

Physician associate

Physician associates support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients.

As a physician associate, you might work in a GP surgery or be based in a hospital, but wherever you work, you'll have direct contact with patients.

Working life

You'll be a graduate who has undertaken postgraduate training and you'll work under the supervision of a doctor. You'll be trained to perform a number of day-to-day tasks including:

- taking medical histories from patients
- performing physical examinations
- diagnosing illnesses
- seeing patients with long-term chronic conditions
- performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
- analysing test results
- developing management plans
- provide health promotion and disease prevention advice for patients.

Most physician associates currently work in general practice [1], acute (internal) medicine and emergency medicine.



"I find it very rewarding when I've supported a patient with a mental illness and see them come out the other side feeling hopeful and stronger than they were." Andy King, physician associate at Mosborough Health Centre in Sheffield

Read Andy's story in full [2]

Entry requirements

You'll usually need a bioscience-related first degree to get onto one of the training programmes available. Undergraduate integrated Master of Physician Associate Studies programmes are now available and these courses require A-levels or equivalent for entry.

Alternatively, if you're a registered healthcare professional such as a nurse, allied health professional or midwife you can also apply to become a physician associate. There is also a level 7 apprenticeship for physician associates. Apprenticeships give you the chance to earn a living while gaining your qualification.

Must have skills

Don't forget – academic qualifications aren't everything. You'll need to be able to demonstrate experience of working with the public, an interest in health or social care, the right values to work for the NHS and excellent communication skills.

Wherever you work, you'll have direct contact with patients.

Training and development

Physician associate training usually lasts two years, with students studying for 46-48 weeks each year and involves many aspects of an undergraduate or postgraduate medical degree. The training focuses principally on general adult medicine in hospital and general practice, rather than specialty care.

There will also be 1,600 hours of clinical training, taking place in a range of settings, including 350 hours in general hospital medicine. You'll also spend a minimum of 90 hours in other settings including mental health, surgery and paediatrics.

With further training and/or experience, you may be able to develop your career further and apply for vacancies in areas such as further specialisation, management, research, or teaching.

Pay and benefits

Your standard working week will be around 37.5 hours with the need to work flexibly over a seven day period. As a physician associate, you'll be paid on the Agenda for Change (AFC [3]) pay system, typically starting on band 7 with internships starting at band 6.

You'll also have access to our generous pension scheme and health service discounts, as well as 27 days of annual leave plus bank holidays.

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Live vacancies
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Physician Associate

Greenwich, SE3 7HB

-

Salary:

Depending on experience

-

Type:

Fixed term

-

Employer:

Central Advertising - Other

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[5\]](#)

Physician Associate

Haslingden, BB4 5SL

-

Salary:

Depending on experience

-

Type:

Permanent

-

Employer:

Central Advertising - Other

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[6\]](#)

Physician Associate

BRADFORD, BD5 0NX

-

Salary:

Depending on experience



Type:

Permanent



Employer:

Central Advertising - Social Enterprises

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[7\]](#)

Physician Associate

Whitwick, LE67 5HX



Salary:

£37570.00 a year



Type:

Fixed term



Employer:

Central Advertising - Social Enterprises

- [View Vacancy](#)

- [View Vacancy \[8\]](#)

Physician Associate

Royal Bolton Hospital, Bolton, BL4 0JR



Salary:

£31,365 - £37,890 per annum



Type:

Fixed term



Employer:

Bolton NHS Foundation Trust

- View Vacancy

- View Vacancy [9]

Physician Associate

Countess of Chester Hospital, Chester, CH21UL



Salary:

£38,890 - £44,503 pa



Type:

Fixed term



Employer:

Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

- View Vacancy



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Find your course to become a physician associate

Region

- Any -

Type of qualification

- Any -

Full or part time

- Any -

Search

Displaying 1 - 5 of 37 matches

MSc Physician Associate

Anglia Ruskin University

View course Opens in a new window
[10]

Region **East of England**

Type of course
Postgraduate/accelerated programme

Full or part time
Full time

Duration
27 months

Contact details
answers@aru.ac.uk [11] **01245 68 68 68**

Course webpage <https://aru.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/physician-associate> [10]

Admissions address

Chelmsford Campus
Bishop Hall Lane
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1SQ

Course webpage <https://aru.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/physician-associate> [10]

MSc Physician Associate Studies

Brighton and Sussex Medical School

View course Opens in a new window
[12]

Region **South East**

Type of course
Postgraduate/accelerated programme

Full or part time
Full time

Duration

2 years

Contact details

medadmissions@bsms.ac.uk [13] **01273 643529**

Course webpage <https://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/Taught-Degrees/Physician-Associate-Studies.a...> [12]

Admissions address

BSMS Teaching Building

University of Sussex

Brighton

East Sussex

BN1 9PX

Course webpage <https://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/Taught-Degrees/Physician-Associate-Studies.a...> [12]

Pg Dip Physician Associate

Bucks New University

View course [Opens in a new window](#)
[14]

Region **London**

Type of course

Postgraduate/accelerated programme

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

2 years

Contact details

advice@bucks.ac.uk [15] **01494 605060**

Course webpage <http://bucks.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/MP1PAS1/> [14]

Admissions address

High Wycombe Campus

Queen Alexandra Road

High Wycombe

Buckinghamshire

HP11 2JZ

Course webpage <http://bucks.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/MP1PAS1/> [14]

MSc Physician Associate Studies

Canterbury Christ Church University

View course [Opens in a new window](#)
[16]

Region **South East**

Type of course
Postgraduate/accelerated programme

Full or part time
Full time

Duration
2 years

Contact details
courses@canterbury.ac.uk [17] **01227 928000**

Course webpage <https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/study-here/courses/postgraduate/physician-associate...>
[16]

Admissions address

North Holmes Road
Canterbury
Kent
CT1 1QU

Course webpage <https://www.canterbury.ac.uk/study-here/courses/postgraduate/physician-associate...>
[16]

This course is run in partnership with the University of Kent

MSc Physician Associate Studies

Hull York Medical School

View course [Opens in a new window](#)
[18]

Region Yorkshire and The Humber

Type of course

Postgraduate/accelerated programme

Full or part time

Full time

Duration

2 years

Contact details

pgtadmissions@hyms.ac.uk [19] **01904 321690**

Course webpage <http://www.hyms.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught-programmes/physicianassociate> [18]

Admissions address

John Hughlings Jackson Building

University of York

Heslington

York

YO10 5DD

Course webpage <http://www.hyms.ac.uk/postgraduate/taught-programmes/physicianassociate> [18]

- Load more [20]

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- General practice (GP) [22]
- Anaesthesia associate [23]
- Acute internal medicine [24]
- Advanced critical care practitioner [25]

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Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medical-associate-professions/roles-medical-associate-professions/physician-associate/physician-associates-general-practice>

[2] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/medical-associate-professions/roles-medical-associate-professions/physician-associate/real-life-story-andy-king>

- [3] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#AfC>
- [4] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916398769>
- [5] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916398488>
- [6] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916410066>
- [7] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916407340>
- [8] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916392704>
- [9] <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916393831>
- [10] <https://aru.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/physician-associate>
- [11] [mailto: answers@aru.ac.uk](mailto:answers@aru.ac.uk)
- [12] <https://www.bsms.ac.uk/postgraduate/Taught-Degrees/Physician-Associate-Studies.aspx>
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- [15] [mailto: advice@bucks.ac.uk](mailto:advice@bucks.ac.uk)
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