

Q: Can we use a short form test room? Or does it have to be a traditional old school set up?

A: A short form room is fine.

Q: What challenges will College assessors face in the transition to the new system? Will they need to be retrained?

A: The College will be supporting all current and new assessors through this transition. The CLiP work-based assessments are built on strengths from the Scheme for Registration. The universities are involved in CLiP development which includes the supporting materials for CLiP.

Q: For students who wish to study theory of IP will they be required to have placements or part placements with an IP Optometrist?

A: For the MOptom we are only integrating part of the theory (the second part will be an optional module), so the placement element is not a requirement during their undergraduate studies.

Q: My understanding from the presentation is that CLiP will end at a fixed point in time - the student will either pass and be registered or not, whereas the current scheme can be quite open ended. Is that correct?

A: The structure of CLiP is so that the students should complete within the year, and assessments should take place with certain timeframes; there is some flexibility. Placement should start and finish at set points in the year, to fit with the university calendar. Students will have an opportunity to re-take assessments if they are not successful at the first attempt, so that they stay on track in their CLiP placement. If they fail at the second attempt they will need to re-enrol and take it at the next available opportunity.

Q: Will there be opportunity for students to complete hospital placement?

A: Yes!

Q: Will I be able to provide a long placement for a student who has gone to a different University in the UK?

A: Yes. Exceptions may be students from Scotland or the University of Manchester. These three universities have not yet transitioned to their ETR programmes.

Q: What are the disadvantages of this system compared to the old one?

A: There aren't any major disadvantages.

Q: Could a student choose to do part or all of CLiP in a hospital setting if they can source this?

A: Yes. This would need to be facilitated by the College of Optometrists who are already engaging with hospital employers. The College has responsibility for arranging the student placement, delegated from the university.

Q: If we already have a student lined up for the short and long placements can we keep them? Or do we have to take whoever the Uni sends us?

A: For the short placement we will try to accommodate preferences, however this may not always be possible e.g. if there are timetabling clashes. For the long placement – once the College approves your practice – you can keep them.

Q: I think my receptionists would take issue with the term 'simple' - personally I don't see how a student on a single day placement could learn my standards, my PMS and my in practice systems to be of any use to my team.

A: 'Simple' and 'Complex' are terms used frequently in the literature and not meant to cause any offence. For the early placements it is more observational, and students will still gain a useful experience. Students can be provided with information in advance of any placement if a provider wishes. Other universities have been successfully running short placements in their pre-ETR and ETR programmes, so we are not anticipating any major issues. We would be happy to work with providers to ensure any arrangements are mutually beneficial

Q: Will I need training to be a supervisor beyond what is supplied by the College? If so, will I be paid for my time?

A: No, not to be a placement supervisor

Q: We pay fees to the College of Optometrists currently for our Pre Reg's. Will there be fees for the practice going forward and who pays them?

A: There will be fees, payable to the College, for CLiP which are split between the placement provider and the university.

Q: My 'Saturday girl' is just finishing her first year. Should we give them a verbal offer now? Or wait for the process to start on your end?

A: You can give them a verbal offer now.

Q: There is a risk that the students will all be Cardiff based and the areas of Wales that have a shortage of optoms won't benefit. Perhaps Health Boards elsewhere could help with Cardiff unis bid for funding placements?

A: Yes please!

Q: In the CLiP period, are all 4 days in the test room or can they be dispensing as well?

A: The student will need 20 hours per week access to a consulting room for conducting eye examinations (including contact lenses). The student should not be working more than 30 hours per week (based on 4 days) so the remainder can be dispensing, contact lens teaches etc.

Q: Does the practice pay the students for their short placement in 2nd and 3rd year?

A: No