



Queen Mary  
University of London



Health Education  
England aim to  
recruit 1000 PAs  
into Primary Care  
by 2020

# Would you like **Physician Associate Students** in your practice?

## **New Teaching Opportunities**

From August 2022

We are looking for host practices to accommodate one or two students during the two years of their MSc Course.

**[smd.qmul.ac.uk](http://smd.qmul.ac.uk)**

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## What is a Physician Associate?

Physician associates (previously called physician assistants) provide generalist clinical care in general practice, typically seeing people with acute minor illness. They have two years training, most after a basic science degree.

This training follows the model of a medical qualification (for example, taking histories, performing examinations, making diagnoses, interpreting tests). Unlike the US, physician associates in the UK need authorisation from a doctor when they judge that a patient needs a prescription.

### [The Role of PA](#)

The above video features Alec Giles our QMUL graduate from 2017 intake and captures what a PA does in General Practice.

## Why provide PA Placements?

Our course structure facilitates the PA student becoming a member of the primary care practice team, as each practice will host the same student over the two year period. This model has proved very successful, with some practices employing their respective PA student after graduation from the programme. This is particularly timely as practices organise themselves into Primary Care Networks which may be choose to recruit physician associates as part of their service.

The students are admitted onto the programme having completed science-based undergraduate degrees. The emphasis of the course is on accelerated clinical exposure focusing on the practical skills of clinical communication (history taking and health promotion), examination, clinical diagnosis and appropriate management planning.

Students have a logbook which they need to complete over the course of their two years while on placement with you. It is expected that by their second year, students would be able to run some mini-surgeries independently under close supervision. At the end of the two years, we hope that some of the PAs will begin working in general practice.

## What's involved: Role of the PA Supervisor and host GP Practice

PA students require clinical supervision from a GP. By their second year PA students can usually undertake significant and valuable clinical tasks independently with ongoing GP oversight. Clinical supervision includes involving students in your daily clinics, encouraging them to take histories and examine patients and present their findings to you.

## Teaching Dates

<b>Year 1 - 2022</b>
<b>One 4-week Placement Block from August 2022</b>
<b>One of the following 4-week Placement Blocks:</b> <b>8 August to 2 September</b> <b>5 September to 30 September</b> <b>3 October to 28 October</b>
<b>Year 2 - 2023</b>
<b>24 Wednesdays (dates to be confirmed).</b>

**Payment (based on hosting two PA students over a two year period): £4,400**

**For further information on teaching our PA students, please contact:**

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