

ABERDEEN 2040

Solving future skills challenges: Effective partnerships between university and employers

Annual Academic Symposium

Panel Session 6

29th April 2021

- We aim for this session to be inclusive and accessible to enable all individuals to engage as fully as possible
- Please note, the session will be recorded
- Each panel member will give a short overview of their topic
- We'll then open the floor for Q&A
- During the Q&A if you can 'raise your hand' or leave a question in the chat area

Solving future skills challenges:

Effective partnerships between university and employers

Chair: Dr John Barrow, Dean of Employability and Entrepreneurship

- Dr Lyn Batchelor, Director of Studies for the Qatar Campus, AFG College with the University of Aberdeen
- Dr Ian Fleming, Lecturer (Scholarship), School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition
- Dr Heather Morgan, Lecturer (Scholarship) in Applied Health Sciences, School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition
- Evie Gilbert, UG student, School of Divinity, History and Philosophy

Dr Lyn Batchelor

Director of Studies, Qatar Campus



Resilient Learning
Communities

...equipped for a
world of work which
has yet to be
invented.

Enterprise skills: equipment for students in the new world

Tools

- Subject specific
- Discipline specific

Skills

- Degree “agnostic”

Resilient Learning **Communities**



Enterprise skills are part of the backpack of skills we carry around with us

How to choose the right ...
Backpack

- Quality Counts in Backpacks
- A Backpack Needs to Fit Properly
- Consider ... Personal Style

Adapted from VeryWellFamily (2016)



Go for backpacks with pockets, slots, and dividers to evenly distribute the weight:



Slots need to have space for

- Risk taking
- Resilience
- Determination
- Enthusiasm
- Dealing with failure in a variety of settings

Enterprise, entrepreneurship and business start-up

- “My” students don’t want to be entrepreneurs
- They won’t start businesses
- It’s like Dragon’s Den – I don’t want that for them

Resilient Learning Communities

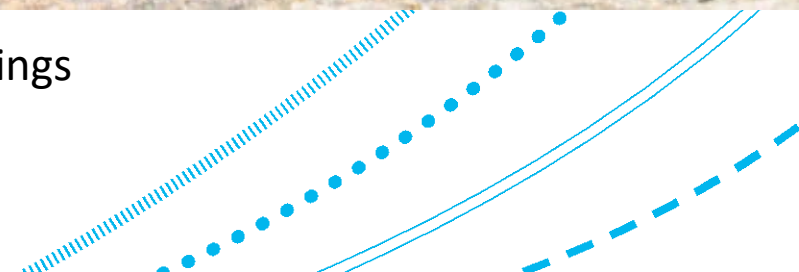
can use the pragmatic skills of business

discipline expertise, and the learned skills of enterprise to thrive

Risk taking, Resilience, Determination



Enthusiasm, Dealing with failure in a variety of settings



Effective partnerships between the university and employers

What lessons can we learn from running work-based learning programmes in a pandemic world?

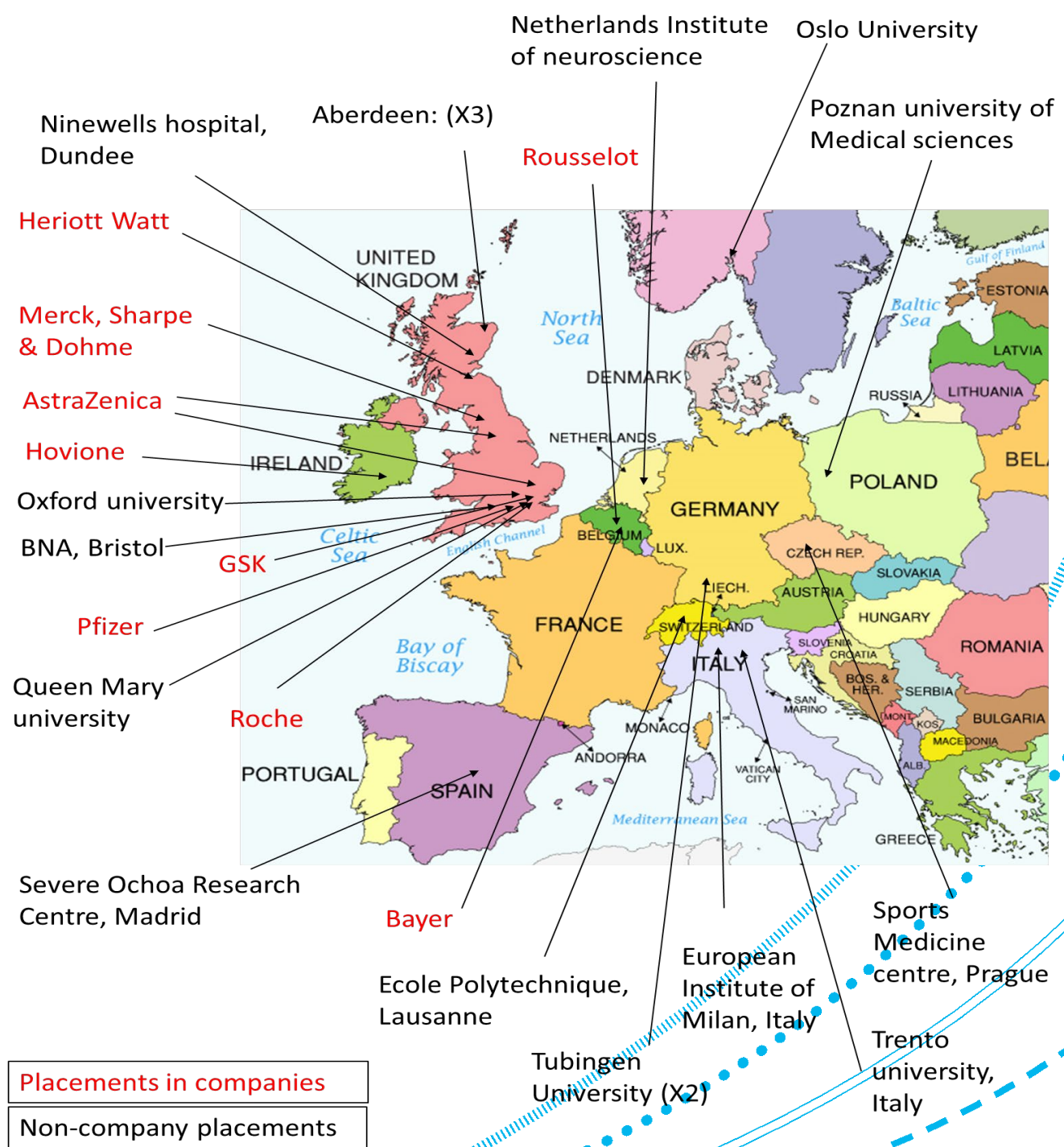
The MSci placement programme as an exemplar

Dr Ian Fleming
Senior Lecturer
SMMSN



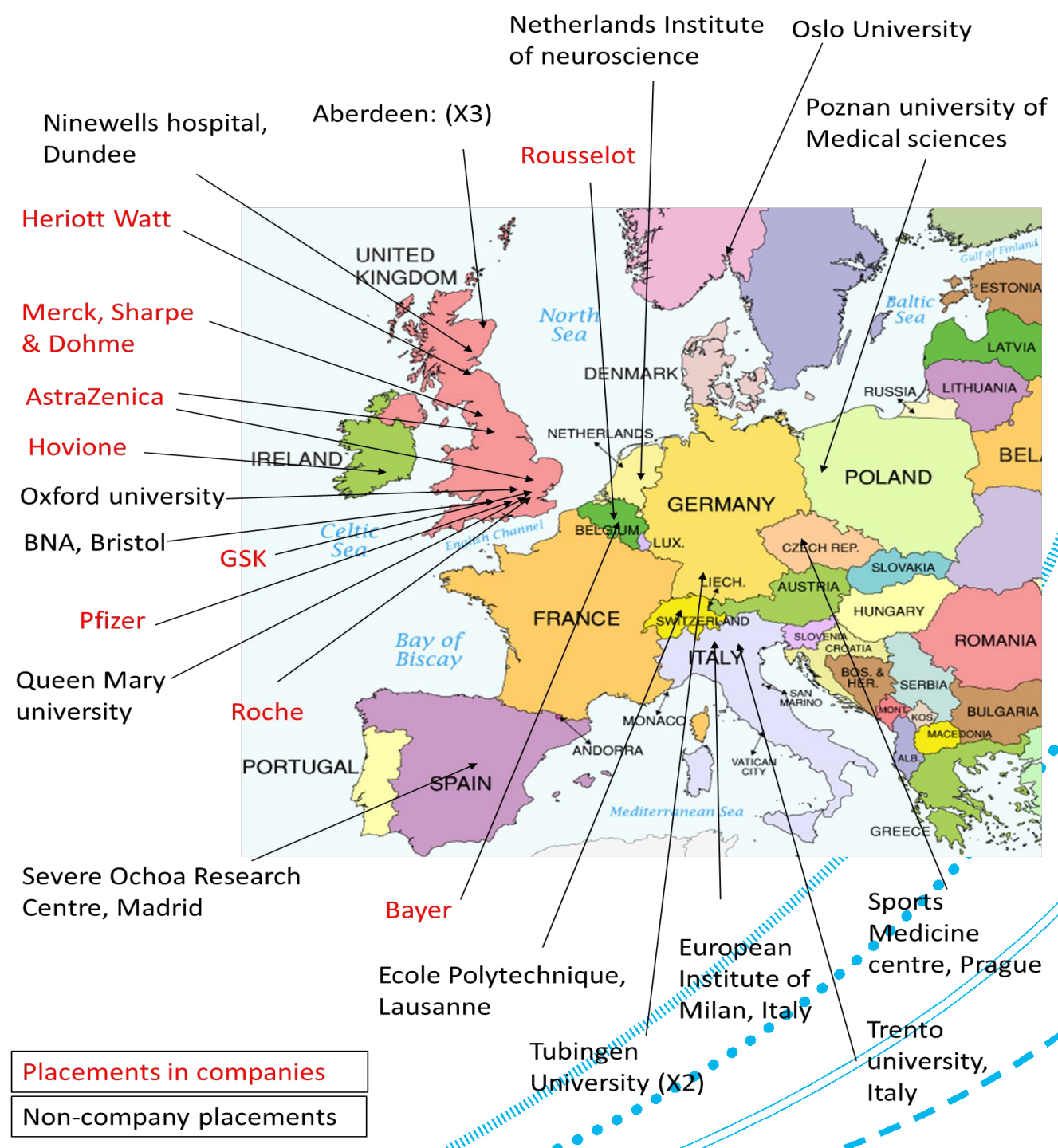
MSci placements

- MSci degree is a Masters degree for undergraduates
- MSci degree grade has no bearing on BSc degree classification
- Year long placement between third and fourth year of BSc degree
- Students work outwith the university learning skills and building confidence to enhance career development
- Medical Sciences students studying for MSci or BSc degree can apply to do a placement year
- Students wanting to do a placement year must pass BT3006 course in third year



MSci placements

- Remain registered as full-time undergraduates
- Placement can be done in any country
- 12 months in length (minimum 10 months)
- Company, Research Institute, academia
- Company placements are paid
- Lab or non-lab project
- Placement project must include an element of research

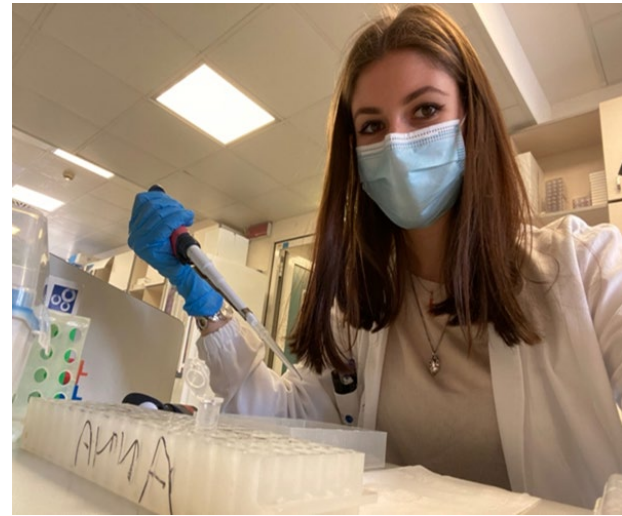


Using flexibility to enable placements to go ahead during Covid-19

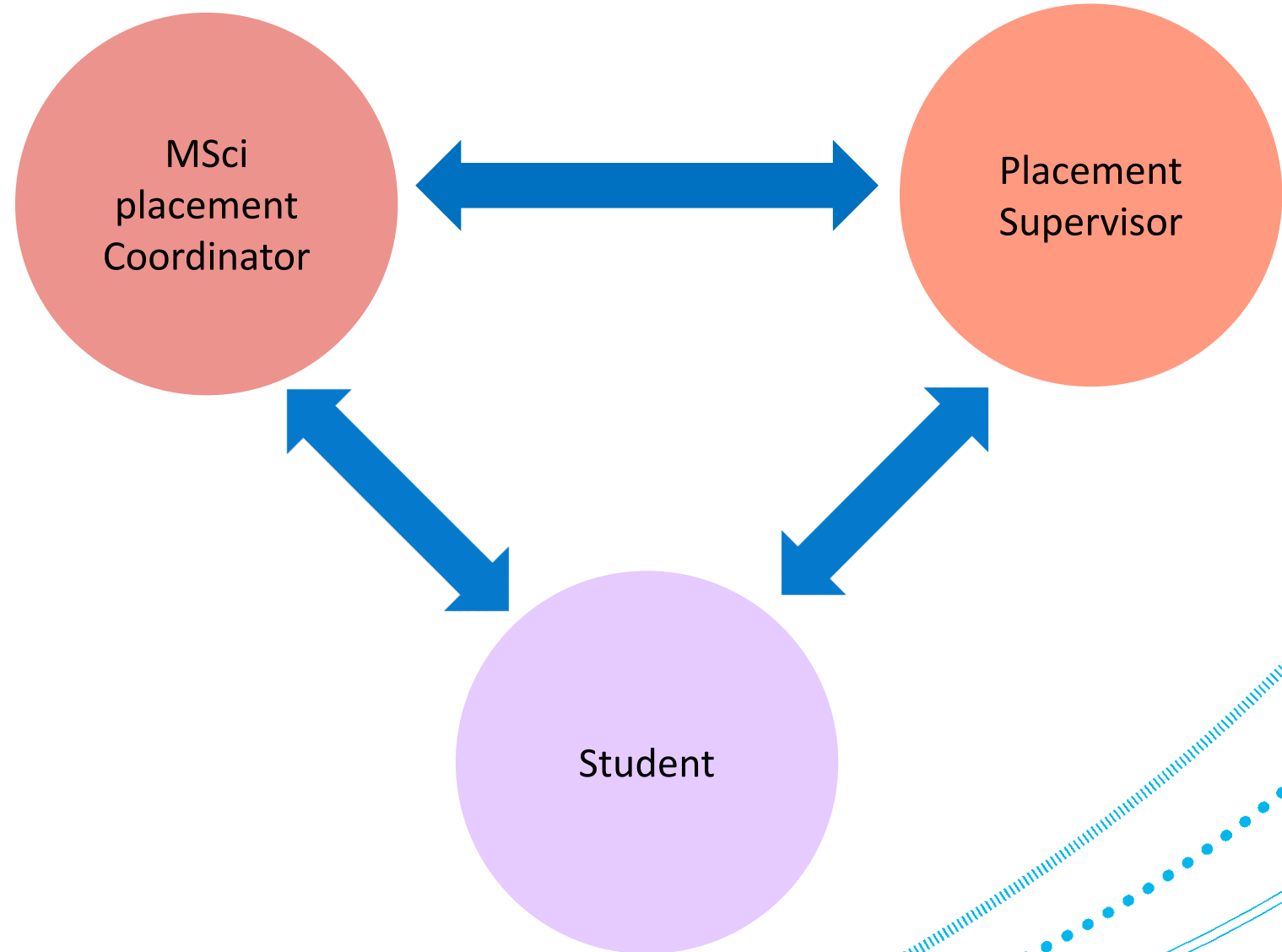
- Being flexible about placement start date. Students can start project any time between end of May and 1st September
- Being flexible about start date on site. Students can start their projects by working remotely e.g. literature searches to prepare for project
- Being flexible about whether a student actually needs to work on site or could work remotely. All non-lab placements in 2020-2021 have been done remotely, with students catching up regularly with placement supervisor



Timely and effective communication ensured that placements went ahead during Covid-19



2020-2021 MSc student learning lab skills whilst on placement



This pragmatic approach has helped to secure new placement hosts for 2021-2022

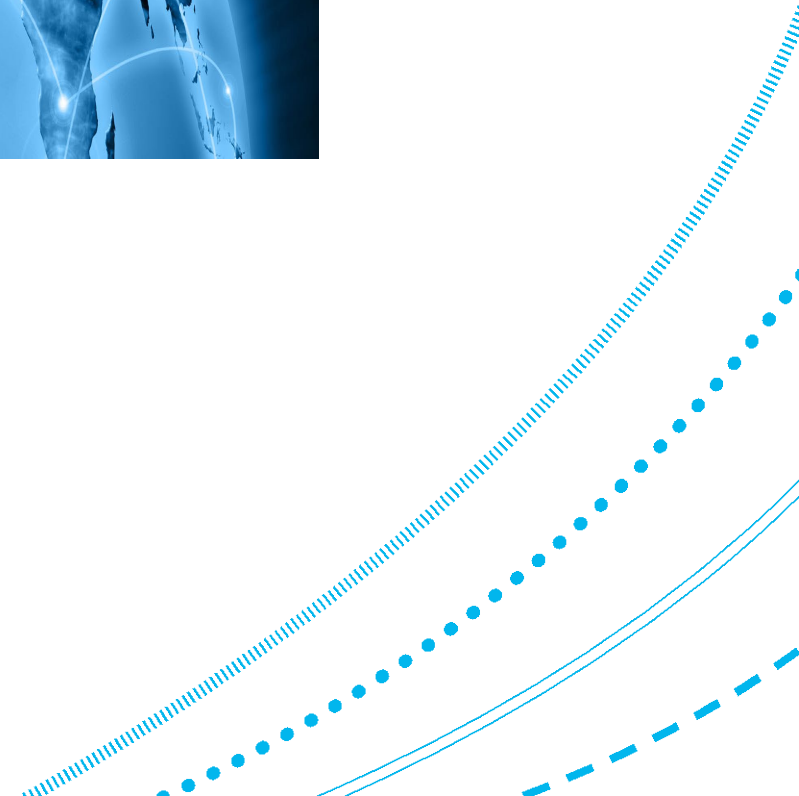


Dr Heather May Morgan, Lecturer (Scholarship) in Applied Health Sciences



“COVID-ready work-based placements” is not a phrase I was ever anticipating using! I’ll talk about my experience of developing online work placements for on campus MSc students over the last few years – this has meant that we’ve been able to continue and expand placement opportunities throughout working from home.

“COVID-ready” work-based placements



MSc programmes in Applied Health Sciences

- **PU5548: Work-based Placement in Applied Health Sciences** (15 credit course, *face to face* elective in one year programme, January-April)
- **PU5923: Extended Work-based Placement in Applied Health Sciences** (30 credit course, *online* elective in one and two year programmes, May-July/August)

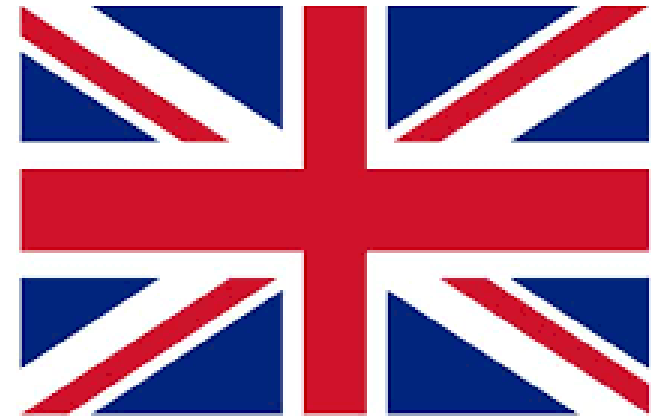


Hosts in 2020-21



Apprenticeships, Internships, and University Learning

Preparing resilient learners for uncertain futures



Evie Gilbert, Intern at the
Centre for Academic
Development



