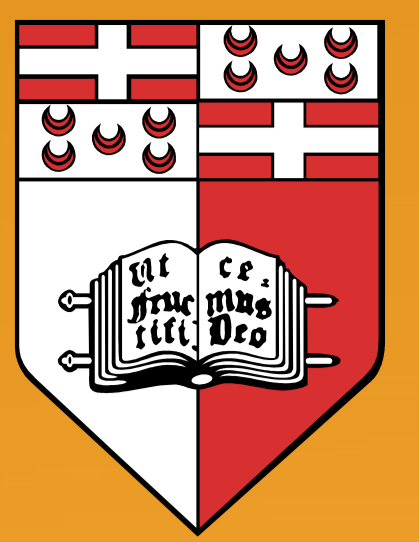


DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A SYSTEM TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH AND ASSIST OUTBOUND ERASMUS+ STUDENTS



Department of Pharmacy University of Malta

Nicolette Sammut Bartolo, Janis Vella, Anthony Serracino-Inglott, Lilian M Azzopardi

Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Malta, Msida, Malta

email: nicolette.sammut-bartolo@um.edu.mt

INTRODUCTION

Students in the last year of the three-year Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Technology (Honours) have the opportunity to carry out an eight-week placement at a University of their choice in Europe as part of the Erasmus+ programme. At the end of the placement, students are asked to present a logbook to the home institution with daily entries about activities carried out during their placement and related reflections.

AIM

To develop and implement a system to maintain regular periodic contact with students to support skills development, assist them with queries and with the compilation of logbooks during the Erasmus+ programme

METHOD

- The number of virtual contacts required was determined according to the length of the placement conducted to ensure that any problems are captured and tackled in time.
- The optimal period to provide feedback about the logbook within a reasonable timeframe was considered so that the student can include any feedback in the following logbook entries.

RESULTS

- A tutorial was held during and the developed system was explained before the students left to the hosting institution.
- Students were contacted virtually three times, at the beginning, mid-point and one week before the end of the placement (Figure 1).
- Students were contacted by a designated mentor who acted as the contact point with the home institution and answered queries.
- During each contact, students were advised about the date of the following virtual communication and what was required of them.

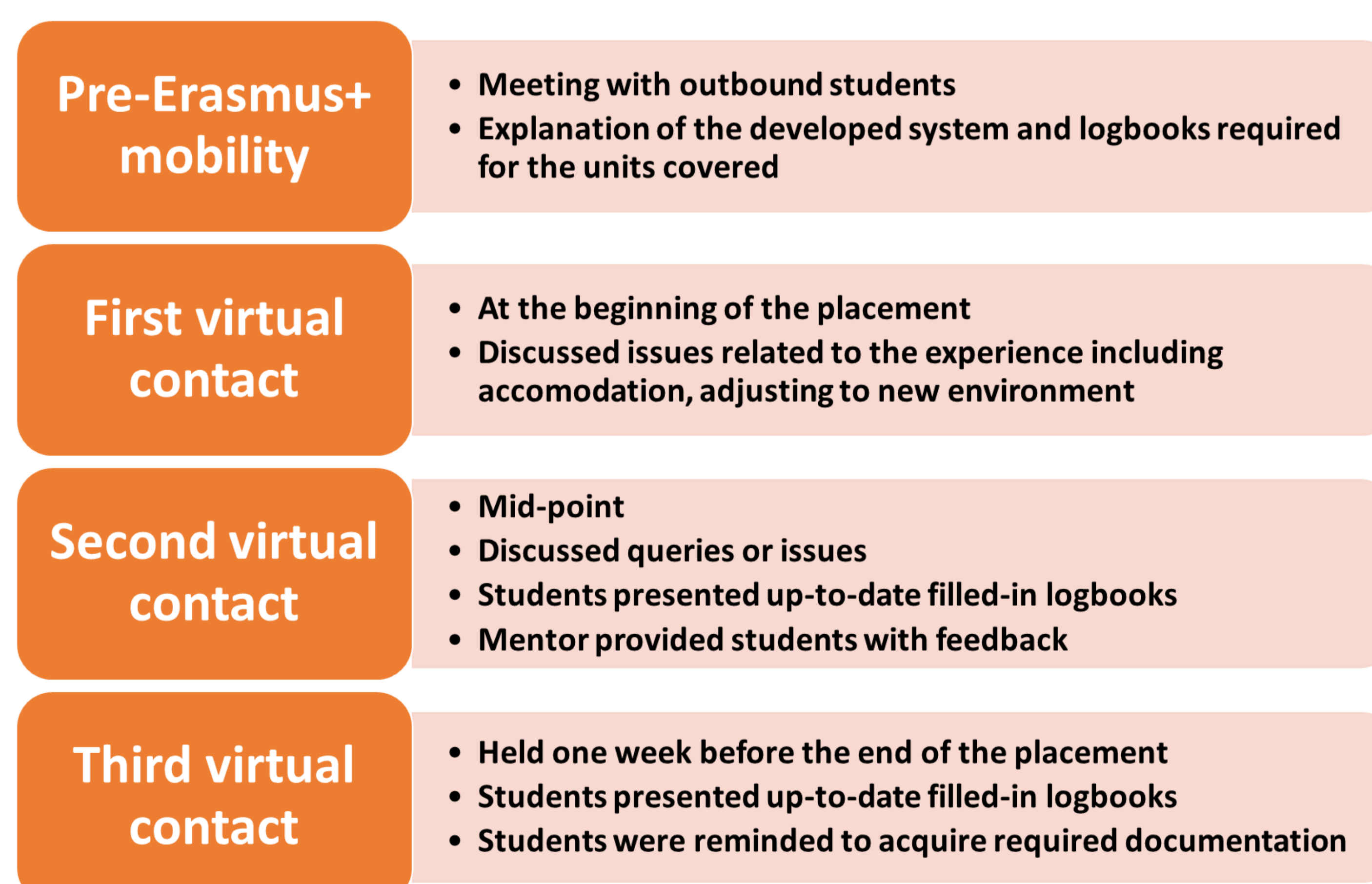


Figure 1: Information given during the tutorial and virtual contacts

DISCUSSION

The developed and implemented system ensured that regular documented contact is maintained throughout the mobility. Students had a designated mentor to guide them throughout the experience so as to ensure fruitful academic benefit from the mobility.