

BSc (Hons) Dietetics and Human Nutrition (3-year course)

Dietetic Practice Placements: An Overview

The practice placement element of the BSc. (Hons) Dietetics and Human Nutrition course at Coventry University has been developed in line with the BDA Curriculum Framework for the Pre-registration Education & Training of Dietitians (2013), the HCPC Standards of Proficiency for Dietitians (2013) and the HCPC Standards of Education and Training (2014). In response to key developments in contemporary healthcare provision, the placement A, B and C capabilities have been developed and updated from those originally set out in the 'Pre-registration Education and Training of Dietitian' manual (CPSM 2000).

Practice education is teaching and learning that takes place within the practice (clinical) setting (e.g. in hospitals, health centres, nursing/care homes, community settings etc.). The placement component of the course ensures the student spends a minimum of 28 weeks of full-time work, equivalent to a total of 1000 hours, in supervised practice education.

The 28 weeks of full-time work are undertaken in three distinct placement periods.

- **Placement A (1000DT): Introduction to Dietetic Practice**

A 2-week period normally at the end of year 1 (July to September), which provides work experience and orientation to the NHS and opportunities to develop communication skills. This placement is non-credit bearing.

- **Placement B (2000DT): Developing Dietetic Practice**

A 14-week period normally during year 2 (May to August), which provides opportunities for the student to develop the confidence and practice skills needed to, for example; translate theory into practice, obtain, record and interpret relevant information and advise service-users accordingly, communicate effectively, manage time and workload efficiently, and demonstrate professionalism. By the end of the placement the student should, with supervisory support and some consistency, be able to lead full and well-structured dietetic consultations for service users having 'core' conditions e.g. those needing nutrition support, weight management, diabetes, cardiovascular disease etc. This placement carries 20 credits.

- **Placement C (3000DT): Consolidating Dietetic Practice**

A 12-week period normally during year 3 (May to August), which provides the student with opportunities to further extend their confidence, knowledge, dietetic practice skills with both 'core' and more-complex service-users, and transferable skills. A student successfully completing this placement will be able to competently and independently carry a dietetic caseload comparable with that of a newly qualified registered dietitian. This placement carries 30 credits.

To be eligible for registration with the HCPC, students must successfully pass all capabilities associated with all three practice placements, and all academic components of the course.

Level of Placement	Dates of Placement	Duration
Level 1	May 28 th – Sept 8 th 2018	2 weeks
Level 2	May 13 th - Aug 16 th 2019	14 weeks
Level 3	May 18 th – Aug 7 th 2020	12 weeks