



Prifysgol Cymru
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Yr Athrofa Professional Learning Partnership

Trawsnewid Addysg Gyda'n Gilydd Transforming Teaching Together

Electives Experience

STEER Document Student Handbook

BA3

18.01.2027 - 22.01.2027



The Module Team

Welcome to the Elective Steer Document for BA Year 3. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, then please get in touch:

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What is the Elective Experience?

The Electives Experience links theory to practice for the module *Researching the Learning*. It takes place in a school setting and provides you with the opportunity to conduct a small-scale case study to gain a deeper knowledge and understanding of an area that relates to a professional interest.

What will you be doing?

Over the five-day elective experience, you will gather data to answer a research question that you have decided upon in the taught sessions of the module. You will use at least two of the following methods to capture your data:

- Observation
- Group interview with learners
- Individual staff interviews
- Questionnaires

Presentation

On the final day of the Electives, you will share your research including findings and any recommendations. This should be seen as a professional opportunity for sharing, and the audience can include any appropriate stakeholder, including learners, from the school community.

The presentation should be up to 15 mins including time for questions and discussion.

Ethical Behaviour

We take this aspect of the module and the elective experience very seriously.

You are required to act in a professional and ethical way whilst conducting your research. You will have received ethical approval for your study and should abide by the school's requirements regarding consent.

An expectation of professionalism, as outlined in the EWC's Code of Conduct and BERA(2024) is expected from all student-teachers and are available here:

<https://www.ewc.wales/site/index.php/en/fitness-to-practise/code-of-professional-conduct-and-practice>

[Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research, fifth edition \(2024\) | BERA](#)

What themes might be offered for the Electives Experience?

Schools can offer a number of opportunities for the Electives experience and the focus should be on developing your personal pedagogy and professional practice. It needs to be something that you can use to influence your own teaching.

The offer can also include emerging practice if schools are trialing a new approach. You will need to select a first and second choice, and schools may like to work together to build an offer.

Suggested Menu

The following menu contains some ideas for the Electives experience that may help you decide. The list is not exhaustive or prescriptive:

- Pupil-teacher relationships – for example, establishing a positive learning environment
- Classroom management
 - Prevention
 - Restorative
- Cross-curricular skills
- Use of technology – specifically AI
- Questioning approaches
- Effective modelling
- Multi-lingual learners
- Child wellbeing – trauma informed practice e.g. professional learning for teaching staff
- Teaching reading – phonics, guided and shared
- Literacy – oracy, spelling, writing
- Numeracy and the proficiencies
- Differentiation and inclusive practice
- Metacognition
- Learner effectiveness – understanding progression
- Early years
 - Play-based learning
 - Non-maintained curriculum
 - Enabling learning
 - Schemas

What is not on offer

Anything where it would be difficult for you to gather data – e.g. very specific ALN, nurture groups or where the learner's needs are complex. We would also suggest that gathering information from parents/guardians is not possible given the short timescale.

What do I need to do?

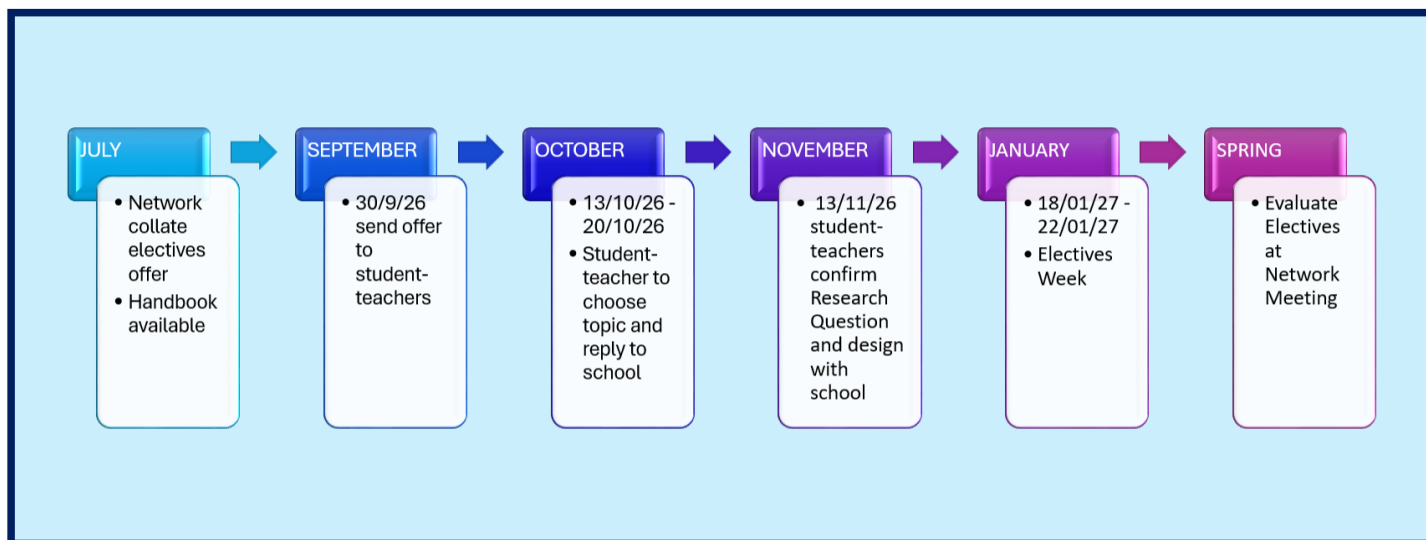
Electives will take place within each network and Network Leads will match your interests with available placements. Each experience will differ slightly depending on the setting; however, the expectation is that you spend five days in the school and that a member of staff (typically the Network Lead or Senior Mentor) will co-ordinate the experience (Electives Co-ordinator).

You will be allocated a space to work and the opportunity to gather your data – time will be given for you to work on your data and prepare for your presentation.

Can I work from home or off-site?

No

Key dates for 2026/7



What the week might look like – a suggested structure

Date	Suggested Activity
Day 1 Welcome	• Getting to know the school, e.g. expectations regarding arrival, base room, school information, a learning walk around school. • Induction into school including safeguarding and sharing any policies/vision/practice related to the student-teacher's area of interest. • Time given for student-teachers to arrange their research schedule. This should include opportunities to obtain consent, plans to gather data (observations, interviews) together with time given for independent work.
Day 2 Gathering Data	• Student-teachers begin to follow their lines of inquiry and gather evidence on their research focus. Methods to include observation, interviews, and questionnaires.
Day 3 Gathering data	• Students-teachers continue to follow their lines of inquiry. They should be able to complete data collection today.

Day 4 Reflection and Preparation	• Time for reflection and preparation - student-teachers should use today to review and clarify unanswered aspects of their research. • Student-teachers need time today to prepare their presentations for tomorrow.
Day 5 Presentation	• An opportunity for student-teachers to present their findings to peers and school/university colleagues. • Suggested structure: ○ Rationale for Elective choice ○ Review of key literature ○ Ethical thinking ○ Gathering of data and analysis ○ Findings ○ Recommendations ○ References

What to do – at a glance

As a student-teacher, I will ...	As an elective co-ordinator I will..
liaise with school to introduce myself and share my research 'one pager'.	welcome the student-teachers and ensure they are familiar with the appropriate school policies
engage fully with the electives experience in a professional way.	ensure the student-teachers have a place to work and are supported throughout the experience by key staff members.
undertake a case study linked to my chosen area/subject.	provide a range of opportunities for student-teachers to gather information e.g. appointments with teachers
share my research with an invited audience in a professional manner.	invite colleagues to the student-teacher presentations on Day 5.
behave ethically in accordance with BERA guidelines (2024)	engage in reflective dialogue with the student-teachers and welcome observations and comments.

As a Network Lead, I will...
Agree a menu of Elective opportunities with Partner schools
Liaise with the module team to confirm the Electives offer for the Network
Finalise and share arrangements for the elective experiences with the student-teacher
Allocate appropriate funding for the agreed activities
Agenda the Electives evaluation for the Autumn Network Meeting
Complete the QA process as detailed in this document

Quality Assurance Steps

For the electives experience, our QA steps draw on first and second hand data and are as follows:

