



## Student Case Study – Olabode Ajose, Youth Work Charity

“My placement has not only reinforced my commitment to the social work profession, but it has also broadened my perspective about the numerous opportunities that are accessible within the field.”

**Olabode Ajose - MSW Social Work**

### Can you tell us about the placement opportunity you were involved in and what your role entailed?

My placement was with a non-statutory, community-based youth work charity organization in Leith, Edinburgh. The youth centre focuses on young people and those who are disadvantaged or from low-income families within the Leith community. One of my responsibilities was to assess the needs of service users and offer support as they work towards improving their well-being. I focused on providing one-on-one help to a young person with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) who needs to become more independent to realize their full potential. I worked with young male offenders who were between the ages of fifteen and seventeen, who were in danger of committing future crimes. In addition to this, I offered specialized support to children between the ages of five and seven struggling with behavioural, social, or emotional issues. I also worked in conjunction with the pantry program at Leith Primary school to identify the prospective needs and high-risk circumstances of parents who were getting pantry services and who required intervention.

### What key skills did your placement teach you?

I was able to acquire a lot of skills during my placement, including the capacity to provide service users with compassionate care and the ability to actively listen to the perspectives of others. Because of the work I do with young people who suffer from both emotional and behavioural challenges, I had to pay special attention to both of these aspects. In addition, I have become much better at self-reflection, which was another area in which I needed to develop. As a result of this placement, I now have greater confidence in both my abilities and my aptitude for successful communication across a wide variety of multi-professional teams. I represented my placement agency at the 2022 Hate Crime Week of Action workshop, which was sponsored by Youth Link Scotland and Respectme. I was able to speak about the significance of establishing a support program for young people who are bullied, particularly those who haven't gone back to school since the outbreak of COVID-19. My level of self-awareness and my ability to interact with others has significantly improved as a direct result of the lessons I learned in the seminar.

### What were your highlights and key successes of your time on placement?

My one-on-one work with a child who suffered from ADHD was undoubtedly one of the most rewarding aspects of my experience. Because this was my very first experience, I naturally felt anxious about it. Nevertheless, with the help of my Practice Educator, I was able to get past my initial concerns and enjoyed the experience. As a result of the interventions, the child is gaining a better understanding of the connection between their actions and the consequences. They are also demonstrating more maturity and self-control regarding their interactions with others and their feelings.



## Student Case Study – Olabode Ajose, Youth Work Charity

“Edinburgh Napier University has given me a great education that has helped me develop my identity and get ready for my placement.”

Olabode Ajose - MSW Social Work

### Did you face any challenges during your time on placement?

One challenge I encountered as an international student was balancing the demands of my placement and my personal life. To cope with these difficulties, I had to confide in my Practice Educator who gave me a new perspective on how to better manage my time. My productivity, calmness under pressure, and overall well-being have all improved as a result. At first, it was difficult, but I eventually adjusted.

### How do you feel that your studies at Edinburgh Napier University prepare you for this placement?

My studies have provided me with the necessary theoretical knowledge, legislative framework, facts, information, and self-knowledge to perform excellently in placement. The blended learning methods, such as role-playing, case studies, and group assignments, illustrate this point, and the class lectures allow me to identify my areas of development to get the required support. My experience working in teams and giving presentations has helped me hone my verbal, nonverbal, and noncognitive abilities, as well as my social and problem-solving. I have learned about the importance of teamwork and the promotion of service users' rights, values, and autonomy at all times.

### Do you think your experience(s) from the placement affected your future career plans or last year of university?

100% yes! My work with young people opened my eyes to the importance of social workers in the community. It showed me how I can make a positive impact on the lives of other people. I enjoyed and treasured both of these experiences. Because of the hands-on experience I have gained, I am certain that I will continue to pursue a career in social work since it will enable me to assist others in the development of their abilities and their capacity to make use of their resources as well as those of the community. I have a strong desire to contribute to the effort of finding solutions to societal problems and other social challenges, such as abuse, addiction, discrimination, poverty and violence in the home.

### What advice would you give to someone considering doing a placement at university?

My first piece of counsel to anyone considering doing a placement is to prioritize taking care of yourself. It is normal to experience anxiety when starting something new; however, it is important not to overdo it. The purpose of the placement is to help you become a better version of who you already are. Placements present students with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to test the waters with something novel and see whether or not it would be a suitable fit for you. The next step is to do some research on your placement host. Show a willingness to acquire knowledge. Everything will turn out well if you maintain a positive mental attitude. Time spent on my placement has equipped me with priceless training that is based on real-world scenarios and cannot be recreated effectively in a traditional classroom setting.