

Placements

Information for Prospective Students for 2017 entry

Why are placements part of the programme at Oak Hill?

Placements are a core part of your training, integrating learning and application in real-life ministry situations, and the main vehicle for them is the Foundation Degree (FdA), which is a work based learning degree. A key purpose of placements is to give you experience of a different church in order to develop gifts, learn about other forms of ministry, and to see a different church in action. In addition to helping you learn specific ministry skills, we also aim to help you learn a right and godly attitude in ministry, namely one of servant-leadership. Placements are also the context in which assignments for some of your taught modules are completed. Moreover we recognise that church family involvement is essential as College is not a replacement for church.

Who is responsible for deciding where I am placed?

It is college's responsibility to allocate placement churches and ensure that there is appropriate discussion of your needs and the church's requirements and contributions. Careful consideration goes into selecting your placement church. We would therefore encourage you to be positive and proactive in your approach to serving in the church, as a student's attitude to the placement is a key factor in making it a profitable experience. Normally placements are within the evangelical tradition, but see below for specific requirements for Anglican ordinands.

Who are placements for and what form do they take?

- CertHE students (full time and part time): you will complete a weekly church placement (PM1.1).
- FdA students (full time and part time): depending on your stream, the following placements are a compulsory part of the programme for:
 - Anglican Ordinands (TPS)
 - Weekly church placements (PM1.2 & PM2.2)
 - Block placement (PM2.5)
 - College weekend mission (PM2.6)
 - Independent TPS
 - Weekly church placements (PM1.1 & PM2.1)
 - Block placement (PM2.5)
 - College weekend mission (PM2.6)
 - Independent TCY
 - Weekly church placements (PM1.3 & PM2.3)
 - TCY mission, which is generally a holiday club or camp (PM2.7)
 - Independent TCC
 - Weekly church placements (PM1.4 & PM2.4)
 - Summer cross-cultural placement (PM2.8)
- Part time students: because your placement church serves as the setting for a range of different assignments at CertHE- and FdA-level, you will need to complete a weekly church placement during each of your CertHE and FdA years. Thus, for example, if you are completing the FdA part time over four years, you would need to have a placement in all four of those years. Please see 'How do church placements work?' below for details of where your placement may be.

Weekly church placements

What will involvement in my placement church look like?

Your involvement with your placement church will take a number of forms. We want to encourage you to make your placement church your regular 'home' church. This would involve:

- Regular attendance at this church
- Observation followed by reflection in conversation with your appointed supervisor in the church about ministry-related issues
- Particular opportunities for participating in ministries in which you have not previously been engaged
- A number of your module assignments will be undertaken at your placement church.

How do the church placements work?

- **Anglican Ordinands** are required to do two different weekly church placements in your first two years. If you are staying for a third year, you are free to choose which Anglican church you go to, in consultation with your personal tutor, and you may decide to stay at one of the churches you were placed at in your first two years. One of your placements needs to be 'out of tradition' – this can be either one of your weekly church placements in years 1 and 2, or your block placement (see below). This is a Ministry Division requirement for ordinands to give you experience outside your own tradition and to increase your understanding of the spectrum of churchmanship in the Church of England.
- **Full Time Independent Students (TPS)** have a weekly church placement for both years of the FdA and you are encouraged to be in the same church for that time (and longer if you are at college for more than two years). You have the option of changing churches for one of your years in order to gain more experience, which would need to be agreed with the Placements Coordinator.
- **Full Time Independent Students (TCY)** are required to have a weekly church placement in a church with significant youth and/or children's ministry with either a full time children's or youth worker. While some students will stay in the one church for their entire time at college, you may need to change church placement in order to get a broad experience of children's and youth work. You are strongly recommended to do a placement in your BA(Hons) year as well.
- **Full Time Independent Students (TCC)** are required to have a weekly church placement in a congregation in which you will experience cross-cultural dynamics. The first year placement aims to give you a taste of multi-cultural Christian worship. The second year placement is intended to expose you to Christian worship in an unfamiliar setting, where the culture is significantly different from your own.
- **Part Time Independent Students (TPS)** normally have your weekly church placement in your home church or the church where you are working.
- **Part Time Independent Students (TCY, TCC)** normally have your weekly church placement in your home church or the church where you are working. This is to be agreed with the relevant stream Director. Occasionally additional placements will be required to provide the necessary training opportunities and experience.

How are church placements allocated?

- On the Application Form, you have the opportunity to make us aware of any relevant information relating to your placement.
- Once you have an Assured Place to study at Oak Hill, you will be asked to complete a Placement Form, which is an opportunity for you to specify your experience and areas for learning and development.
- It is then college's responsibility to allocate the placements, in consultation with yourself, your sending church and any placement church.
- **For TPS students (PM1.1/1.2):** Our Placements Coordinator, Paul Woodbridge, will be in touch with your sending church to discuss any particular training needs they have identified for you, and for ordinands, will also be looking at your BAP report. He will take these, your Placement Form, your Application Form and references into account when considering the most appropriate church placement for you.
- **For TCY students (PM1.3):** the TCY Director, Mel Lacy, organises the placements in consultation with you.
- **For TCC students (PM1.4):** the TCC Director, David Baldwin, organises the placements in consultation with you.

When do I find out where I have been placed and when does it start?

- **For TPS students:** Placements Coordinator, Paul Woodbridge, will normally inform you of your placement during Opening Week at the start of the academic year and give you the relevant contact details. Paul meets you individually at the start of the year and then again towards the end of the first year to review that year and discuss the next year.
- **For TCY students:** TCY Director, Mel Lacy, will inform you of your placement during Opening Week at the start of the academic year. You will be encouraged to try out the placement church to make sure it's a good fit. Mel will speak to both you and your supervisor during the initial settling in period to make sure it's working for all parties.
- **For TCC students:** TCC Director, David Baldwin, will discuss your placement with you during Opening Week at the start of the academic year. A church will be suggested for you to visit at the first possible opportunity and you will be encouraged to feed back to him on its suitability for you, especially in the light of that congregation's ethnic and cultural dynamics. Once a good fit is found, David will liaise with your placement supervisor.

Can I stay in my home church for my church placement?

For full time students, staying in your home church as your placement would only be in exceptional circumstances, and this would need to be discussed and agreed with College. If you flag this as a question when you apply to Oak Hill, we can ensure you have a conversation at the most appropriate time.

How far away could my placement church be and are my family meant to come too?

There are many churches that are part of our placement scheme and they vary in terms of distance from college/where you are living. Be prepared to travel. We strongly encourage you and your family together to make your placement church your home church. There may be times when distance, churchmanship or other factors make this a harder option than you might otherwise choose, but we encourage you to make the most of it and to persevere with this learning opportunity.

Block placements

What are the block placements?

- The block placement (PM2.5), for TPS students doing the FdA, is 21 days and takes place out of term time. It consists of two placements, one of 14 consecutive days and one of 7 days. Usually the two week placement is done in a church and the one week placement in a chaplaincy; however, the Placements Coordinator will consider requests for a two week chaplaincy placement. Information about block placements will be given early in your first term.
- The Summer Cross-Cultural Placement (PM2.8), for TCC students doing the FdA, is to last for at least one month and to be completed in the summer break between the first and second year of your programme. This placement will be in an overseas location different from your normal country of residence. The exact setting(s) must be discussed, agreed upon and planned in advance in consultation with the TCC Director and an appropriate placement supervisor based in the country to which you will be travelling.
- There is no block placement requirement for TCY students.

College missions

What are the College Missions?

- The College Weekend Mission (PM2.6), for TPS students doing the FdA, is a weekend-long church mission to be done during the first or second year of your programme. These will take place in churches around the UK and normally a team of students will go to each church. Further details will be available during the first term of each year to give you opportunity to sign up.
- The TCY Mission (PM2.7), for TCY students doing the FdA, may be a holiday Bible club, weekend away or camp and may be done at any time during the first or second year of your programme.
- There is no College Mission requirement for TCC students.

Admissions Office
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