



Agreed SEEL statement on Professional Placements in Years 2 and 3

Applicants need to be aware of the expectations and requirements associated with the Year 2 and 3 placements. Accepting a place on any of the SEEL programmes (Institute of Education, Southampton, Tavistock, UCL and UEL) carried with it an acceptance of the requirement to take a placement within our geographical area. The SEEL region currently extends from Norfolk east to Oxford, south to Dorset and west to Kent.



(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, one each from each of the 3 SEEL regions (the South East, East and London). PEP Panel Chair, 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 east to Oxford, south to Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) and west 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.

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 prevented them from driving, they are expected to have a current driving license 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 **two** 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. Only trainees attending a SEEL programme will be considered for London placements. 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, are registered carers 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 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, trainees should not express a preference for a Year 2/3 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.
- The placement panel prioritises those who got their 5th or 6th choice should they come back to panel the following year.
- Each trainee who is allocated a 5th or 6th choice automatically receives the full £19,960 bursary AND a share of the travel fund as per the usual algorithm as agreed at our SEEL meeting.

There might be small changes before the next placement panel based on recommendations from the Task & Finish Placement Panel Working Group.