

*Student experiences and impressions while on placement with the
Probation and Welfare Service.*

Patrick O'Dea, Department of Social Studies, Trinity College Dublin.

Summary

This paper is a review of the experience of students from Trinity College Dublin (TCD), undertaking professional placements within the Probation and Welfare Service, (PWS) as part of their social work training. A number of randomly selected placement reports have been used as a source in order to extract and convey a sense of student experiences and impressions while on placement with the PWS. The focus in the paper is not on the broad repertoire of skills and knowledge acquired there, but rather on the three themes that emerge consistently from the random sample of placement reports; a) social work theory, b) gender and c) attitudes to crime and offenders.