

Policy for Pregnant Students

If you become aware that you are pregnant you should initially inform your Academic Advisor. You should arrange to meet with your Academic Advisor to secure a referral to Occupational Health and to discuss the implications for your studies in relation to sharing information with clinical colleagues if on placement and also the need to secure a formally agreed authorised absence from your studies via the [interruptions](#) policy as extant within undergraduate programmes.

In all instances you are required to inform the School of your pregnancy and to secure an appointment with [Occupational Health](#) to ensure that all necessary support mechanisms and reasonable adjustments are in place to protect yourself.

Prior to any period of interruption you will need to meet your Branch or Field Co-ordinator to formalise and agree the interruption. At this interview you should complete the Interruptions Form and agree the date of interruption and a provisional return date. It is your responsibility to contact the school 15 weeks prior to your return to confirm your intentions.

You are required to provide the University with some form of confirmation of the pregnancy before commencing maternity leave, for example, a MATB1 form, which is available from a GP or midwife. This form is usually provided once a pregnancy has been established for 20 weeks.

If you are in receipt of a NHS bursary you are entitled to maternity pay for 45 weeks commencing from 11th week prior to confinement.

If you wish to preserve your bursary payments you should not interrupt before you have submitted your MATB1 form.

It is for you and the University to discuss and agree when the period of interruption should begin.

You can find more information about maternity pay from [NHS Bursaries](#) and other [benefits](#) you may be entitled to.

Please self-refer to Occupational Health in the first instance if you experience any problems with your pregnancy that you feel impacts on your programme of study.

For students engaging in clinical practice a Risk Assessment will be required:

Students must inform the placement manager of their pregnancy on each placement so that a risk assessment specific to the area can be undertaken and recorded. Likely areas to be considered may include:

- Participation in manual handling procedures
- Exposure to radiotherapeutic investigations
- Sequencing and length of shift patterns
- Exposure to infectious disease
- Working in Theatres

- Preparation and administration of cytotoxic chemotherapeutic agents
- Exposure to hazardous waste
- Provision of Uniforms
- Access to rest areas
- Students who are non-responders to Hepatitis B vaccination, may require restrictions to practice based on risk assessment.

Students returning to study:

You will be informed that you must take at least two weeks compulsory leave following birth by law: [Pregnancy and Maternity Rights](#).

It is your responsibility to contact the school 15 weeks prior to your return to confirm your intentions.

You will be required to have a review with [Occupational Health](#) prior to your return to secure clearances to recommence your programme of study.