5th-Year Pharmacy Experiential Learning Placements 2023 -

Senior Preceptor FAQ on ongoing considerations due to COVID-19

Planning for 5th-year placements within the Schools of Pharmacy and APPEL has continued at pace throughout the past few months, with your health and well-being together with that of our students, your pharmacy teams, and your patients being the primary concern. Bearing this in mind, some additional requirements are being asked of every student to ensure the safe operation of these placements.

For all pharmacy experiential learning placements to proceed, students must complete a number of courses and adhere to additional requirements. We have compiled the following frequently asked questions (FAQ) to support your preparation for the upcoming experiential learning placement and explain the additional requirements students must undertake before the placement commences. If you have any questions arising from this document, please contact the APPEL office at [ops@appel.ie](mailto:ops@appel.ie).

Q. What are the dates of the 5th-year experiential learning placements for 2023?

A. Students will be on their experiential learning placements from **Tuesday, 3 January – 25 August 2023.** Due to the Bank Holiday on Monday, 2 January, students are required to complete 22.5 hrs only during the first week of placement.

Q. What are the key placement dates for the 5th-year placements in 2023?

A. The placement dates are as follows:

* Student on placement: **3 January – 25 August 2023**
* Formative assessment date: Completed by the end of week 13 **(31 March 2023)**
* Summative assessment date: Completed by the end of week 30 **(31 July 2023)**
* Focused training period (if required): **1 - 25 August**
  + - Please note that the placement continues until **25 August 2023**, whether a focused training period is required or not.

**Q. What should the student timetable be for the placement period?**

A. The student timetable is flexible and adaptable to accommodate the needs of the Senior Preceptor, Training Establishment and the student. Every effort should be made to maintain similarity to the university timetable where possible, and the educational experience for students should be promoted at all times.

* Students must complete 30 hrs on placement between Monday and Friday (8 am – 6 pm) (excluding bank holidays), **except in August 2023**.
* **In August** of their 5th Year placement, students will be allowed to be on placement at the following times:
  + - No more than one late night/evening per week – no later than 9 pm
    - No more than two Saturdays during August
  + The student must be provided with at least one half day each week between Monday and Friday comprising no less than 4 hrs to allow them to complete their online academic modules. Please be mindful that the student may need to travel to/from their placement to complete these modules and that they should be able to finish their day at 6 pm.
  + The placement timetable should be agreed upon between the Senior Preceptor and the student.
    - Ideally, the student would be given the same timetable each week; however, we acknowledge this may not always be possible.
    - The student must be given adequate notice of their timetabled placement hours.
    - The student’s placement hours must occur over one continuous period on any given day.
    - Students must be provided with appropriate breaks in accordance with legislation.

**Q. Is there additional information that I should add to my induction and training plan due to the impact of COVID-19 on the experiential learning placement?**

A. It is important, at the outset of the placement, to provide your student with an induction programme, which familiarises them with the practicalities of their new learning environment. Time and effort invested in induction assists with faster integration and a more effective learning environment for the student. APPEL has prepared an [Induction and Training Plan for 5th Year placements](https://www.appel.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/APPEL-Induction-and-Training-Plan-for-5th-year-placement-2023.docx) to support you in preparing for your student’s placement. Consider providing students with the below documentation, where applicable, for their review:

* + - SOPs
    - Health and Safety documentation
    - COVID-19 Protocols
* Training Manual
* Any other placement related paperwork
* Ways of working, e.g. how handover occurs between teams
* Hints and tips on how the student can fit into a new team.

More details on items to include in the student induction programme can be found in the Senior Preceptor Handbook and the sample [Induction and Training Plan for 5th Year placements](https://www.appel.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/APPEL-Induction-and-Training-Plan-for-5th-year-placement-2023.docx) provided on the resources page of the APPEL website.

**Q. Do I need to complete any additional documentation in consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on the placement?**

A. No, there is no additional paperwork required to be completed by the Training Establishment or the Senior Preceptor. No changes have been made to the Accreditation documentation.

**Q. What additional pre-placement preparation has my student completed in consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on the placement?**

A. Students are required to complete the following additional activities in advance of starting their experiential learning placement:

1. Students must complete the following online courses available at [https://www.hseland.ie](https://lms.hseland.ie/dash/Account/Login).

* AMRIC Introduction to Infection Prevention and Control
* AMRIC Basics of Infection Prevention and Control
* AMRIC Standard and Transmission Based Precautions
* AMRIC Hand Hygiene
* Putting on and Taking off PPE in Acute Healthcare Settings
* Putting on and Taking off PPE in Community Healthcare Settings

1. Students must review the following videos on the HPSC website in advance of commencing their placement.

* Review of videos on correct donning and doffing of PPE on the HPSC website <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/videoresources/acutehealthsettingcovid-19videoresources/>
  + Review of the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Guidance, including IPC COVID-19 Guidance and educational videos on [<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/videoresourcesforipc/>](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/infectionpreventionandcontrolguidance/)

1. Additionally, students must read and understand the following documents and consult the following web pages:

* Guidance to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 infection in pharmacies [https://www.hpsc.ie/a- z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/pharmacy guidance/](https://www.hpsc.ie/a-%20z/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/pharmacyguidance/)
* The information provided by their University on COVID-19
  + <https://www.ucc.ie/en/studenthealth/flu/>
  + <https://www.rcsi.com/dublin/coronavirus>, or
  + <https://www.tcd.ie/about/coronavirus/>

**Q. What is the process to be followed if a student develops signs of COVID-19 during placement?**

A. Students must adhere to the public health guidance in place at all times during their placement.

Students **may need to** complete additional placement time over the remaining weeks of the placement. How this additional placement time is completed is to be agreed upon between the student and their Senior Preceptor. Students will need to keep their Practice Educator informed as to how and when this additional time is completed.

Where a student is unwell, the student’s college/HEI sick policies apply in these circumstances. Students must inform their Practice Educators when they are unwell.

**Q. What support will Senior Preceptors receive from APPEL during the 5th-year placements?**

A. Practice Educators and the APPEL office will be available to respond to any questions or queries that you may have regarding the placement. The APPEL website has relevant information and resources, and APPEL will email important updates and information as it arises.

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# **The APPEL Team Contact Details**

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