

KEY PROGRAMME INFORMATION

<p>Originating institution(s) Bournemouth University</p>	<p>Faculty responsible for the programme Faculty of Health and Social Sciences</p>
<p>Final award(s), title(s) and credits MSc Physician Associate Studies–180 (90 ECTS) level 7 credits Post Graduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies–120 (60 ECTS) level 7 credits</p>	
<p>Intermediate award(s), title(s) and credits Post Graduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies– 120 (60 ECTS) level 7 credits Post Graduate Certificate Clinical Health Studies– 60 (30 ECTS) level 7 credits</p>	
<p>UCAS Programme Code(s) (where applicable and if known) Course code: BB96 Institution code: B50</p>	<p>HECoS Code(s) and percentage split per programme/pathway</p> <p>Programmes where the exit award is at or above level 7: HECoS code: 100750</p> <p>CAH Code: 02-06-01 Health sciences (non-specific) 02-06 Allied health 02 Subjects allied to medicine</p> <p>Does this programme require ATAS: NO</p>
<p>External reference points The UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Part A: Setting and maintaining academic standards, Chapter A1: UK and European reference points for academic standards (October 2013) – incorporates the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (Qualification Frameworks), Master’s Degree Characteristics</p>	
<p>Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body (PSRB) links Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA) Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant (2012). https://www.fparcp.co.uk/webapp/data/media/58e235ff1a1be_CCF_for_the_physician_assistant_2012.pdf</p> <p>Faculty of Physician Associates. Code of conduct for Physician Associates. https://www.fparcp.co.uk/file/image/media/64cba37dcd431_FPA_code_of_conduct_July_2023.pdf</p> <p>Department of Health. National Practitioner Programme. Matrix specification of Core Clinical Conditions for the Physician Assistant by category of level of competence (2006). Department of Health https://www.fparcp.co.uk/file/image/media/58eb57fd01018_Matrix_of_core_clinical_conditions.pdf</p> <p>FPA/PASC/RCP/GMC. Draft Physician Associate Curriculum (2022). https://www.fparcp.co.uk/file/image/media/633c292be9bed_FPA_DRAFT_PA_curriculum_-_FINAL_FOR_WEB.pdf</p> <p>General Medical Council Standards: Excellence by Design: https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/excellence-by-design---standards-for-postgraduate-curricula-2109_pdf-70436125.pdf Good Medical Practice 2024: https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/gmp-2024-final---english_pdf-102607294.pdf Promoting Excellence: https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/promoting-excellence-standards-for-medical-education-and-training-2109_pdf-61939165.pdf</p> <p>There is a Managed Voluntary Register held by the Faculty of Physician Associates, aligned to the Royal College of Physicians. Currently, Physician Assistants are not subject to statutory regulation but statutory regulation by the General Medical Council is due to start in 2024.</p>	

Programme Specification – Section 1

Places of delivery Bournemouth University, Lansdowne campus																							
Mode(s) of delivery Full-time	Language of delivery English																						
Typical duration Programme duration: 2 years full-time MSc: 2 years full-time Post Graduate Diploma: 2 years full-time Post Graduate Certificate: 1 year full-time																							
Date of first intake September 2024	Expected start dates September																						
Maximum student numbers Not applicable	<p>Placements The Faculty of Physician Associates (2012) dictates PA students will complete a minimum of 1600 hours in a range of clinical placements, including up to 200 hours in the simulation laboratories.</p> <p>The proposed plans for placements and simulation laboratories for the BU programmes are as follows:</p> <p>Year One/Stage One</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">General Hospital Medicine:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">12 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Front Door Medicine</td> <td style="text-align: right;">9 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary Care</td> <td style="text-align: right;">6 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mental Health:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL: 30 weeks</td> </tr> </table> <p>Where 1 week constitutes a minimum of 32 hours on placement (4 x 8 hours)</p> <p>Hours in the simulation laboratories : 120 hours</p> <p>Year Two/Stage Two</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">Women’s Health:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>General Surgery:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paediatrics (acute setting)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Primary Care</td> <td style="text-align: right;">7 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elective placement (or additional primary care)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">3 weeks</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL: 19 weeks</td> </tr> </table> <p>Where 1 week constitutes a minimum of 32 hours on placement (4 x 8 hours)</p> <p>Hours in the simulation laboratories: 100 hours</p> <p>TOTAL CLINICAL LEARNING HOURS OVER TWO YEARS: 1600 (1400 in placements plus at least 200 in simulation laboratories)</p>	General Hospital Medicine:	12 weeks	Front Door Medicine	9 weeks	Primary Care	6 weeks	Mental Health:	3 weeks	TOTAL: 30 weeks		Women’s Health:	3 weeks	General Surgery:	3 weeks	Paediatrics (acute setting)	3 weeks	Primary Care	7 weeks	Elective placement (or additional primary care)	3 weeks	TOTAL: 19 weeks	
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TOTAL: 19 weeks																							
Partner(s) Not applicable	Partnership model Not applicable																						
Date of this Programme Specification April 2024. Applies to September 2024 intake																							

Programme Specification – Section 1

Version number

Version 2.0-0925

Approval, review or modification reference numbers

E20171830

E20171831

BU 1819 01, approved 28/02/2019. Previously version 1.0-0119

FHSS 2021 01, approved 30/09/2020. Previously version 1.1-0920

FHSS 2021 16, approved 05/05/2021. Previously version 1.2-0921

FHSS 2223 10, approved 12/01/2022. Previously version 1.3-0922

E232417, approved 18/01/2024. Previously version 1.4-0923

Author

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Programme Specification – Section 1

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

Programme Award and Title: Post Graduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies								
Stage One/Level 7 PG Dip PA Studies students are required to complete all three units and all associated practice hours for each unit.								
Unit Name	Core/Option	No of credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected contact hours per unit	Unit version no.	HECoS Subject Code
			Exam 1	Cwk 1	PRCT			
Introduction to Medicine for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100	Pass/Fail	60	2.0	100750
Further Medicine and Emergency Care for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100	Pass/Fail	60	2.0	100750
Mental Health and Communication Skills for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100	Pass/Fail	60	2.0	100750
Progression requirements: Requires 60 credits at Level 7, a minimum of 70% attendance at Bournemouth University taught components of the course (including skills training sessions) and successful completion of all associated placement hours.								
Interim award: PG Cert Clinical Health Studies WITHOUT eligibility for registration requires 60 credits at Level 7 and successful completion of <i>all associated practice hours</i> .								
Placement: During Stage 1 students must complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placements in General Medicine (350 hours), Emergency Medicine (180 hours), Primary Care (217.5 hours), Mental Health (90 hours) comprising a total of 837.5 hours. plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 hours in the simulation laboratories All placements are compulsory, and hours missed must be made up. A maximum of 60 hours can be carried forward to Stage 2 of the programme.								

Programme Specification – Section 1

Stage Two/Level 7

PG Dip PA Studies students are required to complete all three units and all associated practice hours for each unit.

Unit Name	Core/ Option	No of credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected contact hours per unit	Unit version no.	HECoS Subject Code
			Exam 1	Cwk 1	PRCT			
Women's Health and General Surgery for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100	Pass/ Fail	72	2.0	100750
Child Health for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100	Pass/ Fail	60	2.0	100750
Primary Care and Chronic Disease Management for the Physician Associate	Core	20	100		Pass/ Fail	60	2.0	100750

Target qualification:

PG Diploma Physician Associate Studies with eligibility for entry to the National examinations requires 120 credits at Level 7, at least 70% attendance for taught components of the course at Bournemouth University, and successful completion of *all associated 1600 hours in practice*.

Placements:

During **Stage Two** ALL students must complete:

- placements in Women's Health (90 hours), General Surgery (90 hours), Paediatrics (acute) (90 hours), Primary Care/Elective placement (292.5) total of **562.5 hours**.
- plus
- 80 hours in the simulation laboratories

Students must pass and be signed off as competent for all sections of their practice portfolio by the end of Stage Two.

TOTAL HOURS IN PRACTICE OVER TWO YEARS is 1400 hours in placements plus 200 hours in simulation

All missed hours must be made up in the appropriate area by the end of the programme.

Programme Specification – Section 1

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE MSc PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

Programme Award and Title: MSc Physician Associate Studies								
Stage One/Level 7 MSc PA Studies students are required to complete all three units and all associated practice hours for each unit.								
Unit Name	Core/ Option	No of credits	Assessment Element Weightings			Expected contact hours per unit	Unit version no.	HECoS Subject Code
			Exam 1	Cwk 1	PRCT			
Introduction to Medicine for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100	Pass/ Fail	60	2.0	100750
Further Medicine and Emergency Care for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100	Pass/ Fail	60	2.0	100750
Mental Health and Communication Skills for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100	Pass/ Fail	60	2.0	100750
<p>Progression requirements: Requires 60 credits at Level 7, a minimum of 70% attendance at Bournemouth University taught components of the course (including skills training sessions) and successful completion of all associated placement hours.</p> <p>Interim award: PG Cert Clinical Health Studies WITHOUT eligibility for registration requires 60 credits at Level 7 and successful completion of <i>all associated practice hours</i>.</p>								
<p>Placement: During Stage 1 students must complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placements in General Medicine (350 hours), Emergency Medicine (180 hours), Primary Care (217.5 hours), Mental Health (90 hours) comprising a total of 837.5 hours. <p>plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 hours in the simulation laboratories <p>All placements are compulsory, and hours missed must be made up. A maximum of 60 hours can be carried forward to Stage 2 of the programme.</p>								

Programme Specification – Section 1

Stage Two/Level 7

MSc PA Studies students are required to complete all five units and all associated practice hours for each unit.

Unit Name	Core/ Option	No of credits	Assessment Element Weightings				Expected contact hours per unit	Unit version no.	HECoS Subject Code
			Exam 1	Cwk 1	Cwk 2	PRCT			
Women's Health for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100		Pass/ Fail	72	2.0	100750
Child Health for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100		Pass/ Fail	60	2.0	100750
Primary Care and Chronic Disease Management for the Physician Associate	Core	20	100			Pass/ Fail	60	2.0	100750
Exploring and Evaluating Evidence for the Physician Associate	Core	20		100			30	2.0	100750
Critically Reviewing Practice for the Physician Associate: Final Project	Core	40		20	80		30	2.0	100750

Target qualification:

MSc Physician Associate Studies with eligibility for entry to the National examinations requires 120 credits at Level 7, at least 70% attendance for taught components of the course at Bournemouth University, and successful completion of all associated 1600 hours in practice.

Placements:

During **Stage Two** ALL students must complete:

- placements in Women's Health (90 hours), General Surgery (90 hours), Paediatrics (acute) (90 hours), Primary Care/Elective placement (292.5) total of **562.5 hours**.
- plus
- 80 hours in the simulation laboratories

Students must pass and be signed off as competent for all sections of their practice portfolio by the end of Stage Two.

TOTAL HOURS IN PRACTICE OVER TWO YEARS is 1400 hours in placements plus 200 hours in simulation

All missed hours must be made up in the appropriate area by the end of the programme.

AIMS OF THE DOCUMENT

The aims of this document are to:

- define the structure of the **Post Graduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies** programme and also the **MSc Physician Associate Studies** programme making clear which elements of the programmes can be shared and which are separate.
- specify the programme award titles;
- identify programme and level learning outcomes;
- articulate the regulations governing the awards defined within the document.

AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

Both the **Post Graduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies** and the **MSc Physician Associate Studies** programmes aim to educate and prepare graduate students with a science related degree for the position of Physician Associate.

The programme is informed by three profession specific documents, together with three generic documents for all medical education courses validated by the General Medical Council. These are:

- Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA) Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant (2012).
https://www.fparcp.co.uk/webapp/data/media/58e235ff1a1be_CCF_for_the_physician_assistant_2012.pdf
- Department of Health. National Practitioner Programme. Matrix specification of Core Clinical Conditions for the Physician Assistant by category of level of competence (2006). Department of Health
https://www.fparcp.co.uk/file/image/media/58eb57fd01018_Matrix_of_core_clinical_conditions.pdf
- FPA/PASC/RCP/GMC. Draft Physician Associate Curriculum (2022).
https://www.fparcp.co.uk/file/image/media/633c292be9bed_FPA_DRAFT_PA_curriculum_-_FINAL_FOR_WEB.pdf
- General Medical Council Standards:
 - Excellence by Design: https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/excellence-by-design---standards-for-postgraduate-curricula-2109_pdf-70436125.pdf
 - Good Medical Practice 2024: https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/gmp-2024-final---english_pdf-102607294.pdf
 - Promoting Excellence: https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/documents/promoting-excellence-standards-for-medical-education-and-training-2109_pdf-61939165.pdf

These documents cite the core competences, core procedural skills and core clinical conditions that students must be proficient in and will be tested on in their National Regulatory Examination (the PANE/PARA) at the end of their course in order to qualify as registered Physician Associates. Thus the theory units and their Intended Learning Outcomes are informed by this framework.

The theory units have been designed to fully prepare students to work efficiently and effectively as a Physician Associate in a range of healthcare settings. Students' clinical placements have been planned to facilitate and consolidate student learning in relation to the theory units.

This programme aims to develop critically informed, responsive and resourceful graduates, who:

- have a deep understanding of the pathophysiology of a range of human conditions and diseases and how they present;
- are critically aware of the complexities of such conditions/diseases and how they can potentially impact on patients, their families and wider society;
- have the knowledge and skills to make differential diagnoses and appropriate management plans for people with such conditions/diseases;

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- can perform a range of complex skills in order to make differential diagnoses;
- have highly developed communication skills effective with both the multi-disciplinary healthcare team and service users;
- can critically appraise research and use new knowledge to inform practice;
- are able to manage their own personal and professional development and lifelong learning;
- demonstrate professionalism in action accordance with the General Medical Council's Good Medical Practice.

ALIGNMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S STRATEGIC PLAN

This programme aligns with both the BU 2025 strategic plan and the fusion agenda. The concept is to prepare practitioners to work within the healthcare environment whilst obtaining a Master's Degree. The students' learning will be facilitated by University staff who are 'fused' professionals participating in research, professional practice and teaching. Some lecturers are Medical staff who are experts in their fields of health care. Units are led by lecturers, and all teaching material is research/evidence based and highly relevant to professional practice. Close liaison with the local NHS employers throughout the planning of the programme has informed the programme development and enhanced the potential for employability of students completing the programme and fostered local links with 'industry'.

LEARNING HOURS AND ASSESSMENT

Bournemouth University taught programmes are composed of units of study, which are assigned a credit value indicating the amount of learning undertaken. The minimum credit value of a unit is normally 20 credits, above which credit values normally increase at 20-point intervals. 20 credits is the equivalent of 200 study hours required of the student, including lectures, seminars, assessment and independent study. 20 University credits are equivalent to 10 European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) credits.

The assessment workload for a unit should consider the total time devoted to study, including the assessment workload (i.e. formative and summative assessment) and the taught elements and independent study workload (i.e. lectures, seminars, preparatory work, practical activities, reading, critical reflection).

Assessment per 20 credit unit should normally consist of 3,000 words or equivalent. Dissertations and Level 6 and 7 Final projects are distinct from other assessment types. The word count for these assignments is 5,000 words per 20 credits, recognising that undertaking an in-depth piece of original research as the capstone to a degree is pedagogically sound.

In relation to the both the PG Dip Physician Associate Studies and the MSc Physician Associate Studies, students will undertake a series of theoretical study blocks which are followed by bespoke practice placements.

The content of teaching blocks is linked (Appendices 1 & 2) to the General Medical Council Curriculum (Appendix 3) and the Physician Associate Registration Assessment content map (Appendix 4) to ensure that students cover the core knowledge, skills and behaviours that Physician Associates need for UK practice.

The learning and teaching during the theory blocks will incorporate a range of strategies such as lectures, seminars, e-learning, quizzes, group discussions, case presentations, problem-based learning, topic-based learning, critical reflection, virtual-reality scenarios and core procedural skills preparation. In practice, learning will be facilitated by prepared clinical supervisors. Students will be recalled into university each week during their placement experience to continue their skills training programme, discuss case presentations, and attend themed topic days. During recall days students will also undertake formative assessments designed to facilitate learning and to prepare for the national examination which is an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) and single-best answer knowledge test.

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Throughout the two-years of the course, there is a dedicated skills training programme linking into each unit of the programme. Students will practice a range of essential, mandatory and core procedural skills in the simulation laboratories. Students also have weekly anatomy teaching sessions in the theory blocks of the first two units of the course using the Bournemouth University virtual dissection tool, the Anatomage Table. Please note that skills training hours are additional to the expected contact hours for the unit to fulfil the skills training hour requirement of the Faculty of Physician Associates.

STAFF DELIVERING THE PROGRAMME

Students will mainly be taught by Medical Educators who are based predominantly in practice and are therefore clinically up to date. Named senior academics will take responsibility for Programme Leadership. Other staff who will be involved in programme delivery include a combination of senior academic and lecturing staff, and qualified professional practitioners who have relevant expertise as appropriate to the content of the units.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES – AND HOW THE PROGRAMME ENABLES STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE AND DEMONSTRATE THE INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

PROGRAMME LEVEL 7 INTENDED PROGRAMME OUTCOMES FOR POST GRADUATE DIPLOMA PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

<p>A: Subject knowledge and understanding</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p>A1 Critically explore the anatomy and physiology of the body systems;</p> <p>A2 Critically evaluate a wide range of pharmaceutical and therapeutic medicines and their application in the management of a range of conditions;</p> <p>A3 Understand the complexities of a range of physical and mental health conditions.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anatomage table (A1); • lectures (A1 – A3); • seminars (A1 – A3); • group work/PBL/TBL (A1 – A3); • e-Learning (A1 – A3); • directed reading (A1 – A3); • use of the VLE (A1 – A3). <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays (A1 – A3); • knowledge base tests (Single best answer) (A1 – A3); • OSCE (A2 – A3).
<p>B: Intellectual skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme outcomes:</p>

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<p>B1 Critically analyse findings from consultations and formulate and evaluate a detailed differential diagnosis;</p> <p>B2 Analyse differential diagnoses and apply clinical decision making to select the most likely diagnosis and formulate appropriate management strategies;</p> <p>B3 Critically analyse the indications, contra-indications, complications and techniques for a range of core procedural skills;</p> <p>B4 Understand the complexities of a range of physical and mental health conditions;</p> <p>B5 Recognized the seriously ill baby/infant/child or adult and intervene urgently with effective treatment.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures (B1 – B5); • seminars (B1 – B5); • group work/PBL/TBL (B1 – B5); • virtual reality (B1 – B5); • e-Learning (B1 – B5); • directed reading (B1 – B5); • use of the VLE (B1 – B5); • practice placements (B1 – B5). <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays (B1 – B5); • knowledge base tests (Single best answer) (B1 – B5); • OSCE (B1 – B5); • practice portfolio (B1 – B5).
<p>C: Practical skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p>C1 Perform comprehensive assessments and/or focused clinical examinations on patients with a range of both physical and mental health problems;</p> <p>C2 Critically explore, analyse and identify a range of common presentations and conditions;</p> <p>C3 Perform and critically evaluate a range of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures;</p> <p>C4 Maintain and deliver clinical management in collaboration with the patient through an episode of care.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simulation in skills laboratory (C1 – C4); • practice placements (C1 – C4). <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSCE (C1 – C4); • practice portfolio (C1 – C4).
<p>D: Transferable skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p>D1 Critically appraise how to liaise effectively with a number of departments, specialties and multi-agencies, and understand how to refer patients to them appropriately;</p> <p>D2 Critically reflect on and demonstrate communication skills for effective patient/carers consultation;</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures (D1 – D3); • use of the VLE (D1 – D3); • practice placements (D1 – D3).

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<p>D3 Critically analyse the ethical and legal issues which may impact on patient care, carers and society.</p>	<p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays (D1 – D3); • practice portfolio (D1 – D3).
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PROGRAMME LEVEL 7 INTENDED PROGRAMME OUTCOMES FOR MSc PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE STUDIES

Please note additional intended programme outcomes in *italics* for MSc PA students

<p>A: Subject knowledge and understanding</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p>A1 Critically explore the anatomy and physiology of the body systems;</p> <p>A2 Critically evaluate a wide range of pharmaceutical and therapeutic medicines and their application in the management of a range of conditions;</p> <p>A3 Understand the complexities of a range of physical and mental health conditions;</p> <p>A4 <i>Critically analyse an area of health care practice utilizing national guidelines and relevant literature.</i></p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anatomage table (A1); • lectures (A1 – A4); • seminars (A1 – A4); • group work/PBL/TBL (A1 – A4); • e-learning (A1 – A3); • directed reading (A1 – A4); • use of the VLE (A1 – A4); • project work (A4).
	<p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays (A1 – A3); • knowledge base tests (Single best answer) (A1 – A3); • OSCE (A2 – A3); • final project submissions (A4).
<p>B: Intellectual skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme outcomes:</p>
<p>B1 Critically analyse findings from consultations and Formulate and evaluate a detailed differential diagnosis;</p> <p>B2 Analyse differential diagnoses and apply clinical decision making to select the most likely diagnosis and formulate appropriate management strategies;</p> <p>B3 Critically analyse the indications, contra-indications, complications and techniques for a range of core procedural skills;</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures (B1 – B6); • seminars (B1 – B6); • group work/PBL/TBL (B1 – B6); • virtual reality (B1 – B5); • e-learning (B1 – B5); • directed reading (B1 – B6); • use of the VLE (B1 – B6);

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<p>B4 Understand the complexities of a range of physical and mental health conditions;</p> <p>B5 Recognized the seriously ill baby/infant/child or adult and intervene urgently with effective treatment;</p> <p>B6 <i>Evaluate clinical practice in light of findings from relevant literature and identify areas for quality improvement.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practice placements (B1 – B5). <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays (B1 – B5); • knowledge base tests (Single best answer) (B1 – B5); • OSCE (B1 – B5); • practice portfolio (B1 – B5); • final project submissions (B6).
<p>C: Practical skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p>C1 Perform comprehensive assessments and/or focused clinical examinations on patients with a range of both physical and mental health problems;</p> <p>C2 Critically explore, analyse and identify a range of common presentations and conditions;</p> <p>C3 Perform and critically evaluate a range of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures;</p> <p>C4 Maintain and deliver clinical management in collaboration with the patient through an episode of care.</p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simulation in skills laboratory (C1 – C4); • practice placements (C1 – C4). <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSCE (C1 – C4); • practice portfolio (C1 – C4).
<p>D: Transferable skills</p> <p>This programme provides opportunities for students to:</p>	<p>The following learning and teaching and assessment strategies and methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</p>
<p>D1 Critically appraise how to liaise effectively with a number of departments, specialties and multi-agencies, and understand how to refer patients to them appropriately;</p> <p>D2 Critically reflect on and demonstrate communication skills for effective patient/carer consultation;</p> <p>D3 Critically analyse the ethical and legal issues which may impact on patient care, carers and society;</p> <p>D4 <i>Understand the nature of knowledge and its relationship with research paradigms;</i></p> <p>D5 <i>Be able to provide a rationale for different methodological approaches;</i></p> <p>D6 <i>Identify, retrieve and evaluate literature from a range of databases;</i></p>	<p>Learning and teaching strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lectures (D1 – D3); • use of the VLE (D1 – D3); • practice placements (D1 – D3). <p>Assessment strategies and methods (referring to numbered Intended Learning Outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • essays (D1 – D3); • practice portfolio (D1 – D3); • final project submissions (D4 – D7).

<i>D7 Critically appreciate the relationship between research, policy and contemporary evidenced based healthcare.</i>	
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ADMISSION REGULATIONS

Please refer to the course website for further information regarding admission regulations for this programme: [MSc Physician Associate Studies | Bournemouth University](#)

PROGRESSION ROUTES

N/A

ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS

The regulations for this programme are the University's standard Postgraduate assessment regulations: <https://intranetsp.bournemouth.ac.uk/pandptest/6a-standard-assessment-regulations-postgraduate.pdf>

With the exception of:

Compensation

Compensation is not permitted within this programme.

Awards

To be eligible for the award of **Post Graduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies** requires:

- 120 credits at Level 7
- A minimum of 70% attendance for taught components of the course at Bournemouth University
- successful completion of all associated 1600 hours in practice, and
- pass and sign off of competence for all sections of the student's practice portfolio

To be eligible for the award of **MSc Physician Associate Studies**, students must have achieved:

- 120 credits at Level 7
- A minimum of 70% attendance for taught components of the course at Bournemouth University
- successful completion of all associated 1600 hours in practice, and
- pass and sign off of competence for all sections of the student's practice portfolio

The awards of Post Graduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies/MSc Physician Associate Studies lead to eligibility to register for the Physician Associate National Examination (PANE, also known as the Physician Associate Regulatory Examination or PARA) set by the Faculty of Physician Associates which is part of the Royal College of Physicians. Once this examination has been passed students can then register as Physician Associates. Currently registration is on the Faculty of Physician Associates managed Voluntary Register, but the General Medical Council will take over Physician Associate registration in late 2024.

The interim award of **Post Graduate Certificate Clinical Health Studies** will not confer eligibility to register for either the Physician Associate National Examinations or professional registration with the General Medical Council.

WORK BASED LEARNING (WBL) AND PLACEMENT ELEMENTS

All students undertaking a programme in Physician Associate studies in the UK must undertake a **minimum** of 1400 hours in specified areas of clinical practice (Faculty of Physician Associates, 2012). In addition students will spend 200 clinical hours in the simulation laboratories.

Core placements for the MSc Physician Associate Studies and the PG Diploma Physician associate Studies at BU have been organised as follows:

Year One/Stage One

General Hospital Medicine	12 weeks
Front Door Medicine	9 weeks
Primary Care	6 weeks
Mental Health	3 weeks

TOTAL: 30 weeks

Where 1 week constitutes a minimum of 32 hours on placement (4 x 8 hours)

Year Two/Stage Two

Women's Health:	3 weeks
General Surgery:	3 weeks
Paediatrics (acute setting)	3 weeks
Primary Care	7 weeks
Elective placement (or additional primary care)	3 weeks

TOTAL: 19 weeks

Where 1 week constitutes a minimum of 32 hours on placement (4 x 8 hours)

These placements have been negotiated with local healthcare providers who will provide trained supervisors to guide students through their programme of study. A written guide for prospective clinical supervisors is available.

Clinical practice placements will be arranged in blocks of 3-9 weeks duration with students normally attending University for 1 day each week during this time to consolidate their learning. During these recall days students will be formatively assessed via Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs), and knowledge tests (Single Best Answer questions or SBAs), which have been designed to prepare students for their national examinations at the end of their programme.

Programme Skills Matrix

Units		Programme Intended Learning Outcomes																					
		A 1	A 2	A 3	A 4	B 1	B 2	B 3	B 4	B 5	B 6	C 1	C 2	C 3	C 4	D 1	D 2	D 3	D 4	D 5	D 6	D 7	
LEVEL 7	PG Dip Physicians Associate																						
	Introduction to General Medicine for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Emergency Medicine for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Mental Health and Chronic Neurological Conditions for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Women's Health for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Paediatrics for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Primary Care for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
LEVEL 7	MSc Physician Associate																						
	Introduction to General Medicine for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Emergency Medicine for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Mental Health for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Women's Health for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Paediatrics for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
LEVEL 7	Primary Care for the Physician Associate	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√	√					
	Exploring and Evaluating Evidence				√						√									√	√	√	√
	Critically reviewing Practice for the Physician Associate: final project				√						√									√	√	√	√