

## Work Placements For Students

Work experience or shadowing is often requested by universities for health-related courses and can also be used to support job applications. It demonstrates a commitment to the occupation and enables you to understand the role to which you may be applying. At interview you may be asked what you learnt or gained from the work experience.

Work experience may be hospital or community based, and many hospitals and community organisations offer work shadowing opportunities to their local residents. It is not always possible to gain a placement in the setting you are interested in, however any experience gained is valuable.

### Placement Options

Within Surrey demand for placements outstrips supply, however, there are a variety of options available to you. The learning and skills gained from any settings can be applied to health-related roles and is therefore valuable. For example, if you wish to apply to medical school or train to become a midwife the communication skills you develop while talking to residents at a care home can be applied to these roles and be used to demonstrate the NHS Values that universities often assess against. Below is a list of ideas for you to consider.

Work shadowing at your local acute hospital	Work shadowing varies in length from half a day to a week depending on the area. Details of the opportunities available and when to apply can be found on each organisation's website. Acute hospitals only offer placements to their local residents.
Volunteering at your local hospital	All NHS trusts offer volunteering opportunities. Generally, volunteers are asked to commit a couple of hours per week for a minimum of 6 months to a year. The types of roles available are varied but could include chatting to patients and supporting with feeding, for example one evening a week. For further details please see your local trusts website and search for 'volunteering'.
Other NHS services	Other organisations offering NHS services in Surrey are:  Surrey & Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust – deliver learning disabilities and mental health services across 39 sites.

	<p>CSH Surrey - provides a wide range of adult community health services in the areas of mid and north west Surrey, and children's NHS community services across the whole of Surrey.</p> <p>First Community Health and Care – provides community healthcare services in clinics and in people’s homes across East Surrey.</p> <p>Primary Care – GP practices</p>
Social Care	<p>There are a large number of social care settings and employers that offer opportunities. For example, volunteering at a care home supporting people with dementia or a day centre for adults with learning disabilities.</p> <p>To find a service provider close to your home or place of study you can use the Care Quality Commission search. <a href="https://www.cqc.org.uk/what-we-do/services-we-regulate/find-care-home">https://www.cqc.org.uk/what-we-do/services-we-regulate/find-care-home</a></p> <p>You can specify by town or postcode and refine the results by selecting the type of services they offer such as young adults and mental health services.</p>
Hospices	<p>Local hospices can be found through the CQC web page listed above.</p>
St Johns Ambulance	<p>Offer a cadet programme for your people. Further details can be found at: <a href="http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/young-people/cadets-ages-10-17.aspx">http://www.sja.org.uk/sja/young-people/cadets-ages-10-17.aspx</a></p>
Voluntary Community & Charities	<p>There are a wide range of opportunities across Surrey within community groups and charities. From example childrens activity groups, befriending, charities that support vulnerable people. The link below enables you to search opportunities in your local area by location, activity, availability etc.</p>



Surrey Heartlands

HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP



	<p><a href="https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/be-a-volunteer/search-for-volunteering-opportunities-online">https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/voluntary-community-and-faith-sector/be-a-volunteer/search-for-volunteering-opportunities-online</a></p>
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