

Placement profile

Names and roles Georgia Loft,
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Organisations University of Brighton
Medway Maritime Hospital



Placement overview

This placement was a research and critical care placement. My time was split between clinical and research. During clinical time I was working on Critical Care and surgical wards. The clinicians I worked with varied during the placement and although I spend the majority of my time on critical care with my educator, the placement would not have been possible without the support from the rest of the critical care team. The research aspect of this placement involved assisting with two research projects, an Occupational Therapy apprenticeship qualitative research project and an ongoing study looking at the effectiveness of early mobilisation protocols in critical care. I have continued the Occupational Therapy research post placement and I will be involved in its publication later this year, which is a great experience. Alongside this, I also independently conducted an audit and quality improvement project for the critical care pathway. My weeks were varied, however there was a rough structure. I would always be in the hospital for clinical time on Mondays and Tuesdays and always remote on Wednesdays this was important as there was a lot of set up and training in the first 2 weeks. As the placement progressed, I would often do a morning working clinically in Critical Care and an afternoon in research. I found Critical Care to be an incredibly intense environment particularly as my placement was in the second wave of the pandemic so being able to take a breath and do something different was definitely beneficial for me. Overall, I really enjoyed this placement it gave me a good mixture of clinical and non-clinical time and I particularly enjoyed learning about clinical research, as this is not something particularly covered at University. I feel I gained many transferable skills during the research aspect of this placement, particularly in terms of communication and time management. I had to plan my time and be organised in order to get the projects completed on time as well as emailing and setting up meetings with people I've never met. It was definitely a challenging placement, but I feel I have gained skills that will allow me to be a better clinician when I graduate.

Supervision: Face to face, Remote/long armed supervision, Whole team supervision

Lessons learnt:

1. Time management and organisation was crucial
2. The importance of teamwork and helping others in the MDT.
- 3) How important audits are to maintain good clinical practice and optimise patient outcomes.

Top tips for others:

- A good clear timetable is crucial
- Create and agree on goals within your research work
- Clear, honest and open communication
- Remember that all students are different, its important to check their research knowledge.