

Get ready for MSc Physician Associate Studies

On behalf of the entire programme team, we warmly welcome you onto the MSc Physician Associate Studies course. You are starting an intense and enriching graduate level programme to prepare you for your future career.

I have provided some information below that will help you to prepare for starting with us. We look forward to seeing you at the start of the course.

Madeleine Baines & Brad Sewell
Programme Leaders

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 1 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the [Starting Block website](#) with more details.

Your [timetable](#) will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the '[Understanding your teaching timetable](#)' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival

You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our [Preparing and Arrival](#) webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the [library](#), [study skills](#), [academic support](#), [health and wellbeing support](#) and much more.

Registration

Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the [MYUWE](#) platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our [Registration](#) website.

ID card - upload your photo now

We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to [MYUWE](#). To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive your login details. For help, go to our [student card guidance](#).

How to make a successful start to your programme

Specific for your course

In previous correspondence you will have already been informed about our additional requirements which must be completed ahead of Registration and Induction:

- **Academic certificates**
- **Disclosure and Barring Service check**
- **Occupational Health clearance**

Immunisation

Please read both the [Immunisation Letter](#) and [Immunisation leaflet](#) prior to commencing your studies.

If any of these requirements are still outstanding, you must send the relevant paperwork to us, as instructed, as soon as possible.

Please be aware that Incomplete Disclosure Barring Service and Occupational Health Checks will impact on your ability to access learning materials, attend placements and complete your registration onto your degree programme.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning

I would recommend you do the following before you start at UWE Bristol:

- Become a student member of the Faculty of Physician Associates (FPA): As a student member of the FPA, you will be part of a professional membership body that campaigns for progress and change in the profession, advises government, and takes part in national debates on medical, clinical and public health issues. The FPA will support you throughout your education, training and professional development. [Student Registration with the Faculty of Physician Associates \(FPA\) in the Royal College of Physicians](#)
- Watch the following videos on Medical Terminology by Dr John Campbell:
 - [Medical terms 1 – Introduction](#)
 - [Medical terms 2 - Prefixes part 1](#)
 - [Medical terms 3 – Prefixes part 2](#)
 - [Medical terms 4 - Suffixes](#)

Read around your subject

A key skill which is required to achieve a high level of success within your chosen programme is the ability to think critically about key issues and practices. To help you to enhance these skills and be ready to engage with your studies, you should start to read and research around your subject before you arrive. Explore the [Library](#) web pages to see the wide range of resources available to you once you become a UWE Bristol student.

Reading List:

During your time on the programme the following resources may be of use:

- Macleod's clinical examination
- Macleod's clinical OSCEs
- Bates' guide to physical examination
- Kumar and Clark's Clinical Medicine
- Oxford Medical Education (online)
- Oxford handbook of clinical medicine (Ian Wilkinson et al, 2017)
- Surface anatomy: the anatomical basis of clinical examination (J.S.P.Lumley)
- The Doctor's communication handbook (Peter Tate, Liz Tate 2014)
- Clinical communication in medicine edited by Jo Brown; Lorraine M. Noble; Alexia Papageorgiou; Jane Kidd (2016)
- Clinical clerking: a short introduction to clinical skills (Seymour, Siklos 1994)

Useful resources:

Please be aware of the following documents:

- General Medical Council:
 - [Achieving GMP for PAs and AAs \(gmc-uk.org\)](http://gmc-uk.org)
 - [Professional behaviour and fitness to practise: interim guidance for physician associate course providers and their students \(gmc-uk.org\)](http://gmc-uk.org)
 - [GMC PARA content map](http://gmc-uk.org)
 - [GMC PA and AA generic and shared learning outcomes](http://gmc-uk.org)

Connect with others

All students on the programme will have a designated academic personal tutor (APT) who will be the point of contact for academic questions and or concerns.

UWE Physician Associate Students can become a member of the UWE Physician Associate Society for free during the first week of the course.

The society also has a Twitter account and Instagram page for you to follow when you commence your course.

Be prepared

Access support

Check the information on our [Disability web pages](#) so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped

The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the [Student Money Service](#) team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on [choosing your IT equipment](#) including [recommended specifications](#).

For this programme we recommend the **Core Specification**.

Students will need to be able to download apps onto their smartphones for professional practice applications.

Please note: We would advise that you purchase your own stethoscope for practice and use on placement.

International students

[The Global Student Support Team](#) offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Induction week information

Induction Week (week commencing 1 September 2025)

Your induction to the MSc Physician Associate Studies programme here at UWE consists of one week of introductory and foundational sessions that aim to give you an understanding of the curriculum; professional expectations; and an opportunity to feel welcomed by the wider university. You will have an opportunity to meet the Physician Associate team, ask questions and begin to settle into your studies.

Who to contact if you have questions

For any questions about the course, please contact the Programme team via email at pastudies@uwe.ac.uk

Please note: this information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2025

Last updated: Spring 2025