

Employer Placement Guidance

As part of the Artist Professional Development Programme at Staffordshire University students are expected to undertake a practical arts and health placement. Every placement will be different but this guidance is intended to help explain what is required from the placement.

Background

The Artist Professional Development Programme (APDP) will be running for a third time in February 2010. The *Artist Professional Development Programme* aims to support experienced participatory artists, arts development workers and health workers interested in the arts to develop health- based work, in partnership with organisations which use the arts to meet health outcomes.

The programme encompasses a range of topics relating to the delivery of arts and health work. These include project management, safe practice and evaluation as well as critically reviewing the current health agenda, social and medical concepts of health. It also offers the opportunity to network with people working in arts and health.

The programme does not 'teach' people how to creatively deliver projects, as we only recruit students whom are already experienced practitioners in their fields. However we will advise and support students to transfer their skills to a health and well being setting and develop their work.

The Programme includes:

- Professional development through lectures and workshops led by a team from Staffordshire University which includes Janet Hetherington, Kate Gant, Mark Webster and Barbara Emadi-Coffin
- Visiting speakers from experienced Health and Well being Professionals
- Support for students to undertake a health-based project commission
- Support for employers involved in the Programme via an active Employers' Forum.

Placements

Every student will be expected to undertake a piece of arts and health work as part of the programme. To do this they require a placement and there are 3 ways in which you may host a placement.

1. If you are already working with an artist/ (arts) development worker who wants to gain more experience of health work - someone who is interested in working with arts and health partners, you could sponsor their place on the programme (assuming they have the necessary qualifications). They would need to participate in a practical project, which could be part of their existing work programme, or a contract you have already negotiated with them.

2. If you are planning an arts and health project but don't have an artist in mind you could work with us to develop a package which includes the opportunity for the successful artist (assuming they have the necessary qualifications) to participate in the Programme. You would then advertise the package to artists using your own contacts/ databases as well as the praXis network. You would then select the artist most suitable for you. We would also be very happy to advertise the opportunity to other artists who are interested in the APDP.

3. If you want to support an artist on the APDP, but are not sure if you are able to commission an arts and health project but have some resources, you could sponsor an artist and provide a voluntary placement. We would then advertise this opportunity to artists on the Programme.

Benefits

Organisations who wish to commission work as part of the Programme will benefit in a variety of ways including having the opportunity to:

- Participate in a high profile, region-wide arts and health professional development initiative which is accredited by Staffordshire University.
- Become part of an Employers' Forum for this and other short courses at the University.
- Access a pool of people with experience of running workshops or residencies in community settings.

All commissions will be documented by the students as part of their course requirements, which may assist commissioners in demonstrating the impact of the work and providing evidence of success.

Types of project

Arts and health covers a broad area of work, and we are always available to discuss possible projects.

Here are some examples of possible areas of work:

- Projects which take place in healthcare facilities and which are designed to improve well being
- Projects related to healthcare services which support participants to explore a specific health or health promotion related issues
- Projects in the community which are designed to raise awareness of a health related issue such as healthy eating, physical activity etc

Project Criteria

Any project involves three key stages: development/planning, implementation and evaluation. During the APDP placement students need to be involved in at least two of these stages. The project students are involved in must be participatory, and involve participants (staff, service users, community) throughout the key stages of the project.

A significant part of the project needs to take place between January and April, and the organisation must consent to the artist/ development worker to analyse the project as part of their critical reflection on the course (further consent from participants must be gained during the project). It does not matter if the project is not completed during this period however students need to be involved in enough work to enable them to critically reflect on their work.

The placement agency will need to provide a detailed written brief and issue a contract to the artist/ development worker. This should clearly detail the responsibilities of the artists and of the host organisation.

A named contact needs to be identified in all partner organisations and artists/ development workers need to be offered the appropriate support and guidance. As part of this process you will be required to undertake a risk assessment with the student.

We would expect the artist/ development worker to be offered appropriate supervision, and safe working conditions. This includes regular communication, supervision, relevant training, and an opportunity to reflect and report any concerns.

Costs & Times

We have also just secured funding from Staffordshire University Futures Programme to offer bursaries to all applicants applying for a place on the APDP. This means the student fee has been reduced from £500 down to £250 for everyone who is offered a place on the course.

The placement agency must be able pay the students fees plus give expenses to enable them to deliver the project.



We have already had interest from artists wanting to participate in the APDP. We will start to market this year's programme in September with an initial closing date of October 30th. This will mean that students will need to negotiate placements during November and December.

Assessment

The **Artist Professional Development Programme** is accredited at certificate level 3 and at Masters level through Staffordshire University and is one of the first fully accredited arts and health professional development programmes in the UK.

To gain the accreditation each student will be expected to make an individual presentation about their practical experience and present a portfolio containing:

- A reflective diary demonstrating the participatory nature of the process
- A reflective essay containing a critical review of theoretical issues and practical work.

Ongoing support

The University will also be continuing to hold employers' forums as a way of ensuring you can influence the content of the APDP and work with the University to support your student placement. The next meeting will be November so please let us know if you want to discuss any particular issues.