

# MPAS Quality

Masters in Physician Associate Studies  
Placement Standards

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# Introduction

The MPAS Placement Standards document identifies and establishes a set of mandatory expectations for providers offering clinical placements to Physician Associate students. These are minimum requirements created to ensure the best placement experience for our Physician Associate students and to guarantee consistency across trusts and practice sites. We encourage all providers to review these standards as part of the placement recruitment process, checking that expectations can be effectively achieved for every student who attends the site. In many cases, these expectations are exceeded, with sites endeavouring to ensure our students receive the best educational and clinical experience possible in their placement environments. The general standards outlined (unless attached to a care setting or specialty) are a mandatory requirement for every site.

## General Standards

Every site should endeavour to provide, facilitate or support the following for Physician Associate students:

### **Prior to, or on commencement, of placement:**

- Full site induction (including health and safety, IT and any other training requirements of the team/department)
- Access to electronic systems within the trust or practice, including patient records
- NHS Smartcard activation
- Provision of a timetable or placement schedule. This can be provisional and subject to change, however appropriate communication with the student/s of any adjustments is expected
- Access to a break or staff room
- Access to a locker or safe space for personal belongings

### **Supervision and support**

- Appointment of a named supervisor and deputy supervisor, if possible. Supervision can be delegated to other doctors (SpR level and above) if necessary and/or if the named supervisor is unavailable for periods of a student's placement. However, overall responsibility, indemnity and supervision of the student/s remains the remit of the named supervisor.
- The supervisor should ensure learning opportunities are provided according to the specialty placement objectives. These are available on the supervisor website.
- The supervisor should support the progress and assessment of students as outlined on the supervisor website. It is recommended that a supervisor meets with the student part way through the placement to review progress and again at the end of the placement to discuss the Clinical Placement Assessment.
- The wider clinical team should be made aware of the student's presence within the department and encouraged to support access to learning opportunities.

## Placement Specific Standards

The following standards should only be observed for Physician Associate students in *some* clinical settings or specialties:

- Provision of scrubs (normally required in ED and Surgery)
- Access to RIO (Mental Health only)
- Access to EMIS or SystemsOne (primary care only)