Accommodation Requirements Whilst on GP Placements

Students who are on placement in locations further than an hour’s drive of Swansea University require accommodation to be provided in order for them to be able to complete their studies further afield. Our current practice is that Swansea University Medical School requests that practices find accommodation for our students whilst they are on placement with the practice. The reason for this request is that practices have a better understanding of the locality and so are best suited to finding accommodation. Swansea University appreciate the goodwill shown by the practices in doing this and we have always found this system to work well for both parties.

In order to ensure consistent accommodation standards we have outlined the requirements of the accommodation provided below:

Health and Safety Considerations

- All accommodation should be able to be secured, and have a safe, suitable access.
- Students should be able to access their accommodation at any time during their placement e.g. day and night.
- Appropriate heating and lighting should be provided with low level external noise.
- Access to a landline is required where there is insufficient signal for mobile phone use.

The Accommodation

- Students should have facilities to be able to cook an evening meal or alternatively have an evening meal provided for them.
- Ideally in Bed and Breakfast accommodation the student will have access to their own En-suite.
- A suitable study area to include:
  - A desk with suitable lighting
  - Access to facilities for “down time” e.g. TV, comfortable chair or sofa or access to a TV lounge
  - WI-FI or other internet provision is essential unless this has been previously cleared with the Medical School. If in a rural attachment the internet provision is sub-optimum, the student has an option to obtain a ‘dongle’ from the CBL team or Education Unit. It is the student’s responsibility to contact us in such circumstances.
- Sharing accommodation with a neighbouring teaching practice is encouraged where students are on single person placements within the practice, especially in rural placements.
The Location

- The accommodation should be as close as reasonably practicable to the GP practice e.g. walking distance or have good public transport links to the GP practice. Where this is not able to be fulfilled the GP practice will need to inform the Medical School in advance of student placement.
- There should be access to local facilities such as a laundrette and essential shopping.

Accommodation costs will be reimbursed to the practice up to the value of £30 per student per night. This can be claimed back by completing the “accommodation invoice template” which is emailed to the practice at the end of the placement. It is entirely appropriate for a student attending a practice located a long distance from the Medical School to be provided accommodation for the night before the start of the first day of the clinical block – this will usually be the Sunday night before the Monday – being the usual the first day of the CBL block in both Years 3 and 4.

If accommodation does not meet these requirements then alternative accommodation may need to be offered or in exceptional circumstances a change of placement.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the Education Unit mededucation.unit@swansea.ac.uk or Telephone: 01792 513421