

UCD Community Engaged Learning Impact Case Study

Physiotherapy Clinical Education & UCDVO



University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath
Ireland's Global University

PHTY30190 PHTY40760



MODULE TYPE: 10 credit clinical placement module



LECTURERS: Dr Cliona O'Sullivan, Dr Sinead McMahon, Ms Denise O'Callaghan, Ms Hilary Minch, Ms Zoe Liston



DEPT/SCHOOL: School of Public Health Physiotherapy and Sports Science, and UCD Volunteers Overseas

Module Purpose

Practice education placements are integral components embedded throughout the Physiotherapy academic programmes, facilitating the translation of theory into practice and the achievement of the standards of proficiency. Practice education placements on the UCD Physiotherapy programmes ensure that students are prepared to enter the Physiotherapy profession by meeting the physiotherapy registration board standards of proficiency for physiotherapists.

In the final year of both the UCD BSc and Professional Masters in Physiotherapy programmes, students can apply to undertake a practice education module with UCDVO. Here, students undertake the UCDVO programme consisting of global citizenship education courses, workshops and events carried out in a non-formal context, followed by 4 weeks of clinical placement overseas with clinical partners in Tanzania and Uganda. The focus of the clinical placement is strengthening community based rehabilitation and family centred care for children with disabilities, working with families and local staff involving skill sharing, education, outreach and advocacy activities.



Methods of assessment

Practice education placements are assessed using a nationally agreed physiotherapy assessment form called the Clinical Placement Assessment Form. Physiotherapy students undertaking UCDVO placements are supervised by a clinical tutor in Physiotherapy who travels with them and local physiotherapy and healthcare staff.

Community partners/ collaborators

Nurture Africa, Uganda; Church of Uganda Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda; Holy Union Sisters Tanzania



IMPACT of Community Engaged Learning on the community

"Every year I'm endlessly impressed by the commitment and enthusiasm of the students who take part in the UCDVO programme. For many it is a transformative learning experience that has a long term impact on their lives, career paths, and academic study. UCDVO aims to inspire global citizens - through the volunteering and global citizenship education programme we help students develop their skills, knowledge and awareness of the SDGs and global justice issues. Our overseas partners deeply value the contribution of the UCDVO projects to their long term development programmes."

- Hilary Minch, UCDVO

IMPACT of Community Engaged Learning on students

More than 160 Physiotherapy students have participated in UCDVO since 2012. In a qualitative study using semi structured interviews with past UCDVO Physiotherapy volunteers to understand the impact of the UCDVO Physiotherapy placement experience, UCD physiotherapy graduates reported that the experience enhanced development of their clinical and intercultural competencies and facilitated personal growth through overcoming challenges of the unique learning environment characterised by the culture and context. They attributed enhanced professional development to experiences and learnings from their UCDVO Physiotherapy placement experience.



UCD Community Engaged Learning Impact Case Study

Physiotherapy Clinical Education & UCDVO



University College Dublin
An Coláiste Ollscoile, Baile Átha Cliath
Ireland's Global University

PHTY30190 PHTY40760



MODULE TYPE: 10 credit clinical placement module



LECTURERS: Dr Cliona O'Sullivan, Dr Sinead McMahon, Ms Denise O'Callaghan, Ms Hilary Minch, Ms Zoe Liston



DEPT/SCHOOL: School of Public Health Physiotherapy and Sports Science, and UCD Volunteers Overseas

Why do I do Community Engaged Learning?

"From my own experience as a clinical physiotherapist for 10 years working in different socio-economic and cultural contexts, I believe that it is important for health professional graduates to understand the broad context of health systems and health determinants. The UCDVO Physiotherapy Placement is a unique mechanism that provides our UCD students with a high-quality experience that enables development of new perspectives, understandings and intercultural skills, which equips them, as graduates, to address health challenges and promote health equity and social justice." *Dr Cliona O'Sullivan*

"As Director of Clinical Education, I believe it is important to ensure students are provided with opportunities to engage with a range of community partners both in Ireland and abroad. As future healthcare professionals it is important that students learn the importance of engaging with community partners promoting health and wellness. Working alongside our partners in Uganda and Tanzania students experience first hand the impact they can have as physiotherapists." *Dr Sinead McMahon*

"I believe offering our students the experience of working in different socioeconomic and cultural settings is important given the changing profile of patients seen in the Irish healthcare system today. When students return to Ireland from international placements such as UCDVO, they very often have a very different perspective on healthcare systems across the globe." *Ms Denise O'Callaghan*

STUDENT QUOTE

"With every placement you learn communication skills, you learn professionalism, you learn caseload management, leadership but I think you learn it on another level on an [UCDVO] overseas placement... You really have to pull up your socks from day one."



COMMUNITY PARTNER QUOTE

"Last year was the first year of in person volunteering with UCDVO. This year we built on what was learned - the success of the four week rehab camp was more than our expectation. Together we increased community awareness around disability, helped the guardians/Mamas to be more confident about positioning and exercises for their children. Most Mamas now feel it is easier to cope and manage their children at home - and they can see the difference and changes in their children. Previously the Mamas would not really do the physical exercises at home, now it is easier for them. Providing equipment following assessments from the UCDVO students and clinical tutor also makes life easier for the children and families at home".

- SR FIDES KIMARIO, HOLY UNION SISTERS, TANZANIA



Tips for other lecturers interested in introducing CEL into their teaching

- Engage with UCDVO as there are many opportunities across other disciplines and programmes
- UCDVO is diversifying its range of volunteer projects and partners and is always interested in collaborating with colleagues from across UCD on new innovative ideas.



CONTACT DETAILS



sinead.mcmahon@ucd.ie