

Physician Assistant Studies – Postgraduate Diploma

A new health career opportunity



Become a Physician Assistant
Change the shape of the healthcare team

Physician Assistant is an emerging healthcare role in the UK, working alongside doctors in hospitals and in GP surgeries. Physician Assistants will support doctors in the diagnosis and management of patients. They will be trained to perform a number of roles including: taking medical histories, performing examinations, diagnosing illnesses, and analysing test results under the direct supervision of a doctor.

Why study to become a Physician Assistant?

- Be the one of the first people to qualify in the UK in this new and exciting career
- Earn a starting salary of £22,500 – £32,000 at current levels
- Follow a career path that has already had proven success in the US – there are over 60,000 Physician Assistants practising there
- Pursue a profession that is supported by the NHS and the Department of Health

The University of Birmingham (in collaboration with the University of Wolverhampton) is delighted to offer a new opportunity to graduates to make a valuable contribution to the nation's health. The development of the profession has been led by the Department of Health and has involved the Royal College of Physicians and General Practitioners. University of Birmingham staff have taken a key role in the development of the programme at a national as well as a regional level in response to need identified by local healthcare providers. Successful completion of the programme will qualify students to practise in the UK.

College of Medical and Dental Sciences

School of Health and Population Sciences

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Course content

The programme integrates both theoretical and clinical learning. Theory is learned through problem-based learning and students experience medicine in both hospital and community attachments. The rich ethnic and socio-economic diversity of the 5.5 million-strong West Midlands population offers unrivalled opportunities for clinical learning, and placements seek to optimise this.

From the first semester, students have contact with patients as they are attached to a General Practice in the West Midlands.

The second year continues the problem-based learning approach and integrates mental health in community medicine, and Reproductive and Child Health, as well as A&E and Acute Admissions. Throughout the course, students receive teaching in a variety of forms; lectures, seminars, tutorials, laboratory work, and bedside demonstrations. The course incorporates clinical skills simulation teaching as core activity to ensure that students are as prepared as possible for the clinical attachments.

Students will sit a national exam towards the end of the second year, including a Multiple Choice Question (MCQ) paper and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE).

Duration of study

This course is two, full time, calendar years in duration, each lasting 46 weeks.

Entry Requirements

- 2:1 in a Life Sciences Degree (eg. Biology, Biochemistry, Medical Science, Nursing, Physiotherapy) or equivalent qualification
- A Level Chemistry Grade C or equivalent
- GCSE Maths and English Grade B or above

N.B. Extensive experience in the health service may contribute to your application if the above requirements are not fully met.

If English is not your first language, you will also need an English Language qualification such as IELTS – 7.0 with no less than 7.0 in any band or TOEFL – 600 (paper based)/250 (computer based) plus TWE 4.0 or 100 with no less than 23 in any band (internet based). Equivalent qualification can be accepted.

Learn more

Contact the Programme Administrator,
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or visit our website

www.medicine.bham.ac.uk/phyass.shtml



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This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the programmes and courses offered by the School. Please note that not all programmes or all courses are offered every year. Also, because our research is constantly exploring new areas and directions of study some courses may be dropped and new ones offered in their place.

