



Course Specification

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Produced By:	Oliver Jones
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Medicine and Clinical Practice		
Course Code(s):	BM046P01UV	Full-time	2 Years
Course Title:	Post Graduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Postgraduate Diploma Physician Associate Studies Postgraduate Certificate Physician Associate Studies University Statement of Credit University Statement of Credit		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	01/Jun/2017		
Last Review:	2014/5		
Course Specification valid from:	2014/5		
Course Specification valid to:	2019/0		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	Mrs Marina Kendrick
Head of Department:	Mrs Ann Saxon

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS)

BSc (Hons) 2:1 in a Life Sciences Degree - we want our students to start the course with a good knowledge of biological processes, cell functions and cell interactions. Some examples of degrees we regard as generally suitable are: • Anatomy • Biology • Biochemistry/Medical Biochemistry • Biomedical Science • Dentistry • Human Biology/Physiology/Pharmacology • Medical Science • Nursing • Pharmacy • Physiotherapy • Podiatry • Psychology (with a biological orientation) • Radiography • Zoology

Those meeting the entry requirements may be shortlisted for interview, the interview will be based on the values and beliefs that underpin the care we provide in the NHS. (NHS Constitution - <http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/thenhs/about/Pages/nhscoreprinciples.aspx>)

Successful candidates will be subsequently required to meet a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check and Occupational Health requirements. You will be expected to meet the costs associated with the DBS clearance process. The charge for this will be a DBS fee of £44.00 and a £6.00 ID check service fee.

You will be expected to travel to placement and provide essential equipment eg: stethoscope.

Applicants will need to pay a £250 non-refundable deposit at the point of accepting an offer to study on the course. The deposit is put towards payment of fees when students join the course.

Distinctive Features of the Course:

This course aims to meet professional development needs in the field of Physician Associate Studies. The programme has been designed in collaboration with clinical stakeholders, service users and carer's and members of the Faculty of education Health and Wellbeing academic team which has over many years provided Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programmes for a range of healthcare staff.

This experience enables us to be in a position whereby we have developed key attributes as an educational providers on the cutting edge of health care developments, some of which are now outlined:

A friendly, helpful and student-focused team of academic, clinical and administrative staff.

It is envisaged that medical colleagues will work in partnership with academic staff who have achieved advanced professional qualifications and who are now subject specialists involved in advisory and research roles; locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

Contributions in modules from the Medical Professoriate who are actively involved in research which is

influencing care in local, regional, national and international arenas.

Educational Aims of the Course:

This is an intensive two-year full-time Post Graduate Diploma that has been designed to enable you to develop the skills required to become a competent and confident Physician Associate (PA). Working to a medical model you will develop a range of core competencies across a range of clinical practice areas supported by and working with consultants, doctors and a range of other healthcare professionals. The curriculum includes many of the same elements as the standard four or five-year medical programme that doctors study. However, it focuses principally on general adult medicine in hospital and general practice settings, rather than specialty care. This role provides a new way of working that will complement roles already developed in primary and secondary care and strengthen the medical team. This inspiring programme of study provides an opportunity for you to therefore develop mastery in a range of core PA qualities for example; holistic assessment techniques and appropriate therapeutic interventions, with the ability to diagnose and or manage an agreed range of clinical problems. Understanding and managing the complexities of PA work within a constantly evolving health environment, aiming to inspire the PA to contribute to the future development of the role.

You will be required to pass a national examination as part of the course. The programme aims to develop you as PA to be a flexible and adaptable practitioner, enabling you to engage in new ways of working in relation to health care priorities and to use 'your' self' to lead and develop practice to ensure high quality patient care delivery . PA'S are pivotal to the provision of optimal, higher level care delivery in current and future health arena's, to contribute to this agenda the programme has been designed to develop your core PA characteristics as a critical enquirer and a professional with confidence and competence to challenge, lead and innovate at different levels of care delivery, within a dynamic, inter-professional health care context.

We are currently working with the following local NHS trusts who will be providing placement opportunities:

Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust

Birmingham Children's Hospital

UHNS

You may go on to specialise in a range of areas including surgery, emergency medicine or primary care.

The programme has been developed in response to identified and anticipated demands for increasing the number PA's with advanced skills and critical understanding. For the award of the Post Graduate Diploma you will study six 20 credit modules, you will also complete 1600 hours of clinical practice during a range of clinical placements.

You will be able to progress to complete your Masters with a 60 credit top up dissertation which will be available as an MSc Health and Social Care .

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

HE FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND (HEFCE)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2017/8	H	Full Time	£9180.00
2017/8	EU	Full Time	£9180.00
2017/8	Overseas	Full Time	£9180.00
2018/9	H	Full Time	£9364.00
2018/9	Overseas	Full Time	£
2018/9	EU	Full Time	£9364.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-Time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 1

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7HW090	Foundations of Clinical Medicine	20	YEAR	Core
7HW091	Foundations of Clinical Practice for the Physician Associate	20	YEAR	Core
7HW092	Clinical Reasoning and Decision Making for the Physician Associate	20	IN YR	Core
7HW115	Applied Pharmacology for the Physician Associate	20	SEM2	Core

September (Full-Time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Year 2

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
7HW093	Personal and Professional Development for the Physician Associate	20	YEAR	Core
7HW094	Health and Wellbeing across the lifespan	20	SEM1	Core

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

Section 1.2.3 - As practice is assessed within modules (7HW091 and 7HW093) these will be Year Long in duration rather than being delivered over semesters.

Section 1.2.3 - PgD Physician Associate Studies operates outside the normal University Academic Calendar due to the need for it to accommodate practice hours.

Section 3.4.2 - PgD Physician Associate Studies will normally be studied over two years and within a maximum of four years. Although students will only study 80 credits in Year 1 and 40 credits in Year 2, this course is classified as a full-time course due to the practice requirements of the Universities Board for Physician Assistant Education (UKIUBPAE).

Section 4.3.3 - Due to the professional nature of the PgD qualification, it would not be appropriate to allow a re-attempt if the student's performance did not meet the minimum criteria on practice modules (7HW091 and 7HW093). Where students fail a practice module at the first attempt, they will have no automatic right to a re-attempt. The decision regarding the opportunity for a re-attempt will be made by the Assessment Board. There is no right to repeat practice modules (repeats will be allowed for theory modules).

Section 2.3.1 - Students will not be entitled to admission to the course through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) but will be considered as a transfer following the completion of year one of an equivalent course in another institution.

Section 4.5.1 - Progression from Year 1 to Year 2 would not normally be considered for a PgD. However, for this course the students will need to complete all of the assessment requirements for Year 1 before progressing to Year 2.

Section 5.1.1 - Students who fail the Universities Board for Physician Assistant Education (UKIUBPAE) assessment will not be entitled to the PgD qualification even though they may have successfully completed 120 credits.

APPROVED by AFRSC (18/7/2014).

Reference Points:

QAA (March 2010) Master's Degree Characteristics

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/MastersDegreeCharacteristics.pdf>

QAA (2006) Statement of common purpose for subject benchmark statements for the health and social care professions

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/StatementofCommonPurpose06.pdf>

The framework for higher education qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) (second edition revised August 2008)

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/FHEQ08.pdf>

QAA Quality code

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Documents/Part-A.pdf>

University of Wolverhampton (2008) Equality and Diversity action plan

Race Relations Act (1976 amended in 2000)

SHaW (2012-2015) School Plan

SHaW (2008) AP(E)L strategy and guidelines

University of Wolverhampton (2007) Student Voice

University of Wolverhampton (2010-2012) learning and teaching strategy

University of Wolverhampton (2010-2011) general examination and assessment regulations

University of Wolverhampton (2011) Postgraduate academic regulations

Subject Specific:

Competence and Curriculum Framework for the Physician Assistant 2012

<http://www.ukapa.co.uk/files/CCF-27-03-12-for-PAMVR.pdf>

United Kingdom Association of Physician Associates

<http://www.ukapa.co.uk/>

What is a PA?

<http://www.ukapa.co.uk/files/What-is-a-PA.pdf>

A day in the life of a PA St Georges

<http://www.ukapa.co.uk/students/a-day-in-the-life/index.html>

Future Hospital: Caring for Patients RCP 2013

http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/sites/default/files/future-hospital-commission-report_0.pdf

The Competence and Curriculum Framework(2006)

<https://www.bulger.co.uk/prison/Physician%20Assistant.pdf>

Physician Assistants Friends or Foes to Doctors?

<http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20008022>

The case for the Physician Assistant (2012)

<http://www.ukapa.co.uk/files/Case-for-PA-Clin-Med-2012-Parle-Ross-Kuhns.pdf>

Learning Outcomes:

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGCCL01)

Demonstrate a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of your academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice with a conceptual understanding that enables the student: 1. to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline. 2. to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new hypotheses.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGCCL02)

Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to your own research or advanced scholarship and ability to continue to advance your knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGCCL03)

Demonstrate originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGCCL04)

Ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate your conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGCCL05)

Demonstrate self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level.

PGCert Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGCCL06)

Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring: 1. the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility 2. decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations 3. the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 1 (PGDCL01)

Critically evaluate the principles underpinning effective communication and the relationship between the Physician Associate (PA) and the patients: their supervising doctor and other members of the multi-professional team.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 2 (PGDCL02)

Demonstrate competence in a range of technical and practical procedures relevant to clinical practice and the role of the Physician Associate.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 3 (PGDCL03)

Demonstrate fundamental, holistic assessment techniques and appropriate therapeutic interventions, with the ability to diagnose and or manage an agreed range of clinical problems.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 4 (PGDCLO4)

Critically evaluate the causes and mechanisms of disease and the principles of disease prevention in individuals and populations encompassing the challenges of working in a multicultural environment.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 5 (PGDCLO5)

Demonstrate at an advanced level, professional skills in relation to making judgements and decisions within contemporary legal, ethical and governance healthcare framework.

PGDip Course Learning Outcome 6 (PGDCLO6)

Demonstrate proficiently as an effective, creative, self-directed independent learner including the use of information technology in facilitating continuous updating of knowledge.

Overview of Assessment:

Module	Title	Course Learning Outcomes
7HW090	Foundations of Clinical Medicine	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO6
7HW091	Foundations of Clinical Practice for the Physician Associate	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO6
7HW092	Clinical Reasoning and Decision Making for the Physician Associate	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO5
7HW093	Personal and Professional Development for the Physician Associate	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6
7HW094	Health and Wellbeing across the lifespan	PGCCLO1, PGCCLO2, PGCCLO3, PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGDCLO1, PGDCLO2, PGDCLO3, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5
7HW115	Applied Pharmacology for the Physician Associate	PGCCLO4, PGCCLO5, PGCCLO6, PGDCLO4, PGDCLO5, PGDCLO6

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

The learning activities and learning experiences which will support you in the achievement of the Post Graduate Diploma learning outcomes include:

Lectures: You will experience a variety of lecture formats. Both teacher and student centred lectures are encouraged. Within the lecture, time will be provided where you are encouraged to be interactive with lecturers to aid clarification and extension of your knowledge and understanding. All lecture material will be supported by digital technology to enhance learning, and will be made available for you to access independently throughout a module on WOLF, our virtual learning environment.

Seminars: These are educational opportunities to extend and deepen your understanding of topics covered in a module. In some seminar forums you will be encouraged to take the lead in discussing relevant articles, policies and the theoretical and evidence base that underpins the module.

Simulated learning: A wide variety of simulated learning will be available to you to enable you to practice in near to real life situations in relation to health services. Opportunities will be available through the use of contemporary technology for you to review and critique your own actions during such exercises and critically evaluate the experience to aid future development.

Workshops: Workshops will allow you to develop skills of interaction and critical debate with a wide variety of academic staff and students, they are essential to developing skills for inter-professional working in health care.

Debate and dialogue: These learning activities are integral to lectures and seminars. The University's virtual learning environment, WOLF provides a forum for you and your colleagues to engage in dialogue with each other as well as with academic staff.

Formative on-line assessments: Here opportunities will be provided for you to 'have a go' at some summative assessment tasks before the actual (graded) assessment is submitted. This will develop your academic and practical skills through face to face tutorial guidance and on-line feedback.

Peer presentations: You will be required to study some aspects of specific modules independently and feedback your findings to the wider group, which allows you to further develop your academic skills and critical approach.

Tutorials: Face to face meetings with Module Leaders, the Programme Leader and your Personal Tutor aims to enable the tailoring of academic, personal and professional advice to meet your individual needs.

Placements: you will be expected to meet the requirements of the proposed clinical practice hours via a range of clinical placements.

National Examination; You will be expected to pass a national examination as part of the course this will enable you to use the title of Physician Associate without passing this exam you will not be able to use this title.

Student Support:

Programme Team

Course Leader available to discuss choices and progress whilst negotiating the programme.

A group of dedicated and experienced academics who form the programme team and are available for advice whilst studying modules.

VLE

On-line resources for each module will be made available.

The VLE facility enables discussion with fellow students and the module academic staff whilst the module is underway.

Library Services

Face to face and on-line activities to promote study skills development and links to study support via the Learning Centres 'skills for learning' programme and its web pages;

http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills_for_learning.aspxU2T

www.wlv.ac.uk/skills

DAS offer individual and group support at PG level across our libraries.

'ASSIST' provides real-time online librarian support available at;

<http://www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/contacts/assist.aspx>

Personal Tutor

A 'Personal Tutor' will be allocated at the start of the programme; they are available for personal advice both on-line and face-to-face.

Additional Services

The [Careers and Employment Services](#) team offer support in finding a part-time job or volunteering whilst studying and help in preparing for perhaps different work after study.

The Counselling Service offers a confidential space where you can talk to a counsellor about your concerns. Personal appointments are available on all campuses; there is a drop-in service every weekday at City Campus and on online counselling is available at [www://www.wlv.ac.uk/counselling](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/counselling)

The student financial support unit at [money matters](#) can help with advice on funds available to students.

The student enabling service centre provides a comprehensive range of support for Deaf, Dyslexic and Disabled students including; screenings and assessments, guidance on gaining financial support, support services and enabling technologies. They can be contacted at [students with disabilities](#).

Student Advisors are available within FSE and can be accessed independently.

For international students there is the International Office who deal with all queries for international students.

Employability in the Curriculum:

Employment opportunities

Following graduation from the course you will be eligible to apply for an internship at one of the local, regional or national healthcare providers which is designed as a period of employment following qualification which the Physician Associate receives a higher level than normal of supervision and clinical experience. It provides an opportunity to consolidate your learning from initial training and demonstrate its translation into competence in practice.

Physician Associates have been employed locally in the Midlands as follows;

Dudley Group of Hospitals Russells Hall Hospital

Emergency Department

Vascular Surgery

George Eliot Hospital

Acute Medicine

Accident and Emergency

Cardiology

Respiratory

Gastroenterology

Geriatrics

Sandwell and West Birmingham/ City Hospital

Emergency Department

Solihull and Birmingham Mental Health Various sites

Mental Health, including subspecialties: mother and baby, liaison psychiatry and female forensic psychiatry

Mid Staffordshire Stafford

Emergency Department

Cardiology

University Hospitals Birmingham Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Neurosurgery

Clinical Decision Unit

Cardiology

Acute Medicine

Birmingham Children's Hospital

Liver Transplant Unit

Education Opportunities

Following completion of the Post graduate Diploma you would be able to progress to one of our Top up Masters Awards such as

MSc Health and social Care

Or Professional Doctorate programmes

