

Placements Information for Prospective Students for 2020 Entry

Why are there placements for Oak Hill students?

Placements are a key part of the learning experience for students. In the light of the intended direction of your ministry (church leadership, youth work, crossing cultures and so on), and your individual goals for growth that are identified using the Graduate Profile, placements give you a ministry context in which to set specific goals and gauge growth.

Placements aim to

- acquaint you better with local church life and ministry patterns in a given context
- develop your own Christian character and some ministry competencies
- provide an opportunity for you to demonstrate self-awareness and theological reflection in relation to the dynamics of church life.

What placements are there?

Compulsory weekly church placements:

All undergraduate students and postgraduate ordinands take part in a Weekly Church Placement during their programme (the placement module codes are MP1.7 and MP2.7 - see below for specific details), with the nature of the placement tailored to your training needs: for example, whether you are an Independent or Anglican student or whether you are training for ordination in the Church of England. Assessment of each placement will be by means of a portfolio of reports and reflections on personal goals and learning.

So in summary students take the following placement modules:

Full time undergraduate students:

- CertHE: MP1.7 in year 1
- DipHE: MP1.7 in year 1 and MP2.7 in year 2
- BA (Hons): MP1.7 in year 1 and MP2.7 in year 2

Part time undergraduate students

- CertHE: MP1.7 in each year of the CertHE
- DipHE: MP1.7 in each CertHE year; MP2.7 in each DipHE year
- BA (Hons): MP1.7 in each CertHE year; MP2.7 in each DipHE year

Postgraduate ordinands

- MP1.7 in year 1 and MP2.7 in year 2

Optional ministry experience placements:

You may also participate in an optional Ministry/Mission Experience Placement (MP2.8), as part of which you may observe, evaluate and/or participate in ministry activities under the supervision of a minister or other mission leader. This gives you the opportunity to have a more immersive look at a particular type of ministry setting e.g. in a prison, in the forces, overseas.

There is also the option of taking a cross-cultural mission placement, for one month, normally overseas, during the summer preceding the BA (Hons) year of study. This is followed by work to complete as part

of the module. Unlike other placements, which are non-credit-bearing, this placement module is worth 20 credits at BA (Hons) level.

These ministry placement modules give you the opportunity to experience a ministry setting with a particular focus that could be helpful in the light of your identified goal for ministry.

How do the weekly 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 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. It can be done either through one of your weekly church placements in years 1 and 2, or by doing the shorter but more intensive Ministry Experience Placement module.
- **Full time independent students** have a weekly church placement for both years of the DipHE 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 may have the option of changing churches for one of your years in order to gain more experience, which would need to be agreed with College. In the light of your identified goal for ministry, your placement may be tailored accordingly. For example if cross-cultural ministry is your goal, then you can have a first year placement that gives you a taste of multi-cultural Christian worship, followed by a second year placement intended to expose you to Christian worship in an unfamiliar setting, where the culture is significantly different from your own.
- **Part time independent students** normally have your weekly church placement in your home church or the church where you are working. From May onwards, once you have an Assured Place at Oak Hill, you will be asked to provide contact details for the person at your home church who you expect to be your placement supervisor. Again, in the light of your identified goal for ministry, we may discuss with you how best to shape the placements with you.

Who is responsible for deciding where I am placed for my weekly church placement?

Full time students

It is College's responsibility to allocate the weekly church placements, and the process takes into account what you write on your application form and placement form, information from your sending church minister, and any other requirements e.g. from a BAP report for Anglican ordinands.

Andrew Nicholls, as Director of Pastoral Care, has overall responsibility for placement arrangements within the College. Placements for Anglican students are arranged by Johnny Jukes, the College President and Director of Anglican Training. Independent student placements are co-ordinated by Graham Beynon, Director of Independent Training. Other staff may be involved if you have a particular focus for training to be developed in a specific placement.

Part time students

- Part time students will be in a variety of situations, but you will normally remain in your home church/church where you are working for the purposes of their placement.

- College will confirm the placement church arrangement with your church, or allocate a different church placement if requested.

How are the weekly church placements allocated for new students?

- On the Application Form, you have the opportunity to make us aware of any relevant information relating to placements for you.
- In May or when you have an Assured Place (whichever comes later), you will be asked to complete a Placement Form, which is an opportunity for you to specify your experience, your goals for ministry and anything in particular you want to gain from your placement, particularly in discussion with your sending church minister.
- It is then College's responsibility to allocate the placements, in the light of what you have submitted, taking into account any particular requirements e.g. from a BAP report for Anglican ordinands, and in consultation with any placement church. Your sending church minister may be contacted, and if you are an Anglican ordinand, your DDO may also be contacted.
- 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 ask for this from your nominated supervisor in your home church). This takes place during the summer before a new student's programme starts.

When do I find out where I have been placed?

We will normally inform you of your placement in the summer before you start at Oak Hill, via your Oak Hill student email address, and give you the relevant contact details.

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.