

# MSc Physician Associate Studies

A truly rewarding career

Full-time • January start • 27 months

Delivered by Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, a leading UK medical school. Develop the skills and knowledge to work in healthcare and be part of a flexible clinical workforce involved in delivering excellent patient care.



## Key course information

- Early exposure to clinical environments
- Excellent employment opportunities
- Fast-paced and intensive 27 month course
- Excellent student placements in a variety of clinical environments
- Taught by a dedicated academic faculty who are leaders in their fields
- Innovative approach to course delivery
- Opportunities for student exchange in the USA

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Guardian University Guide 2018 **theguardian**

Find out more

[www.qmul.ac.uk/msc-physician-associate](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/msc-physician-associate)

## The role of the Physician Associate (PA) in the UK

Physician Associates (PA) are healthcare professionals trained in a generalist medical model to provide clinical care to patients. The PA is a flexible clinician who can work across hospital and community settings as a critical member of a multidisciplinary team. The PA is a trained healthcare professional who practises under delegated autonomy, which means that the PA works independently but with supervision from a senior doctor, GP or surgeon. The intensity of this supervision can vary based on the experience and skills of a PA.

In routine practice, a PA may perform the following tasks:

- Obtain medical histories from patients
- Perform comprehensive physical examinations
- Interpret laboratory, ECG and radiology investigations
- Formulate differential diagnoses and initiate treatment plans
- Perform practical procedures, such as phlebotomy, cannulation, urinary catheterisation, skin suturing etc.
- Engage effectively in health promotion and disease prevention strategies as part of holistic patient care

PAs are expected to maintain and expand their generalist medical knowledge through sitting a revalidation exam every six years. In addition, a PA must demonstrate 50 hours of Continuing Professional Development every year.

### Statutory regulation

In the UK, the PA profession is not yet subject to statutory regulation. At present the PA workforce is not able to prescribe or request investigations that use ionising radiation (CT, X-ray). However, the ever-expanding role of the PA in hospital and community medicine means that these rules are changing. The Faculty of Physician Associates at the Royal College of Physicians is working towards gaining statutory regulation.

### Why choose the MSc Physician Associate Studies course?

A career as a PA is a highly attractive option for a candidate who wishes to work in healthcare but does not want to commit to a medical degree or the subsequent specialist training that follows. In addition, the ability to work supervised at all times is desirable for many who are keen on a career in health care.

### Who should apply?

- The course is suitable for candidates with an upper second class honours (2:1) or above in a biomedical, health or life science degree.
- Candidates must sit the UKCAT within 12 months of the September deadline for application to the MSc course. Applicants with a UKCAT score lower than the 3rd decile are unlikely to be shortlisted for interview.

- Applications from nursing and allied healthcare professionals who wish to build on their clinical skills and knowledge will also be considered.
- Potential candidates are expected to commit to the full 27 months intensive training course.

### Course structure

The focus of the course is on general adult and paediatric medicine. However, some specialty care training is also provided. This includes 1,600 hours of clinical training in a range of settings, including Community & Hospital Medicine, Accident & Emergency, Mental Health, General Surgery, Obstetrics & Gynaecology and Paediatrics. In addition, students will have the opportunity to attend their choice of speciality for their elective clinical placement.

### Modules

- Basic Medical Science
- Healthy People, Healthy Society
- Care of the Adult
- Women and Children's Health
- Care of the Older Adult
- Mind, Body and Health
- Care in the Community
- Research, Evidence and Quality

### Years 1 and 2

The course adopts a problem based learning (PBL) approach, with a flipped classroom model and small group tutorials and lectures. Early in Year 1 itself, students are exposed to medical practice, and equipped with the necessary clinical skills to both learn and participate in the delivery of medical care during placements in the hospital and community.

### Year 3 (3 months)

Quality Improvement (QI) project and dissertation consisting of approximately 10,000-15,000 words.

### Qualifying as a PA

All students must pass both the university assessments and the UK Physician Associate national examination to qualify as a practising PA. Successful completion of the national examination permits students to be placed on the PA Managed Voluntary Register (PMVR) at the Faculty of Physician Associates, Royal College of Physicians. PMVR is a mandatory requirement to be able to work as a Physician Associate in the UK.

### For further information

e: [smdpaadmissions@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:smdpaadmissions@qmul.ac.uk)

For more information about the PA profession

[www.fparcp.co.uk](http://www.fparcp.co.uk)

For more information about the UKCAT

[www.ukcat.ac.uk](http://www.ukcat.ac.uk)

[www.qmul.ac.uk/msc-physician-associate](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/msc-physician-associate)