

First-hand feedbacks from institutions having hosted EHESP students



Dr Mohammed Said BELKADI
Director of the Ibn Tofail Hospital
University teaching hospital of Marrakech - MOROCCO

“Hosting a hospital director student from the EHESP is tremendously useful for a placement manager from several points of view.

The highly productive exchanges he has with director students help him to catch up on all the changes in the French healthcare system and to pinpoint strategic guidelines for improving his own system. He can take advantage of their observations, and identify and analyze areas where things are not ideally working in the host organization.”



Mrs. Victoria CHESTON
Divisional General Manager - Ambulatory Patient Care
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
ENGLAND

“Hosting an international placement provided us with a great opportunity to help someone learn about the English health system and also to learn about the system in France. We were able to share and discuss areas where we had mutual problems but also to provide new ideas and solutions in areas where one or other of us had made real progress. It was great to have an additional member of the team providing such a different and helpful perspective. We are looking forward to future collaborations.”



Dr Constantin BOGDAN
Associate Professor at the University of Bucharest
St Luke's Hospital – ROMANIA

“I have in fact created an itinerant, hands-on placement so that students can learn about a wide range of models and practices, special features, ideas, innovative approaches, and of course, results. The placement includes visits and not only horizontal micro-placements (networks of public and private institutions, NGOs, etc.), but also vertical ones in groups dealing with coordination, with decision-making and health and welfare policies for elderly people, and with the chronically ill, dependent and handicapped persons.

I am very happy with the comments from trainees who told me that during this critical transition period they learned how to achieve objectives and meet requirements with limited financial means - which is the case in our country - by mobilizing and deploying human resources more effectively, and through the stimulating influence of an innovative spirit.”

Placement abroad: a significant time for mutual discovery



Beyond the specificities of each country, the French, European and French-speaking healthcare and social welfare sectors are facing reforms involving numerous constraints in addition to the required quality of the service provided daily to the users.

Managers in the healthcare and social welfare sectors in our various countries therefore share strong values and expertise: managerial acumen, rigorous management, and communication excellence.

The Ecole des hautes études en santé publique (French School of Public Health) is proposing that you host in your organization, for a one or two-month period, a future manager of the French healthcare and social welfare sector who is training for a master's degree.

For the student, placement abroad is a privileged period to discover the professional world, to put to practice and acquire an expertise related to his training. The trainee learns from other organizations and working methods, while improving his or her language capabilities and gaining open-mindedness. This is a true opportunity to study different healthcare or social welfare systems.

For the organization hosting the trainee this is a chance to review its own practices, while gaining new knowledge and vision by comparing its organization with the French healthcare and social welfare system and its challenges.

Past experience demonstrates that this is an opportunity for mutual discovery and productive exchanges, sometimes beyond the duration of the placement.

International Mobility Office



The EHESP: a school unique in France

The Ecole des hautes études en santé publique or EHESP was created on 1st January 2008. This translates as French School of Public Health.

The new school takes over the missions and responsibilities of the former ENSP, in particular, vocational training for public health managers, and it extends its scope to include new specialities, diplomas and international collaboration.

The four key missions of the EHESP are training managers of health and social welfare institutions, offering higher education degree courses, research and international relations.

The 5 departments at the EHESP are:

- department of information sciences & biostatistics
- department of epidemiology & clinical research
- department of health, environment & occupational health
- Institute of management
- department of human, social and behavioral science.

A school with an international scope

Since its foundation, international activities have been a fundamental aspect of the EHESP. Starting with the hosting of foreign students, it then focused on training engineering projects to help develop human resources in countries needing aid. Today, the EHESP has achieved a truly international dimension by promoting exchanges of students and teaching staff in the European Union and French-speaking countries and by developing a definitely transnational training offer.

These EHESP actions, mobilizing experts from the school and the healthcare and welfare sector, are coordinated by the school's international relations department.



Three professional training courses include a foreign placement option

The courses last from 24 to 27 months depending on the professional fields, with placements lasting about 13 months including a stay in a foreign institution.

■ “Directors of Health and/or Welfare Institutions” students

- **Placement organizations:** public health and welfare institutions, non-governmental organizations and local authorities in charge of the welfare sector.
- **Duration of the “international” placement:** 2 months.

■ “Health and Welfare Inspectors” students

- **Placement organizations:** public health and welfare institutions, non-governmental organizations and local authorities in charge of the welfare sector.
- **Duration of the “international” placement:** 1 month.

■ “Hospital Directors” students

- **Placement organizations:** hospitals.
- **Duration of the “international” placement:** 2 months.

Placements abroad

Placement objectives and benefits

■ For the host institution:

- Assessment of its practices.
- Inflow of new knowledge.
- The opportunity to participate in the annual two-day “exchanges and internal placements” forum at the EHESP. The forum aims to exchange information on the common issues of the various countries, based on the experiences of EHESP trainees who have undertaken hands-on placements in foreign countries. It also provides the opportunity to meet other professionals from within and outside France.
- Reciprocity: the EHESP supports the organization of study trips in France for students or professionals from organizations that have hosted EHESP students or their partners.

■ For the students:

- Being able to analyze and understand health and welfare concerns in the host country.
- Studying the foreign country's institutions and professional practices and comparing these with France.
- Making use of their skills and knowledge in hands-on situations.
- Discovering and seeking to understand another culture.
- Strengthening EHESP's links with the host country.



The placement agreement: a guarantee that things will run smoothly

This agreement is a contractual document defining the student's legal status during the placement, and containing information such as the nature and duration of the placement, cover for work accidents, and payment (no expenses for the host institution).

After fine-tuning the practical aspects, the EHESP, the host institution and the student sign an agreement which is tailor-made to the specific aspects of each placement.

It is recommended that each trainee has a permanent special contact or “placement tutor” within the host institution during his stay, whose tasks are to welcome the student, to work out a placement program in line with the placement objectives, to facilitate contacts with the staff, organization users and partner institutions during the stay, and to ensure that the placement runs smoothly up to the appraisal stage.

The student also has an academic tutor at the EHESP to provide educational and methodological assistance, from the preparation up to the completion of the placement.

The trainee is obviously bound to a strict obligation of confidentiality and professional discretion with regard to the host establishment.

Some key figures

- The opportunity to undertake a placement abroad is offered to more than 50% of students at the EHESP during their initial training.
- 250 foreign institutions have already hosted EHESP students in placements.
- Some 40 countries offer placements.
- Each year, over 100 students undertake foreign placements.