

## **Guidance on experiential learning, placements, laboratory work and other face-to-face interaction on MPharm degrees and OSPAPs (experiential learning)**

The GPhC understands that in 2020-2021 it may not be possible for schools to offer the usual range of experiential learning and placement experiences to MPharm/OSPAP students and that laboratory work may be disrupted as well. As part of planning for the 2020-2021 academic year the GPhC asks schools to factor this into their thinking and to keep a record of the changes they make to what they teach. There is no need to inform the GPhC what changes have been made at this point but schools will be asked to describe what they have done as part of the annual monitoring process in December 2020.

Schools of pharmacy are advised to follow their institution's policy on social distancing and student well-being in relation to this matter. Whatever changes are made, provision must put the welfare and safety of students, staff, patients, health and social care staff and anyone else they come in to contact with, first.

The GPhC does not wish to be prescriptive about changes made to the delivery of the curriculum but schools may wish to consider:

1. offering experiential learning experiences as planned, with appropriate social distancing and personal protective equipment measures in place;
2. moving some experiential learning online by using communication and online learning platforms to deliver material and interactive experiences;
3. rescheduling some experiential learning across academic years, while bearing in mind that there is no guarantee that campuses or other experiential learning sites will be accessible at any given time during the pandemic;
4. consider counting working in pharmacy and healthcare environments outside of term towards the experiential learning requirements, if the school can remain in contact with students remotely to support their learning; and
5. reconfiguring laboratories to allow working while maintaining social distancing or consider using online laboratory software as an alternative.

If any school has a query about this position please contact [education@pharmacyregulation.org](mailto:education@pharmacyregulation.org).

GPhC, May 2020