MSc in PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES
Postgraduate Brochure 2022/23
hyms.ac.uk
We are proud to offer you this exciting opportunity to train and qualify as a Physician Associate and enjoy a rewarding career in the profession. You will develop your medical knowledge, skills and experience as you progress between classroom learning and clinical placements within our partner GP practices and hospitals. We look forward to welcoming you to Hull York Medical School.

Dr Andrew Brown, Programme Director
A DIFFERENT KIND OF MEDICAL SCHOOL

As a postgraduate taught student at Hull York Medical School, you will be welcomed into our vibrant and supportive community, addressing the needs of an ever-changing healthcare environment.

You will be taught by world-leading subject experts, clinicians and researchers, who will encourage you to think independently and critically, so you graduate with the expertise to succeed in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.

We are the joint medical school of the Universities of Hull and York, and as such you will have access to the world-class facilities, equipment and expertise as well as the learning resources of both our parent universities.
DISCOVER PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

WHAT IS A PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE?
Physician Associates provide crucial support to doctors, and work as part of multi-disciplinary teams in the diagnosis and management of patients. While still a relatively new profession in the NHS, numbers of Physician Associates are increasing across the UK, and with that comes the recognition of the vital role they play in delivering high-quality care.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME
Our MSc in Physician Associate Studies is a two-year, intensive professional Masters programme, developed to meet the requirements of the National Competence and Curriculum Framework for Physician Associates. On successful completion, you will be eligible to sit the National Licensing Examination, administered by the Faculty of Physician Associates, in order to gain entry into the profession and begin practice.

Taught by practising clinicians and healthcare professionals, including Physician Associates, you will be trained to diagnose and treat according to the medical model – similarly to medics – so you will be well prepared to complement the clinical team, but also work independently with appropriate support.

You will be based primarily at the University of Hull and study in the award-winning Allam Medical Building at the heart of the University’s £28-million health campus. Procedural skills teaching takes place in our dedicated teaching facilities at Castle Hill Hospital and Hull Royal Infirmary, part of Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, where you will learn and practise medical procedures.

Study at the University of Hull’s £28-million health campus.
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

In your second year, you will undertake a Quality Improvement Project. Experience of carrying out this type of project is highly sought-after in the NHS. Your project provides you with the opportunity to apply the research and critical appraisal skills you have developed throughout your course to recommend approaches to improve quality within a healthcare setting. Learn more about this module on p15.

ELECTIVE

You will also complete a five-week Elective clinical placement at the end of Year 2, enabling in-depth study in an area of personal interest embedded in a clinical team, which provides excellent preparation for clinical practice. Learn more about this module on p15.

CAREERS

When you graduate from this programme as a Physician Associate, we are confident you will have the skills, knowledge, and experience that the NHS wants and needs from its workforce, including evidence-based practice and quality-improvement research skills. Typically, upon qualifying, you will be employed at Band 7 on the NHS pay scale, and can progress to Band 8 with experience and career development.

All our graduates have secured substantive positions as qualified Physician Associates in the NHS, many in the local area. We work with our regional partners to ensure we remain abreast of workforce needs and opportunities. Graduates from our programme also contribute to teaching our current students, both at the University and on clinical placement.
In the first year of your course, your learning will centre on problem-based learning. Problem-based learning tutors are all experienced and practising clinicians, whose first-hand experience ensures you learn in a clinically relevant context.

Problem-based learning is a real strength of our curriculum and offers an interactive and collaborative way to explore patient cases.

Led by a practising clinician, you will learn the different components to performing a consultation, including history taking, mental state examination, physical examination and diagnostic reasoning.

You will practise consultations with a simulated patient, receiving feedback from your peers, the clinician and patient so you can hone your skills. You will also practise physical examinations on your peers and develop your professional behaviours during those examinations.

Procedural skills teaching takes place in our dedicated teaching facilities at Castle Hill Hospital or Hull Royal Infirmary. Here you will learn the theory and practical skills to carry out procedures with realistic anatomical training products, such as venepuncture, ophthalmoscopy, cannulation, stitching and arterial blood gas sampling.

Health Education England provides a grant of £5,000 (£2,500 per year) to students to support travel to clinical placements.

You will experience a diverse range of clinical placements throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region, beginning in week three of the programme - including one or more of the main hospital sites at Hull, York, Scarborough, Scunthorpe and Grimsby. You will gain a huge breadth of experience, whether that be in the major trauma centre of Hull Royal Infirmary, or in a rural GP surgery outside Scarborough. These experiences will be invaluable in shaping you as a resilient, knowledgeable, empathetic and highly skilled health professional, enabling you to meet the challenges ahead.

In your first year, you will spend one and a half days a week in secondary care (hospital) and one day a week in primary care (GP surgery). In your second year, you will be in a secondary care setting for three or four days a week, rotating through various medical and surgical specialities, together with a further placement in primary care. You will also undertake an elective at the end of the programme.

You will experience a range of speciality placements in secondary care, including mental health, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, surgery, emergency medicine and acute care.

Health Education England provides a grant of £5,000 (£2,500 per year) to students to support travel to clinical placements.

You will experience regular and sustained clinical placements with real patients.

We employ a range of assessments which are both formative to support your learning and development, and summative to ensure you have acquired the necessary knowledge and skills. These include a variety of written and clinical assessments specific to each module, and a personal portfolio that you will build throughout the programme.

You will be assigned a Personal Academic Supervisor who will support you throughout the two-year programme, regularly reviewing your performance and progress. This regular feedback will help inform your learning and ensure you get the most out of your academic studies and clinical placements.

On completion of the programme, you will be eligible to sit the National Licensing Examination, administered by the Faculty of Physician Associates, in order to gain entry into the profession and begin practice. The national exam costs are not included in the MSc course fees.
I was at the Haxby Medical Group in Hull for a GP placement in my first year and I chose to do my Elective placement there too at the end of my second year. I now have a job offer from the Haxby Medical Group, and I’m really pleased to be joining them. They are a very forward thinking medical group and I felt so well supported as a Physician Associate student there.

Bethany Walton, Graduate, MSc in Physician Associate Studies, and practising Physician Associate

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT A CAREER AS A PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE: healthcareers.nhs.uk
The Physician Associate Studies programme offers a diverse range of interesting modules, designed specifically to equip you with the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed in the modern NHS.

**MODULES**

**INTRODUCTORY MEDICINE FOR PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES**
This module has been specifically designed to introduce and prepare you for your first experiences of clinical practice. In particular, it will emphasise the role, identity and what it means to be a Physician Associate. It will also consider the expectations, demands and challenges of being a new healthcare professional in the NHS, working alongside doctors within a multi-professional team. Early clinical experience in a healthcare setting is a fundamental feature of this programme and this will commence in this first module, supported by clinical and educational supervisors.

**FOUNDATIONS OF PHARMACOLOGY FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**
This module will provide a broad grounding in pharmacology for Physician Associate students. The module will cover the key concepts about principles of drug action, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, and adverse drug reactions. In addition, the module will then demonstrate how these concepts affect how drugs are used in infectious diseases, biopharmaceuticals and gene therapy, and lifestyle drugs and drugs in sport.

**CLINICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE I**
During this module you will increase your knowledge, develop skills, and achieve basic competencies in a range of generalist patient presentations that Physician Associates will frequently encounter in clinical practice. The knowledge, skills, and competencies you develop will be complemented by clinical placements in General Practice and General Hospital Medicine. In this way, the module will build on the basic skill-set acquired in the Introductory Medicine for Physician Associates module – establishing a foundation of core competencies before exploring a broader range of more specialist presentations in subsequent modules.

**CLINICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE II**
This module will focus on medical and surgical specialties and will enable you to acquire knowledge and develop a standardised range of clinical skills to allow you to effectively assess and manage a range of more specialist clinical presentations. This will be complemented by clinical placements in mental health, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, surgery and community medicine. This will be integrated with an extended longitudinal clinical placement in General Practice.

**CLINICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE III**
This module will focus on acute care and you will learn how to assess and manage a range of emergency presentations, supported by clinical placements in emergency medicine, acute admissions, critical care, urgent care and minor injuries. You will continue to develop your research skills during this module, applying principles of evidence-based healthcare. This module will also include a clinical placement Elective which you will choose in consultation with staff within the School. The Elective placement is a great opportunity to return to a favourite clinical specialism, gain experience in an area to help your career, or try something different.

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**
This module provides the opportunity to undertake a prolonged period of independent study and complete a substantive quality improvement research project, allowing you to gain a specific understanding of the research methods used in health and social care. You will draw on your experiences on clinical placements to identify an area for improvement, analyse the problem, and identify potential solutions informed by the relevant scientific literature, information gathering and analysis using relevant theory and research methodologies. Quality improvement is a key NHS priority and the clinical research skills you develop through your project will help prepare you for future clinical practice and advance your career.

Please note that specific module details may change from time to time. For the latest information, please visit our website.
This programme combines six taught modules and a quality improvement research project which are delivered alongside clinical placements in hospitals and in the community.

**YEAR 1**

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<th>TERM 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Introductory Medicine for Physician Associates (20 credits)</td>
<td>Clinical Science and Practice I (30 credits)</td>
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<td>Foundations of Pharmacology for Health Care Professionals (20 credits)</td>
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**YEAR 2**

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<td>Clinical Science and Practice II (30 credits)</td>
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<td>Quality Improvement Research Project (30 credits)</td>
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*The programme timelines above are for illustrative purposes only and are subject to change.*

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The programme allows you to develop team working and leadership skills, and to build trust with colleagues, patients and peers... If you enjoy making a difference, becoming a Physician Associate is the perfect role.

Hima Jimalle, Graduate, MSc in Physician Associate Studies, and practising Physician Associate
ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
You must have at least a 2:1 in a relevant Biosciences Degree (for example, Biomedical, Biological or Medical Sciences, Biochemistry, Sports Sciences, Pharmacology), or be predicted to achieve this at the time of application. We will also accept specific nursing Health Sciences degrees with sufficient scientific grounding and extensive postgraduate clinical experience. Applicants must have GCSE English Language/Literature at Grade B/6 or GCSE Language/Literature at Grade C/5 if higher-level degree achieved, and GCSE Mathematics at Grade C/5 or above, or equivalent. Alternative entry qualifications may also be considered.

You will need to demonstrate a sufficient grounding in Chemistry either through your degree or A-levels to successfully engage with the pharmacological aspects of the programme. If you are unsure whether you meet this criterion, please upload your degree transcript when you submit your application, which will then be reviewed by the Programme Director.

You will need to demonstrate your commitment to the role of a healthcare professional and have excellent communication skills. Evidence of work experience in a clinical or healthcare setting (for example healthcare assistant or care home) is desirable but not essential.

All applicants whose first language is not English will need to have evidence of their proficiency with one of the following:
- IELTS: 7.5, with no less than 7.0 in each component
- PTE Academic: 73, with no less than 67 in each component
- CAE and CPE (from Jan 2015): 191, with no less than 185 in each component
- TOEFL: 102, with no less than 24 in each component
- Trinity ISE: Level 3, with ‘Distinction’ in each component
- Duolingo: 130, minimum 120 in each component
FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Enquiries:
pgtadmissions@hyms.ac.uk

Learn more about the MSc in Physician Associate Studies
hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate