- What skills are the professional showing (e.g. communication and multidisciplinary teamwork) and who will you apply these to your career?

Make sure you have read information on the role at [Health Careers](#) for your chosen specialism & taken a look at the [Health & Care Professions Council](#).

Do you know what is going on?

Health & social work professionals work in a variety of settings. They are also impacted by what is going on in society and political decisions. Which means things are changing and adapting all the time. To keep up to date by taking a look at the [BBC Health News](#).

Considering how health & social work professionals have been impacted by the current situation and how they are coping with it is useful. Not only is it important to stay up to date with current issues, it will also provide you with insight into the difficulties that come with the job. This might include wider health issues, such as childhood obesity, aging population, parents choosing not to immunise.

Some good places to start are the sector professional bodies, take a look for [physiotherapy](#), [Nutrition & Dietetics](#), [Nursing](#) & [Social Work](#).

Showing your Knowledge

You must demonstrate knowledge of [NHS Values](#) with examples and REFLECTION ON EXPERIENCES - this year these experiences can be real or from what you have witnessed and can reflect on from programmes you have watched or articles you have read.

Skills and interests – backed up with EXAMPLES of how you have these skills. Specifically consider the [Six C's of Care](#) and what these might look like in the settings you are choosing to work within.

Prospects has information about the skills needed for different careers and case studies, take a look for [social work](#), [physiotherapy](#), [nutrition](#) & [dietetics](#) and [nursing](#).

Building new skills

Volunteering opportunities are great for learning compassion and empathy as well as other skills. Charities are often looking for volunteers to support their work - take a look at [Do-it](#) for opportunities, in person and online.

You could also look at gaining new skills, such as taking up British Sign Language, learning first aid or completing an [online course](#).

Further reading, books or articles that you've read that you can reflect on are a good way to show your skills. What aspects of the career interest you? Including that you like helping people is too vague, be specific and give details of how you support patients within your chosen role.



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