

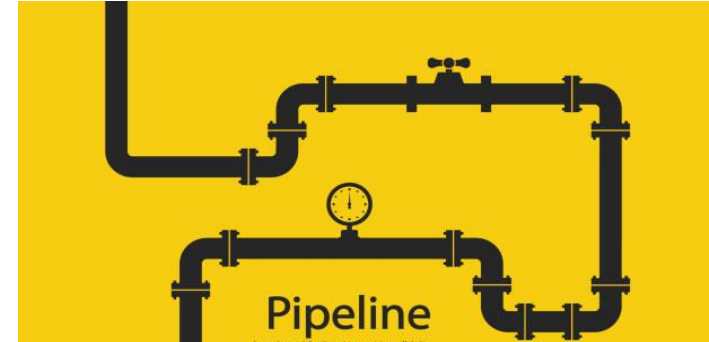
Undergraduate Pharmacy Placements in Primary Care: Developing the Pharmacist Pipeline

Anneke Biginton

Workforce Development Lead, Surrey Training Hub

Ritienne Fenech

Pharmacy Workforce Transformation Programme
Lead (Surrey Heartlands)



University of Brighton

**Kingston
University
London**



The Pharmacist Pipeline



New standards for Initial Education and Training of Pharmacists (IETP) (GPhC, 2021)

- New learning outcomes – enhanced clinical capabilities and **independent prescribing** into the MPharm (undergraduate degree) and the foundation trainee pharmacist training year. This means that pharmacists joining the register in 2026 will be independent prescribers at point of registration (2025/26)

Undergraduate Pharmacy Placements

- There are no Schools of Pharmacy in Surrey, so we are working with neighbouring universities: Brighton, Kingston, Reading and Portsmouth
- Universities usually aim for 2 – 6 weeks in GP practice
- Number of students per placement site is determined by the placement provider.



University of Brighton

**Kingston
University
London**



Placement Funding

- From 1 September 2022, DHSC and NHS England agreed that pharmacy would be added to the professions eligible for the clinical tariff.
- Eligibility: students completing clinical placements in years 1 to 4 are eligible during their General Pharmaceutical Council-accredited Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) degree programme
- Each placement is fully funded through the clinical placement tariff at a rate of approx. **£148 per week per student**
- In addition, **the Surrey Training Hub is offering an extra £300 per student.**

Placement Settings

- Placements in the following settings are eligible for the clinical tariff placement fee:
 - NHS managed sector (for example, secondary care, mental health trusts)
 - General practice and/or primary care networks
 - Community pharmacies
 - Other healthcare providers delivering NHS-contracted services.
- At present, placements within the pharmaceutical industry sector are not eligible for the tariff.
- Pharmacy students can be hosted at practice or PCN level and the commitment (e.g. number of students and placements per year) can be tailored to suit each practice/PCN.

Placement practicalities



The start and finish times and days of the week are flexible, but the hours should **total 37.5 per week**.



All students complete a thorough **placement preparation** period to practise relevant skills before putting them into practice in a real-life setting.



Pharmacy students can be supervised, taught and assessed by **a range of healthcare professionals** while on placement

- They should spend some time working with **non-clinical staff** supporting the practice/PCN
- Usually require a **qualified pharmacist** to sign off their placement portfolio.

Placement practicalities

- All activities must be undertaken under **appropriate supervision**
- The universities may support you to access fully funded training in supervision, assessment and teaching for your practice/ PCN staff.
- **Online training** for practice supervisors on **providing feedback & using work-based assessment tools** is available from e-learning for health (e-lfh.org.uk) - Pharmacy: Practice and educational supervisor training
 - [Core module](#) - Providing feedback
 - [Enhanced skills module](#) - Using work-based assessments e.g. case-based discussions (CBD)
- Short videos illustrating use of work-based assessment tools:
 - CBD - [NHS HEE](#)
 - [Direct Observation of Practical Skills/ Clinical Assessment \(NHS HEE\)](#)
 - [Medicines Related Consultation Framework \(NHS HEE\)](#)



Placement Activities

- Each university provides students with its own **placement workbook** and **suggested activities**, depending on the student's MPharm year.
- Multi-sector workbook - some activities will be more suited to some settings than others
- There is **NO** expectation that students must complete each and every activity in its entirety.
- Students will have an opportunity to revisit tasks in later placements.
- Alternative experiences/tasks can be provided, as appropriate to your setting
- There are **feedback** and **formative assessment tools** provided within the workbooks; your own locally developed feedback/ assessment tools may also be used.



What can pharmacy students do on placements?

Enhanced Medication Management:

- History taking and medicines reconciliation
- Assist with medication reviews
- Assess

Chronic Disease Management:

- Support the management of chronic conditions by helping to optimise treatment plans and monitor patient progress.

Preventive Health Initiatives:

- Participate in vaccination programmes, health screenings, and patient education

Documentation and data entry:

- Update and document outcomes e.g. from AccuRx messages from patients.

Clinical examination and assessments:

- Including vital signs, BMI measurements, BP measurements, peak flow assessments, ENT.

Support for Healthcare Staff:

- Assist in routine tasks such as patient consultations, medication queries, and administrative duties.

Audits or health promotion projects

Support the surgeries with QOF, Prescribing Quality/Incentives Schemes

Placement Dates in General Practice 2025/ 2026

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Reading Uni	N/A	10/11/2025 for 2 weeks	20/10/2025 for 2 weeks	19/01/2026 for 6 weeks
		27/04/2026 for 2 weeks	02/03/2026 for 2 weeks	
Kingston Uni	N/A	N/A	10/11/25 to 21/11/25 (5-10 days) 1/12/25 to 12/12/25 (5-10 days) 27/5/26 to 24/7/26 (5-10 days)	16/2/26 to 27/2/26 (10 days) 2/3/26 to 13/3/26 (10 days)

Student Placement preparation

- eLearning for health
 - Fire Safety Level 1
 - Health, Safety and Welfare Level 1
 - Infection Prevention and control Level 1
 - Safeguarding Adults Level 1 and 2
 - Equality and Diversity Level 1
 - Data security awareness Level 1
- DBS certificate/letter of good conduct
- Health clearance
 - MMR immunity
 - Varicella immunity
 - Flu vaccination advised but not mandatory
 - Hepatitis B vaccination advised but not mandatory

University of Reading Pharmacy Placements

All academic years

- Full attendance
- Pre and post reflections
- Evidence against learning outcomes
- Supervisor Comments against learning outcomes
- Work-based assessment
 - MRCF, CBD, Mini-CEX and DOPS

Additional for Year 4

- Feedback from a service user
- Additional work-based assessment
- Evidence of contribution to an audit, research activity, service evaluation or quality improvement project

University of Reading Pharmacy Placements

Learning Outcome		Level required
1	Demonstrate empathy and keep the person at the centre of their approach to care at all times	Does
3	Demonstrate effective communication at all times and adapt their approach and communication style to meet the needs of the person	Does
6	Treat people as equals, with dignity and respect, and meet their own legal responsibilities under equality and human rights legislation, while respecting diversity and cultural differences	Does
7	Obtain informed consent before providing care and pharmacy services	Does
9	Take responsibility for ensuring that personal values and beliefs do not compromise person-centred care	Does
10	Demonstrate effective consultation skills, and in partnership with the person, decide the most appropriate course of action	Does
13	Recognise the psychological, physiological and physical impact of prescribing decisions on people	Shows how
14	Work collaboratively and effectively with other members of the multi-disciplinary team to ensure high-quality, person-centred care, including continuity of care	Shows how
15	Demonstrate the values, attitudes and behaviours expected of a pharmacy professional at all times	Does
16	Apply professional judgement in all circumstances, taking legal and ethical reasoning into account	Does
17	Recognise and work within the limits of their knowledge and skills, and get support and refer to others when they need to	Does
18	Take responsibility for all aspects of pharmacy services, and make sure that the care and services provided are safe and accurate	Does
19	Take responsibility for all aspects of health and safety and take actions when necessary	Does
20	Act openly and honestly when things go wrong and raise concerns even when it is not easy to do so	Does
21	Apply the science behind pharmacy in all activities	Does
24	Keep abreast of new technologies and use data and digital technologies to improve clinical outcomes and patient safety, keeping to information governance principles	Shows How
32	Accurately perform calculations	Does
35	Anticipate and recognise adverse drug reactions, and recognise the need to apply the principles of pharmacovigilance	Does
53	Reflect upon, identify, and proactively address their learning needs	Does
54	Support the learning and development of others, including through mentoring	Shows how
55	Take part in research activities, audit, service evaluation and quality improvement, and demonstrate how these are used to improve care and services	Shows how

Learning Outcomes

- Increase of complexity over the years
- Year 2 & 3 have six learning outcomes to demonstrate over the 4 weeks of placement
- Year 4 have all 21 learning outcomes to demonstrate over the 6 weeks of placement

University of Reading Pharmacy Placements

- Placements are assessed in Pharmacy Practice modules for each year via a portfolio
- Supervisor comments and feedback are used in a formative manner in marking the portfolio by academic tutors
- Pass/Fail

University of Reading Pharmacy Placements

Outstanding
work ethic and
a great team
player

The student was a delight to have at our PCN. They were incredibly enthusiastic from the outset and was very engaging - asking lots of questions and keen to speak to patients and solve clinical problems

Professional and helpful throughout the time with us - would have loved to offer them a foundation training position

Good analytical skills when investigating case study for high blood pressure. Able to make good judgement and recommendations on how to establish best course of action for the patient

A real asset to
our team

Everyone on the PCN and practice were impressed with the students professional, friendly approach and their good pharmaceutical knowledge. They fitted in to the team immediately and was happy to undertake all tasks but always worked within their competency. They were our first student and have set the bar high. We would be delighted to host them again

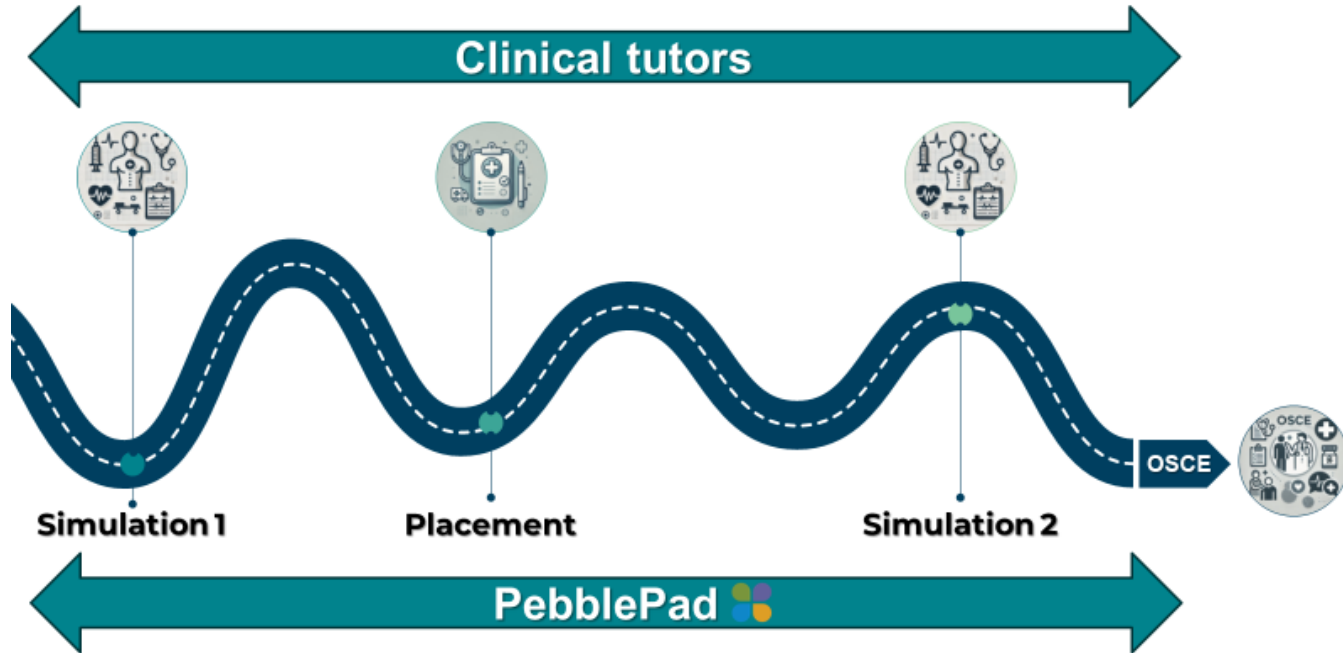
A breath of
fresh air

Kingston University Pharmacy Placements

- **Year 1**- 4 days in a community pharmacy
- **Year 2** -15 days in a community pharmacy
- **Year 3** – 5 days across other health care settings (summer) e.g Stroke Rehab, home visits with nurses/neuro rehab team, shadowing paramedics, physiotherapists speech and language therapists, drug addiction centre, community mental health, care homes, hospice, community nursing and blood and transplant centre
-10 days in a hospital and 10 days in a GP practice
- **Year 4** – 20 days in community pharmacy (summer) and 20 days in optional pharmacy setting (maybe split) eg GP, hospital or community

Kingston University Pharmacy Placements

Key structure of curriculum design



Kingston University Pharmacy Placements

Introduction to PebblePad

Features:

- Customisable templates
- Integration with learning outcomes
- Support for multimedia evidence
- Students can add evidence of meeting LO's from practicals, simulations, workshops, OSCE's placements and other extracurricular activities
- Offline App (PebblePocket) for use on phones/tablets
- Student-led
- Alumni accounts



Kingston University Pharmacy Placements

Record Forms & Templates

Record Forms Require a signature from supervisors/ academics

Can use PebblePocket App

Examples

- Reflective Record Form
- Direct Observation Practical Skills (DOPs) Form
- Mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise (Mini-CEX) Form
- Case-Based Discussion(CBD) Form
- **Placement -Daily Attendance Form**
- **Placement- End of Placement Feedback Form**

Templates

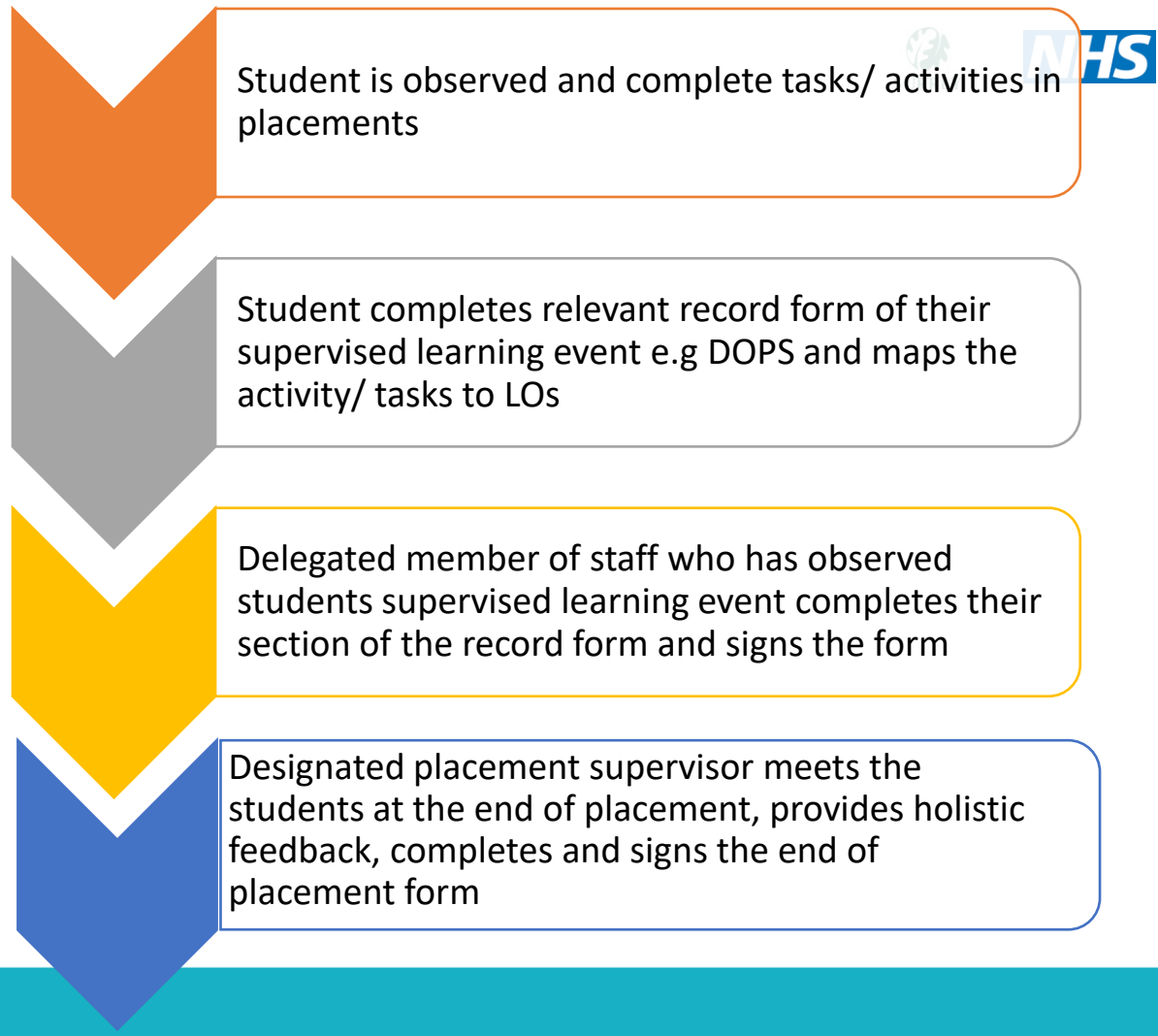
- To help guide and support student activity

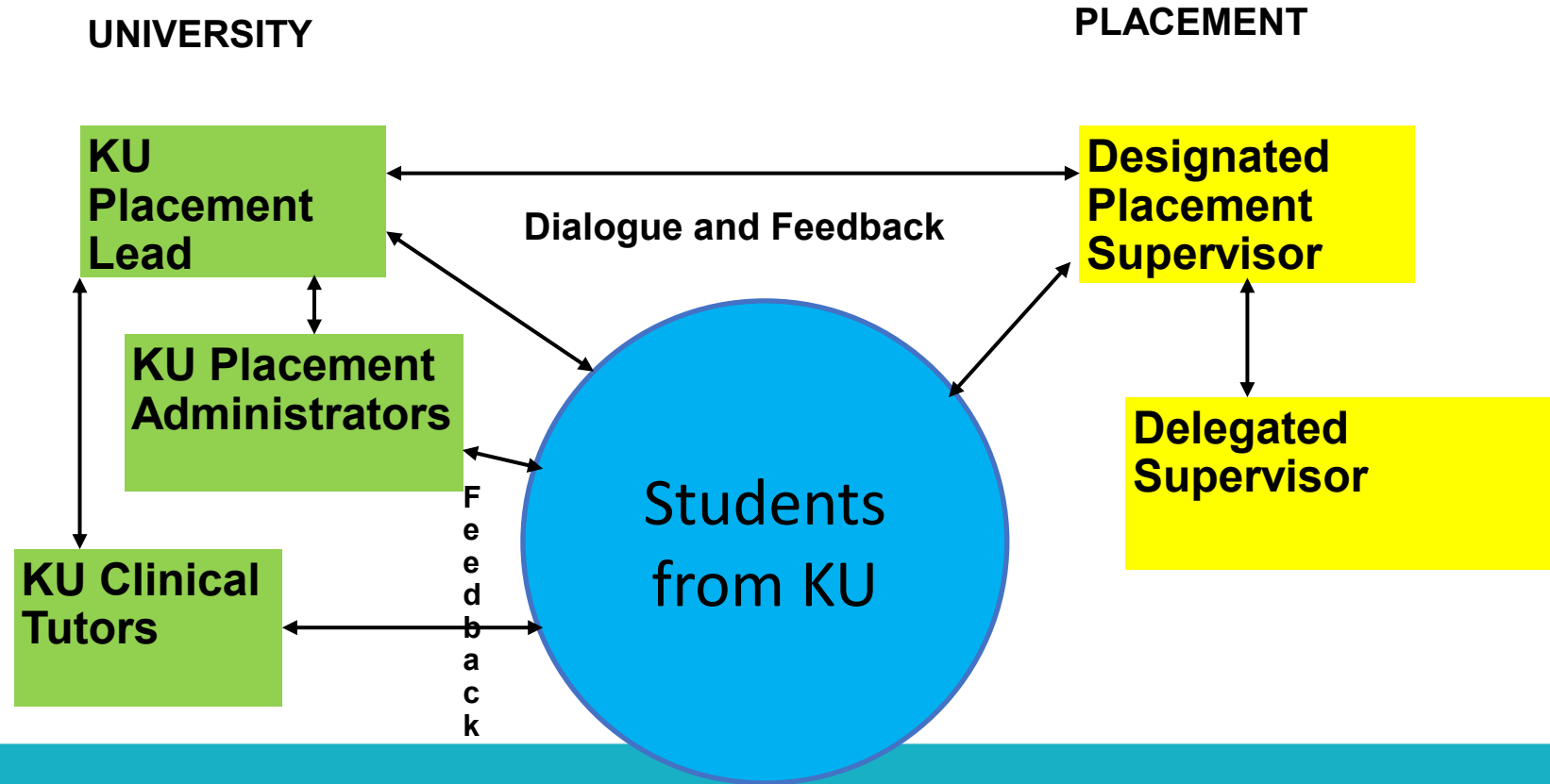
Examples

- Medication History Template
- ADR Template

Kingston University Pharmacy Placements

The process





Kingston University Pharmacy Placements

The reception team, a patient (who the student saw) and a GP colleague have all mentioned how they enjoyed having him here - that he was polite, enthusiastic and generally had a very good presence. We don't often (in our line of work as I'm sure with yours!) get people making the effort to report back positive comments so it shows that he really did stand out in his 2 days here.'

'I met with two students on Monday and I was really impressed with their knowledge, and professionalism. They were very enthusiastic, attentive and were asking all the right questions. They represented the university very well. 😊'

Ready to develop your pharmacy workforce pipeline?

- Please email any questions or expressions of interest:
syheartlandsicb.primarycareplacements@nhs.net

Thank you!

