

Adapting and innovating to support SLT students digitally on placement

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Background



- Covid19 resulted in the pausing / cancelling of SLT clinical placements in the spring and summer of 2020.
- Royal College of Speech & Language Therapists (RCSLT) student placements guidance published in September:
 - Traditional face-to-face placements
 - Remote and digital placements

SLT student placements



Semester 1 2020-21

14 SLT student placements provided:

- 2 on-site traditional
- 12 remote and digital

Semester 2 2020-21

12 SLT student placements offered:

- 5 on-site traditional
- 7 remote and digital

Project based placement



Producing accessible easy read information for parents with a Learning Disability about pregnancy, birth, and baby care

Student comments and concerns pre-placement



- "I didn't know what to expect. This is my first experience working in a remote project-based placement, which made me nervous but also excited"
- "I was excited to find out there was a placement opportunity given the situation of COVID-19, and that I could complete my placement overseas in Canada"
- "My main concern was that I wouldn't learn enough about the client group without meeting with them in person and getting clinical experience"
- "I was worried that I wouldn't get the chance to see things from a multidisciplinary perspective, or get much face-to-face time with my practice educator"
- "I wasn't sure what kind of experience it would be and how I would need to adapt my learning style. I was worried about how we would be evaluated and how this type of placement would impact the way we learn new skills".

Student feedback – end of placement



- “There is nothing to report that has not worked well. It has been an exceptional placement and very rewarding”
- “This placement was a wonderful opportunity to see some of the other work that SLTs do, aside from the traditional assessments”
- “I am very happy with the experience I’ve gotten during this placement. Although it doesn’t look like your typical clinical placement, I’ve had opportunities that I may not have had, had I been physically on placement.”
- “It is a different type of learning than a typical placement, but it is just as valid, meaningful, and educational”
- "I feel like this placement provides the perfect amount of independence and support“
- "Now I am many weeks into my placement, I cannot believe I was ever worried. This placement, despite being online, has been one of the most enlightening placements I have been on to date“.

I don't think I'm doing anything particularly special! – I'm just adapting to make placements work for the current climate.