



## **Faculty of Health**

### **Guidance for Support of Students who are Pregnant and New Mothers**

#### **1.0 Introduction:**

As a Faculty, we hold an obligation to ensure students receive the appropriate support if they opt to continue their studies during pregnancy.

#### **2.0 Academic study**

It is the responsibility of the student to inform the Programme Director of their pregnancy as soon as possible.

It is good practice to inform the Programme Director before twenty-two weeks of the pregnancy.

Pregnant students continuing with their academic study may not require any additional support or arrangements. Should these be required, this would need to be explored with student services as to what action is required.

If illness related to pregnancy affects the submission of coursework or prevents attendance/completion of an examination, the University Extenuating Circumstances procedure should be used by the student.

The Faculty has the provision of an Infant feeding room, which allows new mothers to express breast milk whilst attending University.

#### **3.0 Placement Learning**

Once the Programme Director is aware of the pregnancy or an early return to work after the birth, Placement Allocation staff must be notified in order to ensure a maternity risk assessment can be carried out in practice and any special arrangements put in place. It is assumed that if a student opts to continue with placements whilst pregnant, they do so with the support of the medical practitioner responsible for their care during pregnancy. It is the responsibility of the student to seek this support and only continue with the agreement of the medical practitioner.

The student should be given the option to attend Occupational Health Department for support and guidance, should they wish to do so. This will require a management referral from the Programme Director.

If a student wishes to continue with a placement beyond twenty-eight weeks of the pregnancy, they will have to provide written confirmation that the Medical Practitioner responsible for their care supports this.

The student is entitled to remain on the programme and continue with placement up to the birth of the child, they are not permitted to return to placement until two weeks after the delivery. At this point they would need to seek the agreement of the medical practitioner.

On return to placement, a further risk assessment will be required to be carried out. When allocating Pregnant or New mothers, the Placement provider and the Student need to agree duties that can and cannot be undertaken during placement, taking into account any potential physical and chemical Hazards. A written record must be kept of this for each placement undertaken.

**Birmingham City University's commitment to equality means that this policy has been screened in relation to paying due regard to the general duty in relation to the relevant protected characteristics, the use of comprehensible, inclusive language, and the avoidance of stereotypes. This document is available in alternative formats on request.**

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Equality Analysis completed 21.9.12