Welcome to Hull York Medical School, where we deliver exceptional medical education. We train Physician Associates to work as part of multi-disciplinary teams in hospitals, surgeries and other healthcare settings. If you are as passionate as we are about delivering high quality patient care, then your journey starts here.
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

At Hull York Medical School, we look at medical education differently and work with our NHS Trusts to ensure our programmes meet future and current healthcare needs, with a strong focus on patient care. We have a proven track record of producing exceptional, empathetic, patient-centred healthcare professionals, and have developed this Masters programme in collaboration with NHS employers to further support the workforce and make a real difference to healthcare services in areas that need it most.

Throughout this two-year intensive Masters programme, whatever you learn in the classroom will be reinforced practically through regular and sustained contact with patients - ensuring that as a graduate, you are better equipped to deal with the realities of a modern day health service.

When you choose to study with us, you are choosing to be a different kind of healthcare professional – one with superior communication skills and an empathetic approach to patients. Everything we have put together in this programme is designed to develop outstanding Physician Associates equipped with the skills, knowledge and attributes that the modern day NHS needs.

This Masters programme offers great career progression benefits for future leadership positions within the NHS. I am looking forward to my quality improvement project which will give me more insight into how to improve service delivery for patients, incorporating evidence-based high quality practice.

Lydia Wharton, MSc in Physician Associate Studies

Take a look at our programme video at hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate
ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Our MSc in Physician Associate Studies is a two-year professional Masters programme, which is integrated with clinical practice and a quality improvement research project. We train students using a medical model to ensure you gain sound medical and scientific knowledge as well as the excellent communication skills needed by future healthcare professionals.

Healthcare professionals do not work in isolation and the ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team is vital. That’s why we make the most of learning as part of the multidisciplinary healthcare team, particularly whilst on clinical placement. From the third week of the programme, you will be dealing with real patients in hospitals and GP surgeries alongside your supervisor. We will support you in this transition, and by the time you graduate you will have the confidence, knowledge, skills and experience to deliver outstanding care.

During the second year, you will undertake a quality improvement research project, giving you the opportunity to apply your research and critical appraisal skills to identify an area of the health service that could be improved and, more importantly, recommend solutions. Experience of this kind of research project is increasingly in demand within the NHS.

Also in Year 2, you will be given the opportunity to choose a placement ‘elective’, which is the opportunity to try something new, gain experience to help your future career, or return to a clinical specialism you particularly enjoyed earlier in the programme. Throughout the duration of the programme you will study Ethics, Professionalism and Evidence Based Medicine, and undertake dedicated modules in Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Prescribing. When you have completed the programme, you will be eligible to sit the National Licensing Examination, administered by the Faculty of Physician Associates, so that you can enter the profession and begin practice.

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

Problem-based learning (PBL) is at the centre of our education philosophy. Led by experienced clinicians, who bring with them a wealth of relevant and current knowledge and experience, these sessions, combined with regular clinical and procedural skills teaching, are a highly effective way of building your knowledge and honing your problem-solving skills.

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. Whilst 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.

CAREERS

When you graduate from this programme, 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 research skills. All of our graduates have secured substantive positions as qualified Physician Associates in the NHS, and we are continuing to work with our regional partners to develop further employment opportunities. Typically, when you graduate, you will be employed at Band 7 on the NHS pay scale, and can progress to Band 8 with experience and career development.

OUR TWO-YEAR MASTERS PROGRAMME INCLUDES REGULAR AND SUSTAINED CONTACT WITH PATIENTS

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PROGRAMME DURATION
This is a two-year, full-time, intensive Masters programme, commencing in September.

WHERE YOU WILL STUDY
Physician Associate students will mostly be based at the University of Hull and study in the impressive Allam Medical Building. This unique and inspiring environment allows students to work in a multi-disciplinary way, alongside medical students as well as Advanced Clinical Practitioners and nursing students from the Faculty of Health.

Procedural skills teaching takes place in our dedicated teaching facilities at Castle Hill Hospital and Hull Royal Infirmary, where you will learn and practise medical procedures.

You will experience a diverse range of clinical placements throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region, 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.

STUDYING A MASTERS PROGRAMME WILL BOOST YOUR EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS AND FUTURE CAREER

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS BEGIN IN WEEK 3
Being on placement so early in the programme has given me the best opportunity to gain experience and confidence dealing with patients. Training alongside other healthcare professionals has prepared me well for working as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Eleanor Berry, Graduate, Hull York Medical School MSc in Physician Associate Studies, and practising Physician Associate based in York

MODULES AND ELECTIVES

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.

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.
Pharmacology, Prescribing and Therapeutics is already a key part of the practising PA’s role, and this is likely to increase following professional regulation and the prescribing rights that will likely follow. With this in mind, we have recently modified our Programme to include two specific modules in this important and developing area.

**-foundations of pharmacology for health care professionals**

This module will provide a broad grounding in pharmacology for PA 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.

This module will be delivered during Term 1.

**therapeutics for health care professionals**

This module builds on the foundation knowledge from the previous module but turns more specifically to understanding and prescribing drug treatments in disease. We will cover the clinical aspects of pharmacology, in particular exploring therapeutics and areas of uncertainty in modern medicine.

The rationale for the use of drugs underpins modern medical practice and this module will explore the use of drugs in various disease areas, as well as areas of uncertainty around the prescription of medicines. This module will equip you with the knowledge and skills you require for clinical practice.

This module will take place in Term 2.

**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 enable 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 help you to advance your career.

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, Hull York Medical School MSc in Physician Associate Studies, and practising Physician Associate based in Hull

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

Physician Associate students will experience a range of healthcare settings throughout the programme, including:

- General practice
- General medicine
- Community medicine
- Mental health
- Paediatrics
- Obstetrics and gynaecology
- Surgery
- Emergency medicine
- Acute care
PROGRAMME TIMELINES

This programme combines six taught modules and a quality improvement research project which are delivered alongside clinical placements in hospitals and in the community.

TAUGHT MODULES

YEAR 1

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</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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<tr>
<td>FOUNDATIONS OF PHARMACOLOGY FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS (20 credits)</td>
<td>THERAPEUTICS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS (20 credits)</td>
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YEAR 2

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<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
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<td>CLINICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE II (30 credits)</td>
<td>CLINICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE III (30 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH PROJECT (30 credits)</td>
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TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

We use a range of teaching and learning activities to deliver this programme to ensure it is engaging, up to date and relevant to real-life situations. Problem-based learning is a cornerstone of our education philosophy. It is used throughout Year 1 with weekly interactions with a clinic of virtual patients, before moving to a case-based model using real patients seen on clinical placement in Year 2.

We also incorporate clinical and communication skills, and utilise simulated patients, group seminars, expert masterclasses, peer discussion and observation as well as simulated scenarios e.g. acute care and advanced life support. In procedural skills, you will also learn the theory and practical skills to carry out procedures with realistic anatomical training equipment, such as venepuncture, ophthalmoscopy, cannulation, stitching and arterial blood gas sampling. After this you will be able to perform these skills on real patients.

At the start of the programme, you will receive your personal iPad, pre-loaded with a wealth of relevant resources to facilitate a deeper understanding of each module through self-directed learning.

Access to online resources as well as bespoke iBooks for each module has proven invaluable to our students. Your iPad will also contain your personal ePortfolio, which you will use throughout the programme.

Learning in this way will allow you to manage your studies yourself, read up ahead of seminars, revise, track your progress and plan your work.

Assessment

Assessments will test knowledge, clinical reasoning and practical skills using online tasks, portfolio development, written questions, practical clinical skills exams and workplace based assessments.

On completion of this 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).

SPECIALIST AREAS OF SECONDARY CARE PLACEMENTS PROVIDED
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. In addition, you will need GCSE English Language at Grade B and GCSE Mathematics at Grade C 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 for the Programme Director to review.

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. We will also need you to submit your CV to support your application.

All applicants whose first language is not English will need to have evidence of their proficiency, with an IELTS score of 7.5 with a minimum of 7.0 in every component, obtained within the last two years. This level is recommended by the Faculty of Physician Associates to ensure registration on the Physician Associate Managed Voluntary Register (PAMVR).

STUDENT SUPPORT

This MSc is intensive and challenging but ultimately hugely rewarding. 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.

In addition to the student support services at the University of Hull, we also have our own dedicated student support team providing a range of pastoral services.

FEES AND FUNDING

TUITION FEES FOR 2021/22 ARE AS FOLLOWS:

UK (home)
Full-time (1 year): £9,250

International and EU
Full-time (1 year): £23,300

Please visit our website (hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate) for up-to-date information on tuition fees as well as financial support available.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this programme you must complete an online application form, please visit hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate

All applications will be considered and the most suitable candidates invited for interview. Due to the high demand for places on this programme, we would strongly encourage you to submit your application as early as possible.

Learn more
hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Enquiries:
pgtadmissions@hyms.ac.uk

Find out more and take a look at our programme video
hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate

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