

## Why Physician Associate

Well established in the USA and supported by other clinicians and patients

Need to increase face to face practitioners as clinical demand outstrips supply

Accessing a new pool of professionals (science graduates) to support the NHS

A generic and general practitioner able to work across multiple clinical areas in both primary and secondary care

## The University of Sheffield Course

Preclinical/Clinical structure

Using our existing expertise in teaching and teaching with delivery alongside medical students where appropriate

Aims to have them out in clinical placement able to be useful to the team as well as requiring teaching

Placements managed through local undergraduate coordinators to minimize impact on other teaching

### Key Contacts:

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### Administrators

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The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

## The Medical School

## Guidance for NHS Staff on University of Sheffield Physician Associate Student Training

It is recognized that there are two Physician Associate courses in Sheffield and you may meet students from both with different skill sets and knowledge depending on stage of training

This brochure is designed to set out what you can expect of students from the University of Sheffield

## The Course Layout

### Stage 1:

Students undertake learning in Anatomy, Physiology, Public Health, Pathology and Pharmacology. Much of the lecture programme is alongside the phase 1 and 2a medical students

Small group teaching in primary care

They undertake clinical skills in simulation with sign off of competence

There is a tailored communication and clinical reasoning programme alongside a professional identity assignment.

They must pass a summative assessment before being permitted to progress to stage 2

### Stage 2:

Clinical placements in the following order

2w Community medicine

3w Foundation clinical skills block with phase 2B Medical Students

12w General Medicine/Surgery

3w each of Womens Health, Mental Health and Paediatrics

8w Acute/Emergency Medicine

12w Community medicine

2x 3w Elective blocks

Whilst these students are learning and being taught on placement we also want them to learn by working as part of the team

Purely shadowing is not enough – they need to see patients, make plans and reporting back and contribute to management

It's about “doing the job” not just watching others do it

## Elective Placements

During stage 2 there are two 3 week elective placements in March and July

These are an opportunity for students to explore different clinical areas as well as those considering employing PAs to gain experience of them

These placements occur one before and one after their final summative assessments

Further information can be gained from talking to students or contacting Dr James Gray

## Some Specifics

### Prescribing

We expect students to do everything but put the signature on a prescription

They should know about drugs and be able to propose treatment plans

### Understanding use of tests

We expect students to know what tests are appropriate and when to request them

They will all have completed training in appropriate use of ionising radiation tests prior to clinical placements

### Clinical Skills

In stage 1 students complete a wide range of clinical skills in simulation which are assessed for competence

These include (but not limited to):

- Blood taking/cannulation/cultures
- Catheterisation
- Primary observations/Urinalysis
- SC/IM/IV injections and making up drugs
- All necessary pre-placement mandatory training

In stage 2 they need some skills signed off as performed supervised on patients then can undertake them independently