



TIME TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



MSc IN PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

HYMS.AC.UK

STEVEN DUMONT,
MSc IN PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES,
CLASS OF 2018

YOUR JOURNEY

TO DELIVERING EXCEPTIONAL HEALTHCARE
AS A PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE

“

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



DISCOVER PHYSICIAN
ASSOCIATE STUDIES
hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate



STARTS
HERE

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CLASS OF 2023

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L FULL-TIME, 2 YEARS

UNIVERSITY OF
HULL CAMPUS,
WITH CLINICAL
PLACEMENTS ACROSS
THE YORKSHIRE AND
HUMBER REGION

5-WEEK ELECTIVE
PLACEMENT, ENABLING
IN-DEPTH STUDY IN AN
AREA OF PERSONAL
INTEREST EMBEDDED
IN A CLINICAL TEAM



“

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS HAVE BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND MY LEARNING”

“TEACHING
WAS THOROUGH,
VARIED AND
INTERACTIVE”

SHANAE NEMBHARD,
MSC IN PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES, CLASS OF 2023

Prior to joining Hull York Medical School, I graduated from the University of Leeds with a BSc in Medical Sciences. I then went on to work for a clinical research organisation.

I was attracted to the MSc in Physician Associate Studies because of the fact that clinical placements in both primary and secondary care would commence from week three of the course. That early patient contact was a key element for me.

While on placement in primary care, I was able to run my own clinics, which involved taking histories independently, building rapport, practising diagnosing, and managing common patient conditions with the supervising doctor.

In secondary care, I experienced bedside teaching, which allowed me to develop my communication and examination skills. Going out there and experiencing real-life patient cases in the hospital or community is key for being prepared for practice.

I think to be a successful Physician Associate, you have to be patient, resilient, and have excellent communication and organisation skills. But most importantly, you need to be someone who cares about their patients. The positive feedback I have received from patients and supervising doctors and nurses makes me feel that I am contributing and making a difference.

STUDIED:
MSC IN PHYSICIAN
ASSOCIATE STUDIES

**QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT:**
REDUCING MISSED PATIENT
REFERRALS FROM THE
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

ELECTIVE:
HULL ROYAL INFIRMARY

GRADUATED:
2023

A DIFFERENT KIND OF

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.

MEDICAL SCHOOL

The Allam Medical Building at the University of Hull

5 | PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES



“
**EARLY PATIENT
CONTACT MADE
OUR LEARNING
MORE APPLICABLE
TO THE PATIENT
JOURNEY”**

“I found the elective towards the end of the second year so helpful. Being in the same place for a prolonged period and getting embedded in the clinical team really prepared me for the work environment.”

STEVEN DUMONT,
MSc IN PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES CLASS OF 2018,
PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE IN FRAILTY MEDICINE,
AND CLINICAL TEACHING FELLOW

6 | PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES



**FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT A CAREER AS A
PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE:**

healthcareers.nhs.uk



DISCOVER

THE MSc IN 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. This is supported by professional regulation of Physician Associates by the General Medical Council.

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Our MSc in Physician Associate Studies is a two-year, intensive professional Masters programme, developed to meet the requirements of the General Medical Council (GMC) pre-qualification educational framework for Physician Associates. This well-established and robust programme, externally validated and quality assured by the GMC, equips students with the knowledge and skills required to succeed in the modern NHS.

On successful completion of this programme, you will be eligible to sit the Physician Associate National Examination (PANE) administered by the Faculty of Physician Associates, in order to enter 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.

Physician Associate students will mostly be based 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.



“MY PLACEMENT EXPERIENCE GAVE ME THE CONFIDENCE TO WORK WITHIN A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM, AND PREPARED ME FOR WORKING LIFE.”

DAMIAN JOLKOWICZ,
MSc IN PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE
STUDIES CLASS OF 2022, AND
PRACTISING PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE

TEACHING, LEARNING

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).

“Beginning in week three, you will experience clinical placements at GP surgeries and hospitals across the Yorkshire and Humber region.”

In your second year, you will be in a secondary care setting for 3 or 4 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 provide a grant of £5,000 (£2,500 per year) to students to support travel to clinical placements.



AND ASSESSMENT

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING

In the first year of the 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.


CLINICAL SKILLS

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

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.



“THE PROGRAMME NOT ONLY PROVIDES US WITH THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE OF DISEASES AND CONDITIONS BUT ALSO PLENTY OF CLINICAL EXPERIENCE IN BOTH PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CARE. THIS HAS GIVEN ME GREATER INSIGHT INTO THE NHS, AND HELPED ME DECIDE ON MY CAREER PATH. ”

AGNIESZKA PONICHTERA,
SECOND YEAR STUDENT, MSc IN PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

ASSESSMENT

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 this programme, you will be eligible to sit the Physician Associate National Examination (PANE), administered by the Faculty of Physician Associates, in order to enter the profession and begin practice. The national exam costs are not included in the MSc course fees.

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 p12.

ELECTIVE

You will 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.

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.

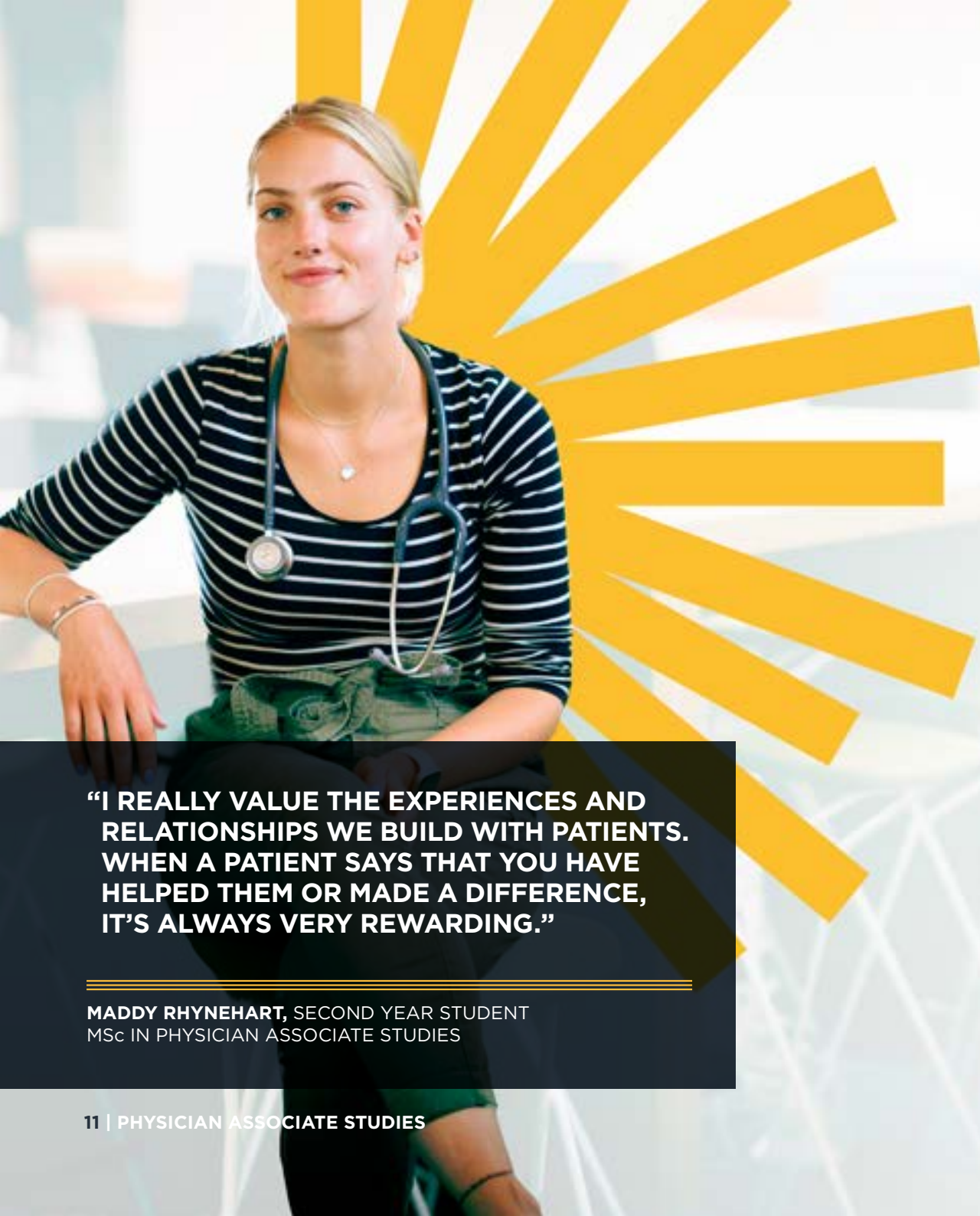
All our graduates have secured substantive positions as qualified Physician Associates in the NHS, many in the local area. We work with our regional partners to ensure we remain abreast of workforce needs and opportunities.

Graduates from our programme also contribute to teaching our current students, both at the University and on clinical placement.

EMPLOYER INSIGHT

“Our Hull York Medical School-trained Physician Associate colleagues are truly valued as an integral part of the team. Their analytical and methodological approach to assessment and diagnosis means they consult effectively, and manage complex patients well. Hull York graduates understand the diversity of the local population as well as the specific needs of our patients. They are skilled in communicating, which is invaluable.”

CAROLINE RAWCLIFFE,
GENERAL MANAGER, MODALITY
PARTNERSHIP GENERAL PRACTICE, HULL



MODULES

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.

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.

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.

Please note that specific module details may change from time to time. For the latest information, please visit our website.

“I REALLY VALUE THE EXPERIENCES AND RELATIONSHIPS WE BUILD WITH PATIENTS. WHEN A PATIENT SAYS THAT YOU HAVE HELPED THEM OR MADE A DIFFERENCE, IT’S ALWAYS VERY REWARDING.”

MADDY RHYNEHART, SECOND YEAR STUDENT
MSc IN PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

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.

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.

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 to advance your career.

PROGRAMME TIMELINE*

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

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
Introductory Medicine for Physician Associates (20 credits)	Clinical Science and Practice I (30 credits)	
Foundations of Pharmacology for Health Care Professionals (20 credits)	Therapeutics for Health Care Professionals (20 credits)	

YEAR 2

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
Clinical Science and Practice II (30 credits)		Clinical Science and Practice III (30 credits)
Quality Improvement Research Project (30 credits)		

SUPPORTING YOU

When you join Hull York Medical School, you join a close-knit community. Our aim is to ensure you get the most out of your time with us, and that you are supported throughout your postgraduate studies.

Our postgraduate programmes are intensive and challenging but ultimately hugely rewarding. Our programmes develop you to become a self-directed learner – and therefore a lifelong learner.

We recognise that there may be times when you need additional support to help you manage academic or personal pressures, and we are here to help.

Our Student Wellbeing Team have expertise in supporting postgraduate students and can help signpost students to support services within the Medical School, in our parent universities and external agencies as appropriate.

LEARN MORE
ABOUT STUDENT
SUPPORT



TO SUCCEED

YOUR APPLICATION

NEXT STEPS

Visit our web page to view the latest programme information, including fees, funding and scholarship opportunities, or to begin your application.

CLICK HERE



VISIT OUR WEBSITE



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 English 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 demonstrate proficiency in English as follows: IELTS: 7.5, with no less than 7.0 in each component. Please visit our website for the latest requirements and information.

KEEP IN TOUCH

There are lots of ways to find out more about our Physician Associate programme. From virtual taster sessions, to on-campus Open Days, we run events around the year to allow you to gain a deeper insight into postgraduate study at Hull York Medical School.

Click the link above to visit our website where you can find details of upcoming events, or subscribe to our postgraduate newsletter so you never miss the latest announcements.



FURTHER INFORMATION

Admissions Enquiries:
pgtadmissions@hyms.ac.uk



Visit our website for
the latest information

[hyms.ac.uk/
physicianassociate](https://hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate)



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All details were correct at time of publication (September 2023). For the most up-to-date programme information and entry requirements, please visit hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate.