COURSE SPECIFICATION

MSc Physician Associate Studies

Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships
Department of Student and Academic Administration

March 2019

COURSE SPECIFICATION

Please refer to the Course Specification Guidance Notes for guidance on completing this document.

Course Title	MSc Physician Associate Studies
Final Award	MSc Physician Associate Studies
Exit Awards	PgCert Applied Clinical Studies (minimum of 60 credits, any module combination) PgDip Physician Associate Studies (successful completion of the following modules is essential in order to be eligible for this award: U30804, U30805, U30806, U30807, U30808)
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	C2861F, P2861FTC
Mode of study	Full time
Mode of delivery	Campus, block release
Normal length of course	2 years
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	From September 2019 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Science Faculty & Health
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Health and Care Professions
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-health-sciences-and-social-work/
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/msc-physician-associate-studies
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	TBC
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 7

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the Module Web Search for further information on the course structure and modules.

Educational aims of the course

The MSc Physician Associate Studies course aims to:

- produce graduates who have the knowledge, skills and professional behaviours to function as Physician Assistants (and to have their qualification nationally and internationally recognised) and the personal and intellectual attributes necessary for life-long professional development. In line with the Faculty of Physician of Physician Associates Competence and Curriculum Framework (DOH 2012), graduates from this course 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 professional
  - 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 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.

Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their Framework for Higher Education Qualifications document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	*Have integrated core knowledge of biomedical, behavioural, and population sciences and the clinical knowledge relevant to the understanding and management of problems and conditions likely to be encountered the first year of physician associate practice.*	*Lectures Seminars Tutorials Practicals Practice placement*	*Written examinations OSCEs Practice based assessment*
A2	*Have integrated core knowledge of the normal structure and function of the major systems and how they interrelate; different stages of the life cycle and how these affect normal structure and function; molecular, biochemical and cellular mechanisms important in maintaining homeostasis.*		*Written examinations OSCEs*

A3	Have integrated core knowledge of causes and mechanisms of disease; natural history of disease and relationships with risk factors and disease prevention; alteration in structure and function of the body and its major systems consequent upon illness or injury.		Written examinations OSCEs
A4	Demonstrate proficiency in clinical reasoning through application of pharmacological principles of treatment using drugs, their efficacy in the management and symptomatic relief of diseases, and their adverse reactions; the principles of non-pharmacological therapies and their role in the management of disease and disability.		Written examinations OSCEs
A5	Demonstrate insight into the principles of disease surveillance and screening, disease prevention, communicable disease control, health promotion, and health needs assessment; principles of healthcare planning, and prioritisation of service, including basic concepts of health economics; organisation of the NHS; ethical and legal background of their practice.		Written examinations OSCEs

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Demonstrate their ability to think critically by adopting reflective and inquisitive attitudes and applying rational processes as well as recognising the impact of their own value judgements and those of patients.	Lectures Seminars Tutorials Practicals Practice placement	Project
B2	Demonstrate proficiency in clinical reasoning through their ability to recognise, define and prioritise problems; analyse, interpret, objectively evaluate and prioritise information, recognising its limitations; and recognise the limitations of knowledge in medicine and the importance of professional judgement.	Lectures Seminars Tutorials Practicals Practice placement	Written examinations OSCES Practice based assessment
B3	Demonstrate insight into research and scientific method through an understanding and critical appreciation of methodology; formulating research questions that are pertinent to their professional field; and choosing and applying appropriate quantitative and qualitative methodologies.	Lectures Seminars Tutorials Practicals Practice placement	Project Written examination OSCE Practice based assessment
B4	Demonstrate insight into research and scientific method through choosing and applying appropriate quantitative and qualitative methodologies.	Lectures Seminars	Project
B5	Demonstrate insight into research and scientific method through recognition of the importance of rigour in collecting, analysing and interpreting data; and	Lectures Seminars	Project

	recognising the relationship between evidence, audit and observed variation in clinical practice.		

C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Identify and utilise appropriate practical and technical procedures/methods to produce an accurate differential diagnosis, initiate appropriate treatment and/or give relevant advice within the defined scope of their practice.	Lectures Practicals Practice placement	Written examination OSCE Practice based assessment
C2	Communicate effectively, accurately and sensitively with colleagues, service users and other stakeholders in a variety of contexts and via a variety of media, as appropriate.		Practice based assessment
C3	Produce and maintain contemporaneous, legible, accurate and pertinent records for patients under their care.		Practice based assessment
C4	Demonstrate basic communication and information technology skills relevant to their duties.		Practice based assessment
C5	Liaise with the different sectors of the health and social care systems and manage those components relevant to the care of the patient.	Lectures Tutorials Practicals Practice placement	OSCE

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Adopt the principles of reflective practice and lifelong learning.	Lectures Practice placements	PAD
D2	Retrieve, manage, and manipulate information by all means, including electronically.	Lectures Practice placements	OSCE PAD
D3	Present information clearly in written, electronic and oral forms, and communicate ideas and arguments effectively.	Lectures Tutorials Seminars Practicals Practice placements	Project Practice based assessment
D4	Apply the principles of scientific research and audit.	Lectures Seminars	Project

Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth Academic Regulations will apply to this course.

Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides:

- An induction programme
- Academic link lecturers
- Placement supervisors
- A personal tutor
- Faculty placements team

Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

Insert additional reference points or delete as required

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University vision 2030 and strategy 2025](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Education Strategy 2016 - 2020](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [Requirements of Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Bodies: The Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA)](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff
- National Occupational Standards

Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and

students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

Copyright

The contents of this Course Specification are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means, such as electronic, mechanical, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

Document details

Author	*Donna Dalgetty*
Date of production and version number	*October2020 v2.0*
Date of update and version number	*N/A*
Minimum student registration numbers	*15*