



SLE390 Professional Practice in Bioscience

Guidelines for placements in hospitals and health-related fields

We understand that some students may wish to continue with further studies in medicine or other health-related fields, such as the pharmaceutical industry or veterinary science, and therefore wish to complete their placement in their area of interest. However, there are limitations to the types of placements we can approve in these areas for science students.

You should ensure that you are aware of the guidelines below before you start looking for a placement, and that you discuss these requirements with potential host organisations and your supervisor when organising your placement and completing the application form.

General rules:

- We cannot approve a placement that is observational only. The placement must be practical and provide you with the opportunity to put into practice skills you have learnt throughout your science degree.
- We cannot approve any placement in which the roles/duties are outside the qualifications of an undergraduate science student (e.g. assisting with treatment or other medical procedures in a clinical placement or providing medical advice to patients or customers in a pharmacy).
- We cannot approve a placement that provides only administrative (eg receptionist duties) or customer-service involvement.
- GP clinics are unlikely to provide a suitable placement that we can approve.

The lists below provide examples of the types of roles/duties we can approve within each type of organisation.

Hospitals or medical centres

- Placements in pathology labs in lab assistant roles
- Placements in research departments assisting with research projects, sourcing and organising research journals, literature reviews, or data collection
- Placements in cardiology, radiology departments (or similar)
- Fluid/tissue analysis
- Assisting with operating diagnostic equipment
- Learning to record results into data management systems and interpret/analyse data
- Assisting with the preparation, cleaning and storing of medical equipment and supplies

NB: Many hospitals will only take students for clinical placements in which students are placed by the university. SLE390 is a self-sourced placement unit for academic purposes. The unit is designed to provide students with the opportunity to identify and source a placement themselves; this is one of the Learning Outcomes of the Unit. There will be some hospitals which will allow you to undertake a placement without going through their clinical placement system, however as it is a self-sourced placement, this is up to the student to look into. This might mean that your placement enquiry is often pushed back from hospitals.

Allied health clinics

- Assisting with operating diagnostic equipment
- Learning to record results into data management systems and interpret/analyse data
- Assisting with the preparation, cleaning and storing of medical equipment and supplies
- Preparing marketing materials such as brochures, displays and website development

Veterinary clinics

- Fluid/tissue analysis
- Assisting with operating diagnostic equipment
- Learning to record results into data management systems and interpret/analyse data
- Assisting with the preparation, cleaning and storing of medical equipment and supplies
- Cleaning and maintaining animal shelters/pens

Pharmacies or pharmaceutical companies

- Assisting with lab work and dispensing medication (under supervision)
- Preparing marketing materials such as brochures, displays and website development

If after reading the information provided you have any questions, you can contact the SEBE WIL team at les-professionalpractice@deakin.edu.au.