

Placements Information for Prospective Students for 2021 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 develop 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 written during the placement.

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 and very flexible 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 a hospice or 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.

How do the weekly church placements work?

- **Anglican ordinands** are required to do a different weekly church placement in each of 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. This requirement can usually be met either through one of your weekly church placements in years 1 and 2, or through the much 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.
- **Independent postgraduate students** have the option to do a weekly church placement if they wish. They can indicate this at application stage but would not be asked to confirm they would like to do it until the placement forms are issued (see below).

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. 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. Placements for students interested in cross-cultural ministry are handled by

David Baldwin (Director of Global Mission); Placements for students interested in youth and children's ministry are handled by Ed Drew (Faithinkids.org)

- a. **Full time students:** Allocation is done by taking into account what you have submitted on your placement form, information from your sending church minister, and any other 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.
 - b. **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 your placement. College will confirm the placement church arrangement with your church, or allocate a different church placement if requested on the placement form
- 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 distance from College/where you are living. Be prepared to travel. We encourage you and your family to make your placement church your home church together. Attending as a family changes your experience and participation in the church, enriches your learning and provides your family with their own opportunity to reflect on different ways of 'doing church' which may be invaluable for the future. 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.