

INFORMATION FOR SUPERVISORS RE COURSEWORK REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINEES ON PLACEMENT

Introduction

Trainees are required to undertake a number of case studies and academic clinical projects related to their clinical work while on their placements. The aim of this is to foster the development of theory practice links and to relate academic work to clinical issues. Thus, there are no set titles for the work as it is envisaged that they will be developed from within the placement.

This document aims to provide some brief information for supervisors about these coursework requirements; however, further details can be found in the Programme Handbook and the Assessment Regulations and Coursework Guidelines, available from the Clinical Psychology Unit, downloaded on the Clinical Psychology University Website. Please telephone 0114 222 6649 for a copy.

Case Studies

Trainees submit one case study from each of the four mandatory placements in the first two years of clinical training. The purpose of these is to sample a trainee's individual clinical work and to assess how their academic knowledge informs clinical practice. In particular, they assess a trainee's skills of formulation, reflection, critique and written communication. In addition, trainees are required to focus specifically on the role of supervision and process issues (first year case studies) and on personal and professional development and inter-professional learning (second year case studies). Supervisors are requested to sign a statement attesting that this work was undertaken on placement and that the report accurately reflects the trainee's work.

Academic Clinical Projects

Alongside the case studies, trainees are required to submit a number of additional pieces of academic work.

a) Literature Review

This is usually undertaken on the first placement and is a review of the literature arising from a clinical case or issue relevant to the placement. It should include a brief description of how the topic was chosen and its relevance to the placement, and should evaluate the research, not merely describe it. Trainees are encouraged to identify a topic area that the supervisor/ placement would find useful. This must be an original academic piece of work and the title must be agreed with the trainee's personal tutor prior to the trainee beginning to develop this idea further.

b) Single Case

Trainees are recommended to undertake this on their second placement. This is separate and additional to the case study, and must relate to a different client. It is a report of a single case experimental study conducted on placement and will typically constitute part of a trainee's ongoing work on placement. The purpose is to provide an opportunity for trainees to apply quantitative methods to the study of single clinical cases.

c) Service Evaluation

This project is usually undertaken during placement 3 or 4, and after trainees have completed their single case study. It is a report of a small-scale, clinically relevant project, which evaluates some aspect of a service. It would not typically be undertaken in the first year as more advanced skills in relation to systems/organisations may be required, as well as there being numerous other coursework requirements to be completed in year one. The trainee should take major responsibility for the design and methods employed for the study, and the project should be clinically meaningful and/or meaningful to the service. Suitable projects might include evaluation of: a group intervention; staff training project; service user satisfaction; needs assessments etc. Trainees are expected to gain experience in using both quantitative and qualitative methods during their training, thus if their research project is primarily quantitative, the service evaluation should employ qualitative methods and vice versa.

It is a small-scale project, which should take approximately half a day per week of time on placement. The service evaluation can be carried out on another placement other than the one the trainee is currently identified with. The completed report will consist of an evaluation report and a critical appraisal of the project (total word count = 5000 words). The trainee should ensure that the supervisor has a copy of the evaluation report and that it is fed into the relevant organisational structures.

d) Short Answer Questions (SAQs)

These are undertaken on each of the four placements in the first and second years and are intended to link the academic with the clinical and to encourage reading around areas of interest whilst on placement.

Trainees are required to answer 8 questions selected from 12 directed readings, in the form of either a short critical review or discussion of the implications for clinical practice. Topics of papers will be clinically relevant to the placement, and titles can be provided for supervisors if required.

Supervisors are also invited to suggest suitable papers to be set as SAQs. Please contact Gillian Hardy at the CPU if you have any suggestions.

Further detailed information on all the above coursework requirements, as well as requirements for the research which trainees undertake alongside their placements, can be found in the Assessment Regulations and Coursework Guidelines handbook, available from the Clinical Psychology Unit. Alternatively, if you have any queries please contact Gillian Hardy, Chair of the Exam Board.

e) Research Thesis

Submitted in the final year. Twenty research days are available for trainees to take between April of the second year and May of the third year (i.e. from placements 4, 5 and 6). These dates need to be agreed with the placement supervisor, research supervisor, clinical and personal tutors, and a form is available for this purpose.