# **Have you thought about a Placement Year?**

The Placement Year degree programmes in Psychology are four years in duration. They are accredited by the British Psychological Society, with the exception of the Business Psychology with a Placement Year BSc degree. The major difference from our standard degree programmes is that students spend their third year within an organisation that researches psychology or delivers a form of psychological service. This can be in the National Health Service, the Home Office, Social Services, in a school or in a prison. There are also research placements available here at the University of Kent and at other universities in the UK. The year offers you a practical, hands-on experience and the opportunity to put the theory you have learnt into practice. The objective of the placement year is to provide students with an insight into the use of psychological knowledge by practising professionals and for students to become familiar with specific aspects of professional psychology relevant to their placement. Students that undertake the placement year have a great experience and have benefited from connections they have made whilst on placement, once they graduate.

# **Entry Requirements**

AAA at A Level excluding General Studies and Critical Thinking (AAB for Business Psychology with a Placement Year BSc)
GCSE Mathematics Grade C/4

International Baccalaureate 34 points overall or 17 points at HL with Mathematics 4 at HL or SL

If you do not meet the entry requirements for a Placement Year programme, you may still be offered a place on the three-year programmes. Once you are registered on the
three-year programme there is the possibility of transferring on to the Placement Year after
Stage 1. In order to transfer you must attain an average of a **Distinction** overall during your first year.

# **How to find a placement**

Students begin looking for a placement in October/November of Stage 2. There are a number of ways to find a placement which are outlined below. However you decide to approach sourcing your placement, there is plenty of help available from our placements team including the Placements Degree Co-ordinator, Dr Lydia Kearney, and our Student Experience and Placements Officer, Katie Watson.

# **Placement opportunities**

1. We have a number of placement sites to which we regularly send students. These include clinical settings, educational placements and addiction treatment centres. We are fortunate in that these placements tend to take on students every year. However, competition for these placements is high and you will have to apply and attend an interview as part of the selection process.
2. Throughout the year, the placements team will post adverts from organisations and departments from all over the UK that are looking for placement students.
3. Academic placements: students have the opportunity to go on placement here in the School of Psychology or in a Psychology department at another university, working as a research assistant. You would normally join a research group and assist in running psychology experiments or collecting data in the field. These placements give you an opportunity to conduct research under the supervision of an academic member of staff in your chosen field.
4. Placements do not have to be in Kent: they can be anywhere in the UK. In order to reduce living expenses in the placement year, some students try to find a placement close to their home-town so that they can live at home for the placement year.

If you wish to take a placement overseas, we can only currently permit one in an English-taught institution, in an Academic Research position. If you are considering one of these, please come and talk to us first. These posts need to be in an area which is deemed safe to travel to. Please note, that if a placement location becomes unsafe, you will not be able to go on placement there. Please also note that organising an overseas placement may be further complicated by the need for visas. You should think carefully and plan ahead if this is something you wish to pursue.

Students are responsible for finding their own placements. This is particularly the case if you wish to find a placement outside of East Kent and/or are only interested a particular type of placement. It is therefore essential that each student does some research to identify potential placements.

# **Help looking for a Placement**

* The placements team can help you research and apply for placements. You can contact them by emailing psychapplied@kent.ac.uk
* Information about the Placements Year will be available to all students on our module pages and this is updated throughout the year with events, slides from workshops and examples of work by previous students.
* The Careers and Employability Service run regular sessions on CVs, covering letters and interview preparation to support your applications.
* The Careers and Employability Service also produce a leaflet on how to search for opportunities and how to write applications.

# **Help preparing for a Placement**

* The Careers and Employability Service run regular sessions on interview preparation and techniques.
* We will also be running preparatory sessions to help with budgeting, code of conduct and tips on how to settle in as a new member to the organisation’s team.
* We have two ‘Back to Kent’ days where all current placement students are invited back to the University. We organise an informal lunch where you can speak to those currently on placement and share their experiences.

# **Support on Placement**

* You will be allocated two supervisors – one will be based at your placement and will be your placement supervisor. Your second supervisor will be based at the University of Kent. This will be your academic supervisor who will be able to give advice and guidance on your research project.
* At week 10, 20 and 30, both you and your placement supervisor will complete an evaluation form to outline your progress.
* There is a Student Rep for all placement students so this is a great point of contact to share ideas and concerns.
* You are welcome to contact our Student Experience and Placements Officer at any time to ask questions or discuss any concerns you have about your placement.

# **Fees and Finance**

Although you are working for an external organisation during your placement year, you are still part of the University and the School is still concerned for your welfare and academic development. To this end you are registered for this year and will pay fees. However, the fees are greatly reduced for the year that you are on placement and you will still receive a student loan, although this will also be at a reduced amount.

# **How to Apply**

Please apply through UCAS in the usual way. The institution code for Kent is K24 and the course codes are as follows:

* BSc Psychology with a Placement Year (Hons)

UCAS Code **C851**

* BSc Psychology with Clinical Psychology and Placement Year (Hons)

UCAS Code **C824**

* BSc Business Psychology with a Placement Year (Hons)

UCAS Code **C817**

# **Contact Us**

Questions about entry requirements and how to apply contact the School of Psychology Admissions Team at psyugadmissions@kent.ac.uk.