

Mapping ODP Placement Hours

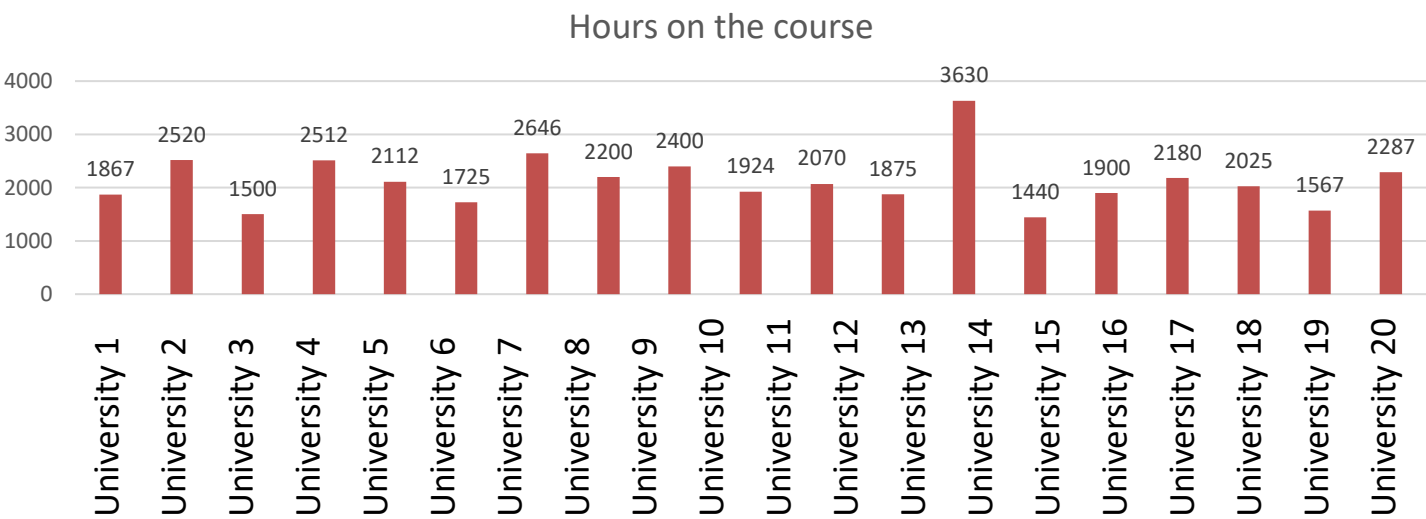
PROJECT AIM: Looked to provide a national picture for ODP placements while examining feedback from the Course leads at university.

THE PROJECT : This project mapped ODP placement hours across 19 UK universities, capturing total hours and year-by-year breakdown to establish a national benchmark for trainee clinical experience. While assessing qualitative feedback from course leads.

PROJECT FINDINGS:

Challenge or Opportunity: No national picture existed of ODP clinical placement hours. Course Leads reported wide variation across universities with no CODP guidance, creating inconsistency in student experience and graduate competency.

Actions Taken: Placement hours were collected from 19 universities (range: 1,440–3,630 hours, avg: 2,125). Year 1 avg: 660 hrs, Year 2: 743 hrs, Year 3: 734 hrs. Qualitative feedback from Course Leads confirmed widespread inconsistency and strong support for national minimum hour standards.



PROJECT IMPLICATIONS :

Impact: A national baseline is established. Course Leads report that variation leads to uneven graduate competency and capacity pressures from competing professions. All respondents supported a nationally defined minimum placement hour requirement tailored to the ODP role.

Leadership Learning: Engaging universities required persistence and clear communication, reinforcing the value of relationship-building to drive system-wide improvement.

FUTURE PLANS: Findings and Course Lead feedback will inform CODP/NHS England recommendations for minimum placement hours, protected perioperative capacity for ODP students, and structured placement block guidance.



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