

Top tips for learners on practice-based learning, getting the most out of your experience

1 Introductions

Introduce yourself to your educator before you start if you can. Outline your experiences and any concerns you have. Is there any preparation that would be useful?

2 Prepare

Prepare for practice-based learning, check transport, locations and meeting times. If you are allocated wards, what sort of service users will you be seeing? Read up on those conditions. If going into public health, research or leadership practice-based learning, read up on your role in those settings.

3 Be open

Be open, ask questions and get involved. Use free time to record your reflections and practice reasoning, speak to other team members and seek out useful information.

4 Discuss

Discuss with supervisors if there is anything that you don't feel comfortable or at risk of doing. Make sure you know exactly which tools and how many of each you need to collect for your university.

5 Share experiences

Swap experiences with other learners, particularly if they are from another university, or from others you know at different trusts.

6 Opportunities

Grasp opportunities to work with other AHPs, nursing or health and social care professions. Your learning experience will be enriched by different perspectives.

7 Be flexible

Don't expect every practice-based learning experience to be highly structured and always follow a set plan. The real world is variable with unexpected changes! This allows you to learn to be creative, flexible and adaptable ready for your first role.

