

Volunteer Service Student Programme

West Suffolk Hospital's Volunteer Service Student Programme offers students in Year 10/11, in 6th Form, College or Post-Grad valuable experiences of the work of our hospital staff.

Student Volunteer placements

Our student volunteer programme is an excellent opportunity for sixth form and college students to regularly volunteer on a busy ward helping ward staff and patients at mealtimes. This is especially useful for any student considering a career in healthcare or hoping to study medicine at university.

We offer approximately 30 placements a year, with applications open from January for placements within that same year.

Students will be committed to 50 hours volunteering (at least a two hour session once a week, until 50 hours completed), from June to December or September to March. This allows students to become a valuable member of the ward team, giving them an immersive and rewarding volunteer experience, while avoiding students having to volunteer during their school exams.

Application forms will be available from January 2020 for students, age 16-19, wishing to apply for a Student Volunteer placement - email voluntary.services@wsh.nhs.uk.

Clinical Shadowing Experience placements

Clinical Shadowing placements are 1-2 days of shadowing/observing doctors, nurses, or other healthcare professionals, and are available to students over age 16, ie 6th Form/College/post-grad. The shadowing days take place Monday-Friday and often in term-time so students will be required to take a day out from 6th Form /College to attend.

Students wishing to apply should email voluntary.services@wsh.nhs.uk for an application form and are requested to complete and return it with a copy of their CV and letter from their tutor confirming their studies match their requested placement. Students will be required to complete a health questionnaire and an individual risk assessment for under 18s will be undertaken.

Non-Clinical Work Experience placements for Year 10/11s

A small number of non-clinical work experience placements may be offered each year to Year 10/11 students for 1 week only. Priority is given to local schools on a first-come-first served basis. Placements are offered in non-clinical departments, eg Human Resources and Communications, Medical Library, Estates and Facilities.

Students wishing to apply should email voluntary.services@wsh.nhs.uk for an application form and are requested to complete and return it with a copy of their CV and letter from their tutor/school confirming their interest/studies match their requested placement. Students will be required to complete a health questionnaire and an individual risk assessment for under 18s will be undertaken.



West Suffolk
NHS Foundation Trust

Voluntary Services

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January 2019

West Suffolk Hospital Student Volunteer Roles

Each role has a list of tasks volunteers are able to undertake to enhance patient experience and Trust services.

Adult Wards

Student volunteers assist staff and patients on wards, helping with meals and menu cards at mealtimes. Placements times are Monday-Sunday at

Breakfast 8am-10am
Lunch 11:30am-1:30pm
Supper 5:30pm-7:30pm

Other tasks include offering drinks to patients, tidying patient's lockers, restocking supplies, washing and making empty beds, running errands for both patients and staff as required.

Children's Ward

Student volunteers provide general ward assistance to nursing staff and assist the hospital's Play Specialist on the ward, and the staff in Children's Outpatients as required. Placements are limited to Monday to Friday and priority is given to students who are particularly pursuing a healthcare career in Paediatrics.

Friends Shop

The Friends Shop provides shopping facilities in reception and a trolley service to wards - proceeds from which are 'gifted' back to our hospital. Placements are available for students in the evenings from 4:30pm-8pm.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering opportunities for students at our hospital.

Voluntary Services Team