

Agreed SEEL statement on Professional Placements in Years 2 and 3

Applicants need to be aware of the expectations and requirements associated with the placements. Accepting a place on any of the SEEL programmes (UCL Institute of Education, Southampton, Tavistock, UCL Psychology and Language Sciences and UEL) carried with it an acceptance of these expectations and requirements relating to the Year 2/3 placements.

(In Year 1 each SEEL programme makes its own placement arrangements, details of which can be found on the programme websites. Applicants to Southampton should note that placement in Year 1 at Southampton requires trainees to travel to placement in surrounding local authorities; typically Portsmouth and Hampshire. Trainees will be expected to drive, or to make whatever arrangements are necessary to allow them to undertake the full range of placement activities in a timely fashion.)

The following agreed statement applies to placements in Years 2 and 3 which involve 130 days – which approximates to 3 days per week in school term time. The Year 2/3 placements are made anonymously by a Placement Panel of 6 Principal Educational Psychologists, two each from each of the 3 SEEL regions (the South East, East and London). Programme Director and trainee representatives are available to the Placement Panel as advisors.

In May of Year 1 trainees recruited through the selection process are required to nominate, according to the specific requirements and in order of preference, 5 of the bursaried placements that have been pledged in the SEEL region. While the Placement Panel will try where possible to allocate trainees a Year 2/3 placement in one of the 5 they have nominated, and primarily take account of their address which must also be provided; trainees need to be aware that they could be placed anywhere in the region. The boundaries of the SEEL region extend from Norfolk west to Oxford, south to Dorset and east to Kent. In addition to considering the needs of SEEL trainees the Placement Panel will also consider the needs of LAs for bursary placements to meet the needs of children and young people in their area. For information, the placements that were available in May 2017 can be viewed until the end of December 2017 on the SEEL Bursary website at:

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/educational-psychology/decpsy/bursary_placements_2017.html

In 2017, 100% of trainees received one of their 5 nominations and in 2016, 94% did.

The 5 nominations made by each trainee on their Trainee Preference Form are subject to the following specific requirements:

- At least one of the placements listed by each trainee has to be an 'out of London' placement (see the SEEL Bursary website for a list of inner London, outer London and 'out of London' placements).
- Unless a trainee has an authenticated medical condition that prevents them from driving, they are expected to have a current driving licence and have the use of a car for their 130 placement days in each of Years 2 and 3. If allocated a placement where a car is designated as essential trainees will be expected to provide one, or to make whatever arrangements are necessary to allow them to undertake the full range of placement activities in a timely fashion, as if they had a car.
- No more than 3 Inner London placements can be nominated by each trainee. There are typically very many fewer Inner London Placements than there are trainees expressing a preference for them. Where there are surplus placements elsewhere in the SEEL region trainees from other programmes may apply through their Programme Director for consideration by the SEEL Placement Panel. It is not possible for SEEL trainees to have Year 2/3 placements outside the SEEL region.

- Trainees who are parents of dependent children (e.g. pre-school or with SEND) or have sole child care responsibilities, or who have provided their programme director with evidence of a medical issue affecting their ability to travel (a letter from their GP or disability assessment) will be able to record this information on their form for validation by their programme director and special consideration by the Panel. No other personal information may be entered on the form.
- In order to encourage an appropriate diversity of placement experience, consecutive placements should be different. Trainees therefore should not express a preference for a Year 2 placement in an office base where they have had an extended placement in Year 1. However be aware that such a placement may need to be allocated by the Placement Panel.