

MSc in PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

2017 | 18



1.

Why Choose HYMS?

A WORLD CLASS MEDICAL SCHOOL

Hull York Medical School has become one of the UK's most exciting and modern medical schools. We are committed to providing excellence and leadership in education, research and service to society.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

HYMS has a strong track record of producing excellent doctors, many of whom choose to stay in our region. Through developing this MSc and working closely with NHS employers, we aim to further support the workforce and make a real difference to healthcare services in under-doctored areas.

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

A world-class £28m health campus will open in 2017 at the University of Hull with the Allam Medical building at its heart. This will provide state of the art facilities for our students and support innovative multi-disciplinary learning.



Hull



York



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2.

The Role of a Physician Associate

The Physician Associate (PA) is a new healthcare professional who, while not a doctor, works to the medical model, with the attitudes, skills and knowledge base to deliver holistic care and treatment as part of the medical team in hospital, general practice and community settings under defined levels of supervision.

Physician Associates support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients. They train to perform a number of roles including: taking medical histories and conducting physical examinations, developing comprehensive patient management plans, performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures and prescribing medications (subject to the necessary legislation). PAs will request and interpret diagnostic studies and undertake patient education, counselling and health promotion under the direct supervision of a doctor.

PAs are supported by the Faculty of Physician Associates under the umbrella of the Royal College of Physicians.

In developing this MSc, we aim to support the NHS workforce in the region and help meet the challenges of a modern day health service.



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

HYMS is working with our regional NHS partners to develop excellent employment opportunities within the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

Typically, graduate Physician Associates employed by the NHS start at Band 7 on the Agenda for Change pay scale (from £31,383 at the moment) and can progress to Band 8 with experience and career development.

For more information about a career as a Physician Associate visit the NHS website; www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/physician-associateassistant/physician-associate



3.

The MSc in Physician Associate Studies

The HYMS MSc in Physician Associate Studies is a two year intensive professional Masters programme, integrated with clinical practice. It is medically led by HYMS but with multi-professional input delivered in partnership with the Faculty of Health and Social Care at the University of Hull and the NHS.

This programme has been developed to meet the requirements of the National Competence and Curriculum Framework for Physician Associates.



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We are proud to offer you this exciting opportunity to train and qualify as a Physician Associate (PA). This two year intensive professional Masters degree programme will enable you to develop your medical knowledge, clinical skills and experience as you progress between classroom learning and simulation in the University environment and clinical placements within HYMS' partner GP practices and hospitals. The programme has been developed to prepare our graduates to sit the national PA licensing examination and gain entry into the profession. Thereafter, you will enjoy a rewarding career treating patients with a wide range of health problems. We look forward to welcoming you to our Masters programme in Physician Associate Studies at HYMS.

Dr Andrew Brown Programme Director

Build your career on our intensive, two year professional Masters programme.

Work alongside doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals in hospitals, GP surgeries and other settings.

Thrive in our lively and interactive Problem-based learning (PBL) environment.

Experience a broad range of high quality learning opportunities made available by a strong partnership between HYMS, the Universities of Hull and York and the NHS.

Develop your knowledge, clinical skills and research skills in a student centred and patient focused environment.

4.

Programme Timeline



This programme combines six taught modules and a quality / service improvement research project which are delivered alongside clinical placements in hospitals and in the community.

TAUGHT MODULES

YEAR 1

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
INTRODUCTORY MEDICINE FOR PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES	CLINICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE I	
CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION (THEORY)		CLINICAL ASSESSMENT AND EXAMINATION (PRACTICE)

YEAR 2

TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
CLINICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE II		CLINICAL SCIENCE AND PRACTICE III
QUALITY / SERVICE IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH PROJECT		

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

- General Practice
- Community Medicine
- Mental Health
- Paediatrics
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Surgery
- Emergency Medicine
- Acute Care
- General Medicine

5.

Overview of Programme Modules

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 PA. 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 a clinical supervisor.

Clinical Science and Practice I

During this module you will increase your knowledge and develop skills and achieve basic competencies in a range of generalist patient presentations that PAs will frequently encounter in clinical practice. This will be complemented by clinical placements in General Practice and General Hospital Medicine. In this way, this module will build on the basic skill-set acquired in the Introductory Medicine for PAs module and establish a foundation of core competencies before exploring a broader range of more specialist presentations in subsequent modules.

Clinical Assessment and Examination (Theory)

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.

Clinical Assessment and Examination (Practice)

During this module you will develop more advanced knowledge, skills and competence in a range of core physical health assessments. 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.

Clinical Science and Practice II

This module will focus on medical and surgical specialities 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. During this module you will also gain a specific understanding of the research methods used in health and social care.



6.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

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 Medical and Surgical Units. This module will also include a clinical placement 'elective' which will be chosen by the student in consultation with faculty. PA students will continue to develop their research skills during this module, in particular the application of principles of evidence-based healthcare.

Quality / Service Improvement Research Project

This module provides the opportunity to undertake a prolonged period of independent study and complete a substantive quality / service improvement research project which will be chosen by you in consultation with your supervisor. You will use your experiences on clinical placements to identify an issue 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.

Teaching and Learning

A range of teaching and learning activities is used to deliver this programme. These activities include, but are not limited to:

- Problem-based learning (PBL)
- Innovative online learning resources, assessment and support
- Clinical skills practice on simulated patients
- Small group practical work
- Clinical placement activity
- Whole class lectures
- Peer discussion and observation
- Case-based discussion
- Seminars
- Self-assessment activities with formative feedback

Assessment

Assessments will test knowledge, clinical reasoning and practical skills using online tasks, portfolio development, written exams and practical exams.

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).



HYMS' amazing digital resources have been indispensable in helping me and my fellow students develop our clinical understanding and expertise. Our iBooks are structured around weekly themed learning activities which include virtual patient cases, simulated patient videos, quizzes, short recorded lectures, clinical placement learning notes and other self-directed learning resources. It's great to know that all my essential learning resources are never far away

Steven Dumont HYMS PA student

7.

Student Support

Choosing to study on our Physician Associate programme demonstrates a significant personal commitment. It is a challenging and rewarding programme and we are committed to delivering a high quality educational experience. We will support you in becoming a successful healthcare professional throughout your studies.

Our tutors are motivated and enthusiastic professionals, they are dedicated to ensuring you receive the support you need. At HYMS you will benefit from the resources of both the Universities of Hull and York. You'll have everything you need to make the most of your learning.



There are a range of pastoral support services available to students studying at HYMS. In addition to having access to the student support services of both the Universities of Hull and York, HYMS has its own Student Support Office. We endeavour to provide a friendly, supportive environment in which to study.



Gwen Irving Student Support Manager



8.

Entry Requirements and How to Apply

All applicants 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. Applicants must have GCSE Mathematics and English at Grade B 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 also 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 (e.g. healthcare assistant or care home) is desirable but not essential.

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.

For 2017 entry, the programme is available for Home and EU applicants only.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

This is a two year full-time programme, commencing in September 2017.



WHERE WILL I STUDY?

Campus teaching will be delivered by staff from HYMS and the Faculty of Health and Social Care, at the University of Hull. Clinical placements will take place in the Yorkshire and Humber region in hospitals, GP practices and other healthcare settings.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this programme you must complete an online application form. All applications will be considered and the most suitable candidates invited for interview.

For more information on our entry requirements, application process and to apply for this programme please visit: www.hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate

9.

Fees & Funding

TUITION FEES FOR HOME & EU STUDENTS

Full-time Fees for 2017 are £9,000 per annum. 30 fully funded places (from Health Education England) are available for the 2017/18 cohort, covering both years of study. Please check www.hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate for more information.

The programme is only open to Home/EU students.

Course fees may be subject to annual inflationary increase.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

For information about scholarships and financial support options available to Physician Associate students please visit our website.

www.hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate



For Further Information

Admissions Enquiries:

pgtadmissions@hyms.ac.uk

Tel: 01904 321690



Hull York Medical School



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www.hyms.ac.uk/physicianassociate