



Queen Mary

University of London

Barts and The 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 end of January 2021

We are looking for host practices to accommodate 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.

Working under the supervision of a GP, they can make a significant contribution to practice workload.'

The future of primary care report,  
Primary Care Workforce Commission.

## 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 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.

In addition, the host GP practices are encouraged to submit a quality improvement project centred around the services they provide, which the PA student will develop in a formal QI dissertation project over the two years of the programme. These projects are often focused on improving QOF outcomes, and have also proved beneficial for the supervising clinician(s)' own appraisal requirements of completing a QI project. During the COVID pandemic, the students will complete the earlier stages of an improvement project (conducting baseline audits, exploring the problem and writing a detailed proposals for an improvement project), but will hand implementation back to practices (student dissertations will be based on the proposal).

During Year 1 (2020) students have already spent 20 days in general practice learning about primary care and gaining experience in consulting patients.

## Teaching Dates

**Year 2 - 2021**

**24 Wednesdays from January 2021**

**10 consecutive Wednesdays between 27 January to Wednesday 31 March  
Followed by 14 consecutive Wednesdays between 21 April to 19 July 2021**

**Payment (based on hosting two PA students during 2021): £2,400**

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

Steve Duggan  
Senior Unit Administrator  
Community Based Medical Education (CBME)  
email: [steven.duggan@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:steven.duggan@qmul.ac.uk)

Dr Padma Wignesvaran  
Primary Care Lead  
MSc Physician Associate Studies  
email: [p.wignesvaran@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:p.wignesvaran@qmul.ac.uk)

**Over 50%**  
of our graduates  
work in  
General Practice