

Author

Ceelen, Vivianne
Nutrition and Dietetics
HAN University of Applied Sciences
Nijmegen
The Netherlands

Title

How to create new workplaces for dietitians

Abstract

A few years ago at HAN University, we started to create new places for internships for our students. With 'new places' I mean places where there had not been internships before, because there was not yet a dietitian working. We were convinced, however, that dietitians could be of value in these places, like companies, schools, practices for dental hygienists, sports clubs, etc. We therefore started internships, which created the opportunity for these new places to get to know the expertise of dietitians. We started with about 12 students in 2012. This number has increased over the last years due to good outcomes. We are very proud that several students could stay after their internship, because companies and organization were excited about the added value of a dietitian. In this way, we have been able to create new work places for dietitians, such as bus companies and supermarkets. What challenges did we face during this process? For example, an important issue was the supervision of our students. Therefore, we contracted a dietitian with a private practice to supervise our students in those companies or organizations where no dietitian was available.