MSc PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

Postgraduate Brochure 2020-21
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

Hull York Medical School is a unique partnership between the Universities of Hull and York, meaning you will have access to a wealth of resources from both institutions.

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. 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, which are hallmarks of Hull York Medical School graduates.

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.

Problem-based learning (PBL) is at the centre of our education philosophy. Led by practising clinicians, who bring with them a wealth of relevant and current knowledge and experience, these sessions are a highly effective way of building your knowledge and honing your problem-solving skills. In addition to problem-based learning, you will have regular and sustained clinical and procedural skills teaching, again led by practising clinicians.

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Uniquely, you will have the opportunity to conduct independent research, through a quality improvement project. Research skills and teaching skills are highly sought-after within the NHS and will put you at a distinct advantage in your future career.

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
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, incorporating many aspects of our flagship Medicine programme, to ensure you gain sound medical and scientific knowledge as well as the excellent communication skills needed by future healthcare professionals.

Healthcare professionals, whether that be doctors or Physician Associates, do not work in isolation, and the ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team is vital. That’s why we also deliver certain aspects of the programme alongside Advanced Clinical Practitioners from the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Hull.

From the third week of the programme, you will be on clinical placements, dealing with real patients in hospitals and GP surgeries alongside your supervisor. Whilst this may seem daunting, we will support you in this transition, and you will quickly come to appreciate that it is an invaluable way of learning. This early patient contact is maintained throughout the whole of the programme, so by the time you graduate you will have the confidence, knowledge, skills and experience to deliver outstanding care to patients with often highly complex needs.

During the second year, you will undertake a quality improvement research project, giving you the opportunity to apply the research and critical appraisal skills you have developed throughout your course 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.

In addition, throughout the duration of the programme you will study Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Prescribing, Ethics and Professionalism, and also Evidence Based Medicine.

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.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

We have a proven track record of producing exceptional, empathetic, patient-centred healthcare professionals, many of whom choose to stay in the local region. We 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.

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 and meeting the challenges of a modern day health service.

CAREERS

The NHS is constantly evolving to keep pace with the needs of patients. 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 most are working locally in hospitals and GP surgeries. We are continuing to work with our regional partners to develop further employment opportunities. For example, a generous preceptorship scheme has been launched to help establish the profession within the Yorkshire and Humber region. In practice, this means that hospitals and surgeries across the region can apply for funding specifically to employ Physician Associates, resulting in enhanced support and training and better career opportunities for graduates.

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.

STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HULL’S

£283 MILLION HEALTH CAMPUS

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

This is a two-year, full-time, intensive Masters programme, commencing in September 2020.

WHERE YOU WILL STUDY

All Hull York Medical School, 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 has state-of-the-art facilities and allows students to work in a multi-disciplinary way, alongside Advanced Clinical Practitioners from the Faculty of Health Sciences.

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.

Another strength of our programme is the breadth and diversity of clinical placements you will experience. You will be based at various locations throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region, including one or more of the main Hull York Medical School’s 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

Allam Medical Building, University of Hull campus
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

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.

PRIMARY CARE PLACEMENTS PROVIDED BY

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GP SURGERIES
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.

You will develop more advanced knowledge, skills and competence in a range of core physical health assessments whilst studying this module. You will learn how to critically evaluate evidence to support advanced decision making and apply high-level clinical knowledge and skills to support all aspects of patient management in a variety of clinical presentations building on a systems-based approach.

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.

This is when you will begin to develop an understanding of advanced physical health assessments related to each of the main body systems. You will learn to evaluate a patient’s physical condition and develop the ability to make reasoned judgements relating to the investigation, interventions, treatments and referral of patients. Within both Clinical Assessment modules you will have the opportunity to learn in a multi-disciplinary environment, studying alongside Advanced Clinical Practitioners.
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.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH PROJECT

This module provides the opportunity to undertake a prolonged period of independent study and complete a substantive quality improvement research project which you will choose in consultation with your supervisor, 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.
## 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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<td>CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION (PRACTICE) (20 credits)</td>
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**YEAR 2**

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<td>QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH PROJECT (30 credits)</td>
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### 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

### 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 and is used widely on this programme. 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. All teaching and learning is framed around patient presentations of real clinical problems.

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 an 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. The resources on your iPad are updated regularly and will be available to you throughout the duration of your studies.

**Assessment**

Assessments will test knowledge, clinical reasoning and practical skills using online tasks, portfolio development, written questions, practical clinical skills exams and work place-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).
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).

The University of Hull offers Pre-Sessional English courses for international students wishing to improve their English language skills. Further information can be found at www.hull.ac.uk.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Postgraduate study requires a huge personal commitment and this programme is no different. 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, and commenting on your formative work. 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 to all our students.

FEES AND FUNDING

Please visit our website (www.hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate) for comprehensive and 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 www.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.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Enquiries:
pgtadmissions@hyms.ac.uk
01904 321690

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