

Student Entry Agreement 2023 Entry

MPAS Physician Associate

BB96

As a Physician Associate student, you will study for a course that automatically allows you to carry out some of the same duties as a doctor. During your student years your training will take place in a medical environment.

At present there is no regulatory body for Physician Associates, but there is a Physician Associate Managed Voluntary Register for students and qualified PAs. This is held and administered by the Faculty of Physician Associates at the Royal College of Physicians. PAs have a code of conduct and scope of practice and it is expected that you will familiarise yourself with these documents. They can be found on the PA managed voluntary register website: (<http://www.fparcp.co.uk>). However, registration with the General Medical Council (GMC) is expected in Autumn 2024.

The GMC have published guidance for PAs; Good medical practice: interim standards for Physician Associates and Anaesthesia Associates (August 2021). They have also published guidance for medical students (Achieving good medical practice) and standards on the duties of a doctor (Good Medical Practice, 2013), professional behaviour and fitness to practice. It is reasonable to assume that once regulated PAs would be expected to adhere to these.

We ask you to read the following outline of practice that derives from the GMC requirements carefully so that you can learn effectively and become a competent practitioner. If you anticipate experiencing difficulty with any element of this document, please contact the Course Director who will discuss with you how best to resolve it.

Please read the following statements and sign at the end to confirm that you understand them.

Patient and peer interaction (1-8)

1. Students are expected to listen to patients and respect their views, treat them politely and considerately, respect patients' privacy and dignity and respect their right to refuse to take part in teaching.
2. Students should not allow personal views about a person's age, disability, lifestyle, culture, beliefs, ethnic or national origin, race, colour, gender, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, social or perceived economic status prejudice their interaction with patients, teachers or colleagues.
3. Students are expected to be honest, not to abuse the trust of patients or other vulnerable people and not to enter into any improper relationship with other people.
4. A student must always make clear to patients that he or she is a student and is not qualified. Until you are qualified, you cannot by law recommend treatment or suggest patients take any action that might be interpreted as medical advice.
5. Students are bound by the principle of confidentiality of patient records and patient data. You must therefore take all reasonable precautions to ensure that any personal data relating to patients that you have learned by virtue of your position as a student will be kept confidential.

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You should not discuss patients with other students or professionals outside the clinical setting, except anonymously. When recording data or discussing cases outside the clinical setting you must endeavour to ensure that patients cannot be identified by others. You must respect all hospital and practice patient records.

6. Students are expected to maintain appropriate standards of dress, appearance and personal hygiene so as not to cause offence to patients, teachers, or colleagues. The appearance of a student should not be such as potentially to affect a patient's confidence in the supervising doctor responsible or the student's medical judgment or standing.
7. To ensure adequate communication, students may not cover their faces in any clinical areas, when they are working with teachers or when they are expected to work together with other students. Students may cover their faces in lectures unless specifically asked not to do so by the teacher. Students will have to uncover their faces for identification purposes, including entry to examinations and the Library. The exception to this is if a mask is required in line with national and local COVID guidelines.
8. Students are required to examine patients of both sexes physically (which includes touching and intimate examinations) in order to establish a clinical diagnosis, irrespective of the gender, culture, beliefs, disability, or disease of the patient. In order to qualify, it is required that a student is willing to examine any patient as fully and as intimately as is clinically necessary.

Engagement with teaching, assessment and clinical placements (9-14)

9. Early in the course, students are expected to learn how to do clinical examination by practising on other students and allowing others to practise on them. Students learn basic clinical examination skills in small groups using each other as models. This helps students learn professional attitudes and sensitivity to patients' needs as well as practical skills. Students are required to wear t-shirts and shorts for those sessions which involve examination of trunk and limbs. Where students are expected to remove their clothing to allow classmates to practise clinical examination, they will be given the option of working in single sex groups.
10. Students must participate actively in learning clinical procedures, such as how to take blood from patients and how to wash their hands to avoid spread of infection. Safe performance of procedures like this requires students to roll up their sleeves to the elbow to ensure that their hands remain sterile.
11. Students' dress must comply with infection control guidance appropriate to the clinical setting in which they are working. Students should note that since Feb 2008 in order to ensure infection control many Hospital Trusts will insist that all students and other health care workers are bare from the elbow down which also precludes wearing items such hand or wrist jewellery, wrist watches or false nails. Traditional white coats and ties will not be allowed. The spread of antibiotic resistant infections is a serious issue for the NHS and the welfare of patients.

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12. Students are expected to attend classes as required by the regulations of the course. Please see the canvas homepage. Excess absenteeism may result in termination of studies. *Signing the attendance register for another student or asking another student to sign in for you is considered a serious offence and may result in termination from the course of study.*
13. Clinical experience is a core part of learning and cannot be omitted. Classes and clinical placement experience are timetabled and regular attendance is required. Students on clinical placements may be required to work outside normal working hours including evenings or weekends. A student's request to take a specific day off for a mandatory religious festival will be considered in line with the university policy/ Requests must be submitted at the beginning of the year as per SGUL's attendance and engagement policy. The SGUL MPAS is a full-time course across both years. Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the full University Attendance and Engagement policy. Of particular note any the programme administrator must be made aware of any short-term absence of 5 days or less. Any long-term/prolonged absence (>5 days and up to 3 weeks) requires medical advice and evidence in the form of a medical certificate / letter may be required. A period of continuous absence (more than 3 weeks) requires evidence supporting the reason for the absence.
14. Students must be honest in submitting course work for assessment and never plagiarise material from other sources and submit it as their own work. *This includes the information supplied on the application form.*

Professional history and personal health and wellbeing (15-20)

15. An applicant must disclose if they have been charged/convicted with a criminal offence at any time prior to or during the admissions process. We must also be informed of any allegations still under investigation which may be pending charges. Students are required to have a Disclosure and Barring Service check before entering the course but must disclose if they are being investigated for or charged/convicted with a criminal offence once registered, especially if there is a possibility that this will affect fitness to be a clinical student or a qualified PA.
16. A student must inform us if charged with or convicted of a criminal offence when enrolled as a student at St George's. Although students are required to have a Criminal Record check before entering the course we also need to know if a student has a subsequent caution, reprimand or conviction, especially if there is a possibility that this will affect fitness to be a PA student. On that basis, students must be signed up to the DBS Update Service to allow regular checking of their police record.
17. If you have ever had registration with any professional body suspended or revoked, or undergone a disciplinary or fitness to practise investigation in the UK or any other country, we expect to know the circumstances and the formal outcome. A panel will review if this affects your suitability for the programme. You will be required to provide full copies of related documentation. Any information you disclose will only be used for the purpose of considering your application to the applied programme and will only be shared with those who need to use this information for this purpose.

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18. If you have previously embarked on a clinical degree such as PA, MBBS, Paramedic Science etc, whether in the UK or overseas, you must inform us if you have interrupted, been excluded, discontinued or failed to complete for any reason.

19. A student must inform us if there is any significant change to his or her health that might affect fitness to be a clinical student or to practise.

20. The Department of Health advice on health clearance recommends that all clinical students are offered a test for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C on entry to their course. This will be organised for you during enrolment week. Before testing for these blood-borne viruses you will be offered a chance for further discussion with someone if you wish. Testing is voluntary and so you may choose not to be tested. It is not necessary to be tested in order to complete your course successfully. However, you should be aware that if you choose not to be tested then you will not be able to take part in exposure prone procedures. These are not an essential part of the course but, for instance, some placements may be difficult if you have not been appropriately immunised. During your course you will have placements at various NHS Trusts. Some of these Trusts insist that all health care staff have had these tests. Students who have a blood-borne virus or who choose not to be tested will have a restricted range of careers\posts available after qualification if they have not had a full range of training.

Student behaviour and integrity (21-23)

21. Students are asked to confirm that they have been truthful in their applications and that they did not omit important information relevant to the application. If we discover that an applicant has been untruthful in his or her application, we may withdraw the offer or terminate the course of study.

22. St George's, University of London is committed to making the best use of all available technology and innovation to improve our business. This includes enhancing how we communicate and interact with the different groups of people we engage with, for example, staff, students, prospective students, and research and business partners. Social media platforms open up opportunities for the University, our staff and students to interact with the groups of people we engage with in new, exciting and meaningful ways. However, there are many potential issues to consider. To avoid mistakes and misjudgements that could result in personal, reputational, legal, moral and ethical issues, and misuse/abuse of a well-functioning social media relationship we will provide guidelines after enrolment.

23. I understand that my admissions data, including details declared on UCAS, MMI scores and other relevant admissions test data be used for educational research purposes in conjunction with any future school performance data. This is on the understanding my information is anonymised and personal data will not be shared or identity disclosed. However personal details provided by applicants and confirmed at enrolment will be provided to professional bodies for the purpose of future professional registration.

Amy Perrott, Course Director for the Masters in Physician Associate Studies, 2023

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St George's
University of London

Please sign and complete in BLOCK CAPITALS to confirm that you have carefully read this information about the requirements of the course and that you understand our expectations.

Full Name	
UCAS ID (if applicable)	
SGUL ID	
Signature	
Date (DD/MM/YY)	

Recommended reading

Achieving good medical practice: guidance for medical students

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/guidance/student-professionalism-and-ftp/achieving-good-medical-practice>

Good medical practice: interim standards for Physician Associates and Anaesthesia Associates (August 2021)

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-pas-and-aas/good-medical-practice-interim-standards-for-physician-associates-and-anaesthesia-associates>

Duties of a Doctor (Good Medical Practice, 2013)

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/ethical-guidance/ethical-guidance-for-doctors/good-medical-practice/duties-of-a-doctor>

Medical Students: Professional Behaviour and Fitness to Practice –

<https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/guidance/student-professionalism-and-ftp/professional-behaviour-and-fitness-to-practise>

Achieving Good Medical Practice: guidance for medical students: <https://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards-guidance-and-curricula/guidance/student-professionalism-and-ftp/achieving-good-medical-practice>

Uniforms and workwear: an evidence base for developing local policy -

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130107105354/http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_078433

Religion and Belief in relation to study

<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/religion-and-belief-code-of-practice>

<https://www.sgul.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/religious-observance>

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