

# Placements

## Information for Prospective Students for 2019 Entry

### Why are placements part of the programme at Oak Hill?

Placements are a core part of your training, integrating learning and application in real-life ministry situations. A key purpose of placements is to give you experience of a different church in order to develop gifts, learn about other forms of ministry, and to see a different church in action. In addition to helping you learn specific ministry skills, we also aim to help you learn a right and godly attitude in ministry, namely one of servant-leadership. Placements are also the context in which assignments for some of your taught modules are completed. Moreover we recognise that church family involvement is essential as College is not a replacement for church.

### Who is responsible for deciding where I am placed?

It is College's responsibility to allocate placement churches and ensure that there is appropriate discussion of your needs and the church's requirements and contributions. Careful consideration goes into selecting your placement church. We would therefore encourage you to be positive and proactive in your approach to serving in the church, as a student's attitude to the placement is a key factor in making it a profitable experience. Normally placements are within the evangelical tradition, but see below for specific requirements for Anglican ordinands.

### Who are placements for and what form do they take?

- **Independent CertHE students (full time and part time):** you will complete a weekly church placement (PM1.1).
- **Independent FdA students (full time and part time):** depending on your stream, the following placements are a compulsory part of the programme for:
  - Independent TPS
    - Weekly church placements (PM1.1 & PM2.1)
    - Block placement (PM2.5)
    - College weekend mission (PM2.6)
  - Independent TCC
    - Weekly church placements (PM1.4 & PM2.4)
    - Summer cross-cultural placement (PM2.8). Please note that if you continue onto either the BA(Hons) or MTheol specialising in TCC, you will be required to complete a second overseas placement (PM4.8) in the summer before the start of your BA(Hons) year.
- **Anglican ordinands on all programmes:** the following placements are a compulsory part of your training:
  - Weekly church placements (PM1.2 & PM2.2)
  - Block placement (PM2.5)
  - College weekend mission (PM2.6)
- **Additional note for part time students:** because your placement church serves as the setting for a range of different assignments at CertHE- and FdA-level, you will need to complete a weekly church placement during each of your CertHE and FdA years. Thus, for example, if you are completing the FdA part time over four years, you would need to have a placement in all four of those years. Please see 'How do church placements work?' below for details of where your placement may be.

## Weekly church placements

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### What will involvement in my placement church look like?

Your involvement with your placement church will take a number of forms. We want to encourage you to make your placement church your regular 'home' church. This would involve:

- Regular attendance at this church
- Observation followed by reflection in conversation with your appointed supervisor in the church about ministry-related issues
- Particular opportunities for participating in ministries in which you have not previously been engaged
- A number of your module assignments will be undertaken at your placement church.

### How do the church placements work?

- **Anglican Ordinands** are required to do two different weekly church placements in your first two years. If you are staying for a third year, you are free to choose which Anglican church you go to, in consultation with your personal tutor, and you may decide to stay at one of the churches you were placed at in your first two years. One of your placements needs to be 'out of tradition' – this can be either one of your weekly church placements in years 1 and 2, or your block placement (see below). This is a Ministry Division requirement for ordinands to give you experience outside your own tradition and to increase your understanding of the spectrum of churchmanship in the Church of England.
- **Full Time Independent Students (TPS)** have a weekly church placement for both years of the FdA and you are encouraged to be in the same church for that time (and longer if you are at College for more than two years). You have the option of changing churches for one of your years in order to gain more experience, which would need to be agreed with the Director of College Placements.
- **Full Time Independent Students (TCC)** are required to have a weekly church placement in a congregation in which you will experience cross-cultural dynamics. The first year placement aims to give you a taste of multi-cultural Christian worship. The second year placement is intended to expose you to Christian worship in an unfamiliar setting, where the culture is significantly different from your own.
- **Part Time Independent Students (TPS)** normally have your weekly church placement in your home church or the church where you are working. Once you have an Assured Place at Oak Hill, you will be asked to provide contact details for the person at your home church you are anticipating will be your placement supervisor.
- **Part Time Independent Students (TCC)** normally have your weekly church placement in your home church or the church where you are working. This is to be agreed with the stream Director. Occasionally additional placements will be required to provide the necessary training opportunities and experience.

### How are church placements allocated for new students?

- On the Application Form, you have the opportunity to make us aware of any relevant information relating to your placement.
- Once you have an Assured Place to study at Oak Hill, you will be asked to complete a Placement Form, which is an opportunity for you to specify your experience and areas for learning and development.

- Potential placement supervisors are asked to sign a Placement Agreement and provide Oak Hill with a copy of their Church Safeguarding Policy (for part time students placed at their home church, we will be asking for this from your nominated supervisor in your home church). This takes place during the summer before a new student's programme starts.
- It is then College's responsibility to allocate the placements, in consultation with you, your DDO (if you are an Anglican ordinand), your sending church, and any placement church.
- **For TPS students and all Anglican ordinands (PM1.1/1.2):** our Director of College Placements, Johnny Jukes, will be in touch with your sending church to discuss any particular training needs they have identified for you, and for ordinands, he will also be looking at your BAP report. He will take these, your Placement Form, your Application Form and references into account when considering the most appropriate church placement for you.
- **For TCC students (PM1.4):** the TCC Director, David Baldwin, organises the placements in consultation with you.

### When do I find out where I have been placed and when does it start?

- **For TPS students:** we will normally inform you of your placement in the summer before you start at Oak Hill and give you the relevant contact details. You will have an individual meeting at the start of the year and then again towards the end of the first year to review that year and discuss the next year.
- **For TCC students:** TCC Director, David Baldwin, will discuss your placement with you during Welcome Week at the start of the academic year. A church will be suggested for you to visit at the first possible opportunity and you will be encouraged to feed back to him on its suitability for you, especially in the light of that congregation's ethnic and cultural dynamics. Once a good fit is found, David will liaise with your placement supervisor.

### Can I stay in my home church for my church placement?

For full time students, staying in your home church as your placement would only be in exceptional circumstances, and this would need to be discussed and agreed with College. If you flag this as a question when you apply to Oak Hill, we can ensure you have a conversation at the most appropriate time.

### How far away could my placement church be and are my family meant to come too?

There are many churches that are part of our placement scheme and they vary in terms of distance from College/where you are living. Be prepared to travel. We strongly encourage you and your family together to make your placement church your home church. There may be times when distance, churchmanship or other factors make this a harder option than you might otherwise choose, but we encourage you to make the most of it and to persevere with this learning opportunity.

## Block placements

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### What are the block placements?

- The block placement (PM2.5), for TPS students doing the FdA and all Anglican ordinands, is 21 days and takes place in the summer. It consists of two placements, one of 14 consecutive days and one of 7 days. Usually the two week placement is done in a church and the one week placement in a chaplaincy; however, the Director of College Placements will consider requests for a two week chaplaincy placement. Information about block placements will be given early in your first term.

- There are two summer overseas placements for TCC students, both of at least one month's duration:
  - Summer Cross-Cultural Placement I (PM2.8), for TCC students doing the FdA, is to be completed in the summer break between the first and second year of your programme
  - Summer Cross-Cultural Placement II (PM4.8), for TCC students doing the BA(Hons) or MTheol, is to be completed in the summer before the start of your BA(Hons) year.

The exact setting(s) for your Summer Cross-Cultural Placement must be discussed, agreed upon and planned in advance in consultation with the TCC Director and an appropriate placement supervisor based in the country to which you will be travelling.

## College missions

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### What are the College Missions?

- The College Weekend Mission (PM2.6), for TPS students doing the FdA and all Anglican ordinands, is a weekend-long church mission to be done during the first or second year of your programme. These will take place in churches around the UK and normally a team of students will go to each church. Further details will be available during the first term of each year to give you opportunity to sign up.
- There is no College Mission requirement for TCC students.