



Programme Specification (PG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	MSc Physician Associate Studies
Name of interim award(s):	PG Certificate in Healthcare Studies PG Diploma in Healthcare Studies PG Diploma in Physician Associate Studies*
Duration of study / period of registration:	24 months
Queen Mary programme code(s):	B961
QAA Benchmark Group:	NA
FHEQ Level of Award:	Level 7
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	27/08/2021(for Jan 2021 start)
Responsible School / Institute:	Institute of Health Sciences Education

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Barts Health NHS Trust, Barking Havering and Redbridge NHS Trust, Moorfields NHS Trust, Homerton University Hospital Royal Free University hospital, General practices within NC and NE London

Programme outline

The MSc in PA studies is delivered over 24 months (45 weeks per year) on a full-time basis. Roughly half of the course will be taught within the university and the remainder in work-place settings in hospitals and the community.

The curriculum is based on the Competence and Curriculum Framework or the Physician Associate 2012 and is structured into 3 elements: knowledge, skills and themes. Each of the 8 modules that constitute the course contains these key elements to varying degrees. Each of the elements link to specific learning outcomes related to the module of study.

Aims of the programme

The programme aims to equip graduates with the knowledge, skills and attitudes, in line with the professional standards set by the PAMVR and the requirements for the register. This is similar to the GMC's GMP expected of doctors by the GMC to enable

graduates to perform autonomously but dependently alongside doctors. Graduates will be able to undertake many roles traditionally performed by doctors and as such will augment the existing medical work force. Graduates will have also have acquired the skills and attitudes for life-long learning and reflective practice, enabling them to meet the challenge of providing high quality health care, responsive to the changing needs of the population and the NHS. These aims are met though an innovative, student-centred course of study, which is responsive to the needs of employers and the strategic aims of the NHS. Learning occurs in a variety of educational settings but is distinguished by the early exposure to clinical environments.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Intended learning outcomes – the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and appropriate attitudes, that supports PA competencies;

Academic Content:

A 1	Physical, biomedical and social science concepts, principles, processes and mechanisms underpinning a systems-based approach to the body in health and disease.
A 2	Health and illness in the context of the whole individual and his/her place in the family and community
A 3	Patients' and carers' experience of ill-health and medical care in a multi-cultural society
A 4	Disease prevention and health promotion in relation to public health medicine Disease prevention and health promotion in relation to public health medicine

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Recognise normal and abnormal function of body systems.
B 2	Use effectively the various strands of knowledge and understanding in the context of treating patients.
B 3	Proficiency in a stipulated range of clinical and communication skills in Medicine (consistent with the GMC's recommendations).
B 4	Proficiency in a stipulated range of clinical and communication skills in Medicine (consistent with the GMC's recommendations).
B 5	Ability to work autonomously with appropriate supervision and as part of a team, including with other healthcare professionals
B 6	Appropriate modes of interaction with patients and others involved in healthcare.
B 7	Communicate effectively with a wide variety of individuals and groups, utilising a variety of means.
B 8	Record and evaluate his/her own academic, professional and clinical performance.

B 9	Apply problem-solving and numerical skills in a range of theoretical and practical settings.
B 10	Manage change and uncertainty effectively, and respond to changing demands.
B 11	Take responsibility for continuing personal and professional learning and development (CPD).
B 12	Develop basic skills in teaching, and knowledge of effective educational practice.

Attributes:	
C 1	Caring and ethical attitudes towards the practice of Medicine
C 2	Attitude of independence towards planning and directing one's own learning, with capacity for self-assessment
C 3	Manage time, prioritise workloads, and recognise and manage personal emotions and stress.
C 4	Apply appropriate information management skills (e.g. IT skills).

How will you learn?

As an adult learner you should understand what learning methods work best for you. The course will be taught using a variety of learning methodologies including:

Lectures; problem-based learning; tutor-facilitated tutorials; practicals; formative assessment workshops; clinical demonstrations; multi-media presentations (Learning Centre); community placements; ward rounds; clinical skills simulator; multi-professional training ward; structured interactions with (simulated) patients. In addition, Student-Selected Components (SSC); study skills; personal portfolio. Some of the material will be delivered by a flipped class room model where contact time can be spent explaining concepts and exploring issues raised in a collaborative fashion as a group.

How will you be assessed?

The following methods will be used to assess your progress in achieving the designated learning outcomes. There will be regular in course assessment, which will be both formative and summative, based on course work, Applied Knowledge Test (AKTs) and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs.) End of year written examinations, group work .

How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

The course begins in January (start of semester 2). The programme is composed of 6 taught modules (150 credits) and a 30 credit research project. Modules which are largely studied in a sequential manner with a single pathway of study.

The course begins with an induction week which has the intention of providing a broad overview of the course, orientation to the School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) and to services for students available within the SMD and Queen Mary University of London. As well as revision of study skills and tips to get the most out of the course.

Community Medicine will run in tandem with the other modules throughout the programme with students typically spending a day a week during most weeks of the course in a community setting. The purpose will be to provide a primary care perspective and focus relevant to the module being studied.

The first module, Applied Medical and Social Sciences is studied in full-time and lasts 8 weeks. The module will be completed in its entirety within the third semester and forms the backbone of the underpinning medical and social science required.

This is followed by a longitudinal dissertation carried out across the 24 months and concluding with the Quality Improvement in Healthcare project report in year 2. Throughout the first year students will be taught research methodology and evidenced based practice followed by 2 x fortnights and one 3 week block, whilst the remainder is studied independently facilitated by supervised masterclasses over the remainder of the 24 month course. Throughout the 24 months students therefore spend 8 specific weeks in supervised classroom activities on their health improvement project.

Clinical Medicine: Physical and Mental Health is a 16 week module comprising 7 weeks of classroom activity, anatomy and clinical placements. The module commences in semester 2 with a 6 week taught component and their first 6 week major clinical placement where students will be attached to a medical team. The module also contains 1 week didactic teaching and 3 weeks of clinical placement covering mental health issues including studying the effects of drug misuse on the individual, family units and wider society as well as clinical placements within drug misuse services.

The Community Medicine I module is an integrated module overall all comprising taught blocks and placement activities. The purpose of the 4 week blended module will be to learn about topics/ specialties which present frequently to primary care e.g. ENT, dermatology, musculoskeletal medicine including rheumatology).

All first year modules must be passed to progress to the next year of study.

Year 2 begins with Care of Women and Children, an 11 week module encompassing obstetrics, gynaecology, sexual health and paediatrics. This is followed by Clinical Medicine and Surgery, which includes a week studying end of life pathways in hospital, hospice and community settings, and a revision of general clinical medicine including clinical skills and practical procedures.

The Clinical Medicine and Surgery module will focus on surgical problems affecting adults and will include a 3 week general surgery attachment in line with The Curriculum and Competency Framework for the Physician Assistant (CCF for the PA). This module also includes 2 weeks of classroom and a 5 week clinical placement in Healthcare for the Elderly. This module specifically has a spiral curricular nature and will visit aspects of clinical medicine and practical procedures. This is reinforced with a 6 week clinical attachment focusing on acute settings or "Front door Medicine" including; intensive care, acute stroke, acute medical unit and Emergency Medicine.

Students will have a 2 week private study break before the end of year exams, and there are two 3 week student selected component (SSC) blocks one in each year. There is overall 13 weeks of private study used either for consolidation, examination preparation or dissertation study.

Students who successfully pass Year 2 Finals and are in good standing may be able to enter into the national PA exam.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Applied Medical and Social Sciences	IHS7110	30	7	Core	1	Semesters 2-3
Clinical Medicine: Physical and Mental Health	IHS7111	30	7	Core	1	Semester 3
Community Medicine I	IHS7112	15	7	Core	1	Semester 3

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Care of Women and Children	IHS7114	30	7	Core	2	Semester 2
Clinical Medicine and Surgery	IHS7113	30	7	Core	2	Semesters 1 & 3
Community Medicine II	IHS7115	15	7	Core	2	Year Long
Quality Improvement in Healthcare project report	IHS7118	30	7	Compulsory	2	Year Long

What are the entry requirements?

All applicants for MSc Physician Associate program will be graduates.

UK graduates

- All candidates must have a BSc (honors) in Life Sciences, Biomedical or Health Profession Degree. This will usually be a bachelor's degree or may be a four-year Masters, but the latter only if it is a first degree. The minimum academic entry requirements are:
 - A second-class honours (2:2 minimum)
 - A- level or equivalent in two science subjects. One science subject should be either in Chemistry &/ or Biology (minimum grade C).
- If an applicant is offered place, he/she must have completed this degree prior to enrolment. Candidates are required to complete their degree within the prescribed period allowed by their University.
- Candidates whose native language is not English, you will need to provide evidence of your English language ability.

Candidate must meet one of the following English Language qualifications from applicants educated within the UK but not in the English language medium who meet our other academic criteria:-

- o IELTS with a score of 7.0 overall (must have been taken within 2 years)

- o GCSE/IGCSE/O-level in English Language at grade B All IGCSE must have a speaking and listening component in the exam
- o First degree taught in the English Language medium

Non-UK graduates

- We accept British Bachelor (Honors) equivalent qualifications gained in other countries. Non-UK graduates are required to send a full transcript of their degree together with a statement of comparability from UK NARIC confirming their degree is comparable to a British BSc (Honors) degree standard prior to making an application, which will be considered on a case by case basis. Only an applicant's first degree is considered.
- Applications from candidates who are in their last year of the degree are accepted provided they are predicted to achieve a minimum of second-class lower honours (2:2) degree or above. If these applicants are offered a place, they must have completed this degree prior to enrolment. Applicants are not accepted from degree students in the first or second year of their degree.
- Candidates whose native language is not English, you will need to provide evidence of your English language ability.

Candidates must meet one of the following English Language qualifications from applicants educated outside the UK who meet our other academic criteria:-

- o IELTS with a score of 7.0 overall (must have been taken within 2 years)
- o GCSE/IGCSE/O-level in English Language at grade B All IGCSE must have a speaking and listening component in the exam
- o First degree taught in the English Language medium

The offer of a place on the course will be conditional upon clearance by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and Occupational Health checks.

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

You will have a variety of ways to provide feedback. We will regularly ask for your feed back at the end of modules and taught components in order to refine and improve the effectiveness and experience of the components/ modules. You will be asked to feedback regarding your experiences in clinical placements, this is your opportunity to contribute to the development of the course.

You can utilise informal channels either via your course tutor or directly to the course director or their deputies.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between Schools and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year.

All schools operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. The process is normally organised at a School-level basis with the Head of School, or equivalent, responsible for the completion of the school's Annual Programme Reviews. Schools/institutes are required to produce a separate Annual Programme Review for undergraduate programmes and for postgraduate taught programmes using the relevant Undergraduate or Postgraduate Annual Programme Review pro-forma. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the PTES and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

The course begins with an induction week to provide orientation to Queen Mary. You will be advised of the services available. As well as generic skills workshops to help you cope with this academically demanding course.

You will be allocated a course mentor who will meet with you regularly to discuss your progress and how you are coping with the course. During these meetings you will receive feedback on your performance devised from the regular in course assessment. If you are struggling with a particular area of the course, your tutor will arrange for you to be seen by an Academic Year Tutor.

Programme-specific rules and facts

All modules, with the exception of IHS7118 Quality Improvement in Healthcare project report, are core and therefore must be taken and passed;

Students must take and pass all 75 credits to progress from year one to year 2 of the programme.

Exit Awards:

*Students passing all taught modules but failing the Quality Improvement Project will be awarded a 120 credit Pg Diploma in Physician Associate Studies

Students who achieve 120 credits but fail any taught module will be awarded a Pg Diploma in Healthcare Studies

Students who achieve 60 credits will be awarded a Pg Certificate in Healthcare Studies

National Exam.

To qualify and practise as a Physician Associate student must undertake the national exam (not part of the Queen Mary award).

Only those students who pass the end of year 2 exams will be recommended for the national exam.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

All students will have access to the Student Support Office for advice and guidance. Where appropriate, students will be supported by the Disability and Dyslexia Service. Due to the vocational nature of the course, a student's ability to achieve the learning outcomes for the course and therefore be in a position to perform the work of a PA will need to be considered on a case by case basis and will be dependent upon the nature and severity of their disability.

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The programme has been devised in collaboration with a wide range of NHS employers. It is well supported by the local NHS trusts in North Central East London and Clinical commissioning groups, as well as the Royal Free Hospital Trust. You will spend time in these workplaces as part of your course. This exposure will help you to decide your future field of medical practice. You will find that on completion of the course, your skills will be highly sort after. Employment opportunities are likely to be excellent. However, in order to practise, it is essential that you pass both programme as well as the National Certifying Exam.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Dr Nimesh Patel

Person responsible for management of programme:

Ms Arunthathi Mahendran

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:

27/8/21

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:

27/08/2021(for Jan 2021 start)