Dear Student,

You are about to commence a shared placement. Here is some information that will assist you in understanding what this involves and how you can take full advantage of the benefits that this type of placement has to offer.

What is a shared placement?

A shared placement involves a student being assigned to two different clinical sites during the same clinical placement. The two sites will have been selected because they complement each other. This will assist you in contextualising your knowledge and skills between the two environments.

Advantages for students

- Provides you with a sense of autonomy and independence
- You will be exposed to a broader range of clinical and learning experiences where you will be able to observe and identify similarities and differences in practice across environments. This will assist translation of knowledge into practice.
- It will assist you to develop sound self management skills such as time management, adaption to workplace culture and prioritisation of tasks.
- Having two supervisors will expose you to different supervisory styles. This will provide opportunities for you to observe, discuss and engage in a variety of supervision approaches.

Tips for getting the most out of your placement

- Discuss the expectations and workload at each site with both of your supervisors. This should continually be reviewed throughout the placement.
- Set regular supervision times with both supervisors early on in your placement. Advocate for these to be rescheduled if they are ever cancelled for whatever reason.
• The learning contract/goals are a collaborative process involving you as the student and both supervisors. It should be discussed what goals you will be able to achieve at each of the sites, and which ones will be a shared responsibility.

• Ensure you receive regular feedback both formally and informally from both supervisors throughout the duration of the placement.

• Confirm who will be present at your midway and final evaluations and where and when this will occur.

• Plan ahead as working across two sites does require you to be organised. Both supervisors will be able to support you in identifying strategies to assist with organisation and prioritisation of tasks if required.

• Prepare and plan for your supervision sessions (go to supervision with a documented agenda). This is the time you can feed back any concerns or issues you are experiencing, and address them with your supervisors in a timely manner.

• Do not feel you need to ‘copy’ one supervisor’s style. Take the responsibility to discuss the differences with each of your supervisors as this will help facilitate your clinical reasoning skills.

We hope you enjoy your placement.

References: