**Checklist: Science pre-placement - Student readiness and objective setting**

Learning objectives are set for students in the pre-placement stage, that is when they have successfully applied for a placement but before it starts. The objectives align to the employer’s requirements for students when they start their placement. The objectives also help to prepare students by getting them ready for the challenge of going into the placement. Objectives should be set using information captured during discussions about the placement with employers.

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| Objective | Purpose | Timeline |
| Conduct a health assessment | To meet the employer’s requirement for health screening where applicable including to understand about vaccination requirements and DBS checks | 3 months before the placement is due to start |
| Develop employability skills | To ensure the student has the necessary communication and teamwork skills needed within the placement | Throughout the pre-placement period through part-time work and other activities including class-based activity |
| Introduce standards, policies, and procedures  | To help students understand the basics of what the employer expects them to know and how to behave, including health and safety requirements  | Throughout the pre-placement period through assignments, projects, or class-based activity |
| Learn to use equipment  | To ensure that students can use equipment such as glassware, pipettes, centrifuges and, electronic equipment, to at least basic standard | Pre-placement where possible with the option of front-loading the use of specialist equipment early in the placement |
| Practice written skills | To familiarise the student with recording tools and techniques and protocols for completing documentation, labels, and symbols, and to develop accuracy in spelling scientific terms  | Throughout the pre-placement period through activities which require accurate writing and competence in recording observations, colours, scales and measurements. |
| Practice maths for science | To develop mathematical skills and aptitudes, including the use of specialist mathematical terms (milli-, micro-, nano), the ability to work with scientific notation, and an understanding of relative scale  | Pre-placement where possible with the option of front-loading to match the type and number of numerical manipulations required by the employer |
| Scientific discipline training | To make sure that the student knows how to use evidence to draw inferences or to reject theories unsupported by evidence | Throughout the pre placement period through activities in which students analyse data, use observations, and make inferences based on sound critical thinking |
| Ability to use software | To make sure the student has at least a basic level of competence in software packages used by the employer, such as Matlab, Excel, Word.  | Throughout the pre-placement period through access to practice sessions, data sets. |