

Programme Specification

MSc Physician Associate Studies (full-time)

PFTZPHYASSHM

For students entering in 2023/24

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	MSc Physician Associate Studies (full-time) - 2 years
Accreditation	N/A
Programme Start Dates	September

Programme information and content

The programme aims to produce graduates who have the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours to function as Physician Associates (and to have their qualification nationally and internationally recognised) and the personal and intellectual attributes necessary for life-long professional development. Such graduates will be:

- safe practitioners under medical supervision in a wide variety of clinical settings, with patients from diverse social and ethnic backgrounds
- expert communicators who are empathic in a manner appropriate to a healthcare profession
- aware of health inequalities and the challenges of working in a multicultural environment
- aware of the limits of their competence and determined to act within those limits
- trained in the context of multi-professional working in a team environment
- adept in the use of C&IT (Communication and Information Technology) skills for healthcare
- capable and motivated lifelong learners continually engaged in active professional development
- understanding of the need to maintain and promote health, as well as to cure or palliate disease and aware of their obligations to the wider community as well as to individuals
- trained to integrate theoretical and clinical learning
- skilled at using research, enquiry and scholarship to identify and address the challenges facing clinical practice and/or the health sciences.

Module information

The programme comprises of 240 credits, allocated across three compulsory modules. These compulsory modules are listed below.

Compulsory modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PMM1PPA	Physician Associate Clinical Module 1	90	M
PMM1RP	Medical Research and Enquiry	30	M

Year 2 modules

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PMM2PPA	Physician Associate Clinical Module 2	120	M

Part-time or flexible modular arrangements

Part time study is not appropriate for this programme.

Additional costs of the programme

- 1) Required text books: A wide variety of text books is available from the library. Students are advised to purchase own copies of some core texts at varying costs.
- 2) Specialist equipment or materials: Professional standard stethoscope at approximately £90-£160
- 3) Printing facilities are available on campus at approximately £0.05 per page
- 4) Travel, accommodation and subsistence: Students may need to travel to placements in the community and this could incur additional travel costs if they visit venues geographically further away (when significantly further away, the programme currently supports travel costs by reimbursements).

As part of ensuring the safety of students, patients and the public, you will be required to undergo a police (Disclosure & Barring Service) check as you join the programme. The initial DBS check costs approximately £50-£55.

Costs are indicative and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Optional modules

N/A

Placement opportunities

Study abroad will not be available for students on this programme. However, placements in the healthcare environment form a key part of the learning activities that students will undertake.

Study abroad opportunities

N/A

Teaching and learning delivery

Teaching and learning is delivered in a variety of ways, including interactive lecture-based style, practical skills workshops, case-based learning and small group work, simulated clinical skills training sessions, and seminars.

Students will be required to maintain a portfolio of learning which includes a record of patient encounters and acquisition of core clinical skills. Students will be required to include reflective accounts of critical learning encounters as well as formal case reports. The portfolio will also contain evidence provided by other healthcare practitioners regarding the performance of the students.

Total study hours for your programme will be 1800 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is 1340 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

The oversight of education and training of Physician Associates is currently shared by the Department of Health, the Physician Associate Schools Council (PASC) and the Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA), Royal College of Physicians. PASC peer reviews programmes prior to their commencement. Graduates who pass a programme must then pass the Physician Associate National Certification Examination and then will be able to register with the FPA who maintain the Managed Voluntary Register (PAMVR).

Assessment

Students will be required to submit their portfolio of learning for summative assessment, which will be marked on a Pass/Fail basis.

Students will also complete formative in-module assessments of knowledge and its application to clinical scenarios.

Summative assessments will include written examinations, such as single best answer multiple choice questions and Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE). These assessments will prepare students for the Physician Associate National Certification Examination, which takes the same format.

Progression

Successful completion of PMM1PPA will be required to progress on to module PMM2PPA.

Classification

The University's taught postgraduate marks classification is as follows:

Mark Interpretation

70 - 100% Distinction

60 - 69% Merit

50 - 59% Good standard (Pass)

Failing categories:

40 - 49% Work below threshold standard

0 - 39% Unsatisfactory Work

For Masters Degree

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 60 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 180 credits; and
- ii. a mark of 50 or more for the dissertation; and
- iii. students must not have any mark below 50.

In addition, for all classifications above, students must obtain a mark of at least 50% in all compulsory modules, and successfully complete specified assessment components in the PMM1PPA and PMM2PPA modules, as described in the module descriptions.

For PG Diploma

To qualify for **Distinction**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 70 or more over 120 credits; and
- ii. students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Merit**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 60 or more over 120 credits; and

- ii. students must not have any mark below 50.

To qualify for **Passed**, students must

- i. gain an overall average of 50 or more over 120 credits; and
- i. students must not have any mark below 50.

In addition, for all classifications described under PG Diploma, students must successfully complete specified assessment components in modules PMM1PPA and PMM2PPA, as described in the module descriptions, specifically they must pass the portfolio element.

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

MSc Physician Associate Studies (full-time) for students entering in session 2023/24
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