School of Biomedical, Nutritional and Sport Sciences

Dietetic Placements

What are dietetic placements?
During our MDiet course, you will undertake over 1000 placement hours, integrated across all 4 years of the programme. You will build competency in the professional practice of dietetics, communication and the steps of the nutrition and dietetic care process.

Where will my placements be?
In years 1 and 2 you will undertake a series of half and full day observational/experiential ‘mini placements’ in a range of food and care related settings including: care settings; community projects and social enterprises, including foodbanks; and, catering settings. We help our students get the most from each placement with pre and post-placement activities on campus. In addition, you will undertake a 1 week placement in an NHS Dietetics department.

Placement B (towards the end of Year 3) and Placement C (at the start of Year 4) are both 12 weeks in length, and provide an opportunity to build competence in dietetic practice skills. You will work in a range of health specialties within the NHS, and with a variety of service users. By the end of your placements, you’ll be managing a small caseload, carrying out full consultations, planning, providing and evaluating dietary care plans. Some placement locations may be some distance from Newcastle such that you may choose to re-locate during these periods.

How will I be assessed?
Each placement requires demonstration of achievement of specific competencies for the practice of dietetics. Placements are assessed on a pass/fail basis through the evidence that students present via a placement portfolio.

“My Foodbank placement] was definitely a life learning experience that I will never forget. Often, I hear people talk about food poverty and health inequality, but it makes such a difference when you actually get hands on experience of the only food options people in the community can afford. Putting yourself in someone else’s shoes before offering any advice was the lesson I learned that day.”

Katerina