



Becoming a Practice Educator Information for Potential Applicants

What is a practice educator?

Practice educators play a central role in social work education. They provide student social workers with high quality placements, supervising, supporting and assessing them so that they join the social work workforce as well prepared as possible.

Why become a practice educator?

Acting as a practice educator can be a rewarding experience for any social worker who is keen to share their knowledge and experience, and support someone else to learn and develop. If you are thinking about a step into management, completing the practice educator award and supporting a student provides you with training in, and experience of supervision.

Children and Young People's Services recognises the importance of the practice educator role by making an honorarium payment for each placement day provided. Payments are made as follows:

- ✓ £10 per placement day if the student is on site.
- ✓ £7 per placement day if the student is off site (£3 per placement day is paid to the onsite link worker).

Placements are normally between 70 and 100 days in length.

What is expected of practice educators?

- ✓ After qualification Children and Young People's Services will expect you to support a student every academic year.
- ✓ To maintain your currency as a practice educator you must take a student every two academic years.

Who can become a Practice educator?

To become a practice educator you must be a qualified social worker with at least two years post qualification experience.

If you are not sure that you want to become a practice educator, you can try acting as an onsite link worker to give you more insight into the role. You would provide day-to-day support to a student while an off-site practice educator provides supervision and assessment. For further information about becoming a link worker contact Glynis.barron@durham.gov.uk

Where is the practice education award delivered?

The award is delivered by four universities in our area:

- ✓ Durham University
- ✓ Northumbria University
- ✓ University of Sunderland
- ✓ Teesside University

You can choose which university you would prefer to attend.

All the universities run similar courses, so most candidates choose based on timing and location.

How is the award delivered?

The award is delivered in two stages.

Stage 1

- ✓ Equips you to support students in their first placement (normally 70 days).
- ✓ You would be allocated a student in their first placement as part of your learning.
- ✓ The taught element of the award would normally include:
 - Designing and planning learning activities and study programmes.
 - Teaching and supporting student learning.
 - Supervising practice.
 - Assessing and giving feedback to learners.
 - Developing effective learning environments.
 - Devising appropriate methods for teaching and learning.
 - Adult learning theories.

Stage 2

- ✓ Equips you to support students on their final placement (normally 100 days), and as an off-site practice educator.
- ✓ You would be allocated a student in their final placement as part of your learning.
- ✓ The taught element of the award would normally build on the learning in stage 1 and cover:
 - Supervising practice and managing conflict.
 - Utilise a range of methods for evaluating the effectiveness of your teaching.
 - Evidence based practice and the application of research in teaching.
 - The development of work-based learning communities.

As you complete the award a fully qualified practice educator will support you, ensure the quality of the placement and contribute to the assessment of the student.

Summative assessment differs slightly by university chosen. It normally involves the submission of a portfolio, however some courses also require written assignments.

What qualification would I receive?

After successful completion of both modules you would receive the a University Certificate of Postgraduate Professional Study in Advanced Practice Education and evidence that you have completed Stage 2 of the [practice educator framework](#).

How do I apply?

To apply you need to:

1. Complete the application form.
2. Demonstrate that you have the support of your line manager and the strategic manager for your service to complete the award. You can do this by submitting the form with their signatures, or alongside e-mails evidencing their support.
3. Submit the completed form by e-mail to: Joanne.Walker@durham.gov.uk

You will then be advised of the application process for the university you have chosen.

Is there a deadline for applications?

You can apply to undertake the practice education award at any time. University programmes run at different times during the academic year.

Who can I contact for further information?

Contact Glynis Barron, Learning and Development Officer

Tel: 03000 262586

E-mail: glynis.barron@durham.gov.uk

Please note: Glynis' normal working days are Tuesday and Wednesday only.