

Psychology Undergraduate Internship Placement - Adult Community Learning Disabilities Service

Location of Placement

Community Learning Disabilities Service, Bodmin (East Cornwall) or Pool (West Cornwall)

Accessibility:

Is a car required to undertake this placement?

Yes (travel expenses incurred as a part of the work will be reimbursed although use of pool car is preferable. Travel covers travel between the base and the places visited).

Description of Role:

Include key tasks and opportunities

Assist with clinical and research work concerned with adults with learning disabilities within the Cornwall Foundation Trust based in either Bodmin or Pool. Most of our previous Honorary Assistant Psychologists have gone on to find paid Assistant Psychologist posts and even gone on to Doctoral Clinical Psychology training which is very competitive.

Main duties

The placements will involve a wide range of opportunities as the students will get chance to learn to carry out assessments with clients and carers, literature searching and reading, studying and summarising case files, designing and completing research/audit with the aim of publishing and/or presenting findings. The student will participate in clinical team meetings and other service development meetings. There will also be a wide range of training opportunities and supportive supervision will be provided.

Other work

There will be opportunities to conduct supervised case work under the direction of Clinical Psychologists with adults with learning disabilities and to participate generally in the department's work. The student will gain a working knowledge of how services are provided to adults with learning disabilities, the needs of people with learning disabilities and the role of a psychologist in a multi-disciplinary team to help understand and meet those needs.

Main duties

- To assist the clinical psychologists in the team with a wide variety of clinical and research work, including completing some clinical assessments and intervention.

- To assist with carrying out of research and audit studies, including literature reviews, research design, data collection and analysis, write up and presentation.
- To assist in writing up clinical reports and to learn skills in 'easy read' information.
- To attend clinical and service development meetings and contribute to the design and delivery of service projects.
- To shadow the psychologist and other members of the multidisciplinary team.

Skills and experience required

- Undertaking first degree in Psychology.
- Aptitude in research methodology and statistics.
- Competence in word processing.
- Ability to communicate with people at different levels.
- Ability to convey ideas clearly – spoken and written.
- High level interpersonal skills.
- Preferably experience of people with learning disabilities and/or client interviewing skills.
- Self-reliant but willing to work within protocols and with supervision.
- Car driver and availability of a car preferable.

Students are GUARANTEED to gain the following skills whilst on placement (a full job description is available with your placement co-ordinator):

- Experience working as an Assistant Psychologist
- Training in psychometric assessments
- Direct client contact
- Research experience
- To assist with the running of the Down's syndrome Prospective Screening Programme
- Opportunity to attend various training courses
- Supervision from practicing clinical psychologists
- Insight into the role of clinical psychologists working in the NHS
- Active participation in Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings
- Experience of working with people with learning disabilities, mental health issues, autism, epilepsy, dementia etc.
- Most other clinical psychology placements only offer the opportunity to shadow a clinical psychologist, however on this placement direct client work is done by the student, with the clinical psychologists available to offer guidance, giving students more qualities that employers are looking for.

Preferred placement duration in weeks:

Intern can negotiate placement length based on university course requirements

Placement days: (please tick)

4 days a week