

COVER SHEET

DEPARTURES AND VARIATIONS FROM THE UNIVERSITY'S REGULATORY
FRAMEWORK:

Unit 3C2c: Biomedical Sciences

PgDip/MSc Physician Associate Studies

Presenter: Professor A McKillop

Action is required of the Committee:

Consideration of approval for three variations to the regulations.

Memo

**To: Professor Aine McKillop
Associate Dean Education**

From: Daniel Meehan, Course Director, Physician
Associate Studies, School of Medicine

Date: 25/02/21

Ref: Revalidation unit 3C2c

Course Title: MSc Physician Associate Studies Exit Awards: PgCert and PgDip in Medical Studies

During the revalidation process for the Physician Associate Course, the Academic Office, in consultation with the Revalidation Unit Co-ordinator highlighted three areas where regulations departed from the standard regulatory framework. The course team are seeking approval for these departures from regulations. Specifically, these are:

1. Exit Award titles: The titles of the exit awards differ from the main award. Approval for this was sought following the previous validation event and reapproval is sought for this revalidation cycle.

The Physician Associate Studies award enables the student to progress onwards to the Faculty of Physician Associates National Examination (PANE). Only when graduates of the course have completed the PANE can they receive a Physician Associate Managed Voluntary Register (PAMVR) number and begin professional practice as a qualified Physician Associate. When statutory regulation is introduced by the GMC, the PAMVR will be replaced by a GMC register. The exit awards are named Medical Studies to prevent students attempting to enter the profession under the Physician Associate title when they have not successfully completed all components of the course.

2. Exemptions: There is no option of exemptions for prior certificated or experiential learning on the course.

The Physician Associate course follows the Competency and Curriculum Framework for Physician Associates, which outlines that PA students must evidence 1600 hours of clinical placements and achieve the outcomes listed within the document. Students must also cover the Matrix list of Core Clinical Conditions. The students would not be able to achieve all the requirements outlined within the curriculum without completing all modules. It is therefore not possible to accept accreditation of prior learning on the Physician Associate Studies course. The blueprinting of the Competency and Curriculum Framework is referenced in appendix 1 of the revalidation document and is included below for reference.

Competence and Curriculum Framework key

Number	Competence and Curriculum Framework Description (Section 2.3)
1	Professional behaviour and probity
2	The patient relationship
3	Common core skills and knowledge when working with children, young people and families
4	History taking and consultation skills
5	Examination (general physical examination)
6	Interpreting evidence/ determining the requirement for additional evidence
7	Clinical judgement in diagnosis and management
8	Therapeutics and prescribing
9	Clinical planning and procedures

10	Documentation and information management
11	Risk management
12	Teamwork
13	Time/ resource management
14	Maintenance of good practice
15	Ethical and legal issues
16	Equality and diversity
17	Public health
18	Moving and handling

Module key

Module Code	Module Name	Credit Level
MPA701	Clinical & Professional Competence in Physician Associate Studies 1	60 Level 7 Yr1 C
MPA702	Foundations of Clinical Medicine & Pharmacology 1	90 Level 7 Yr 1 C
MPA703	Research Methods & Evidence Based Medicine 1	30 Level 7 Yr 1 C
MPA704	Developing Professional Practice & Clinical Placements	45 Level 7 Yr 2 C
MPA705	Foundations of Clinical Medicine & Pharmacology 2	45 Level 7 Yr 2 C
MPA706	Clinical & Professional Competence in Physician Associate Studies 2	60 Level 7 Yr 2 C
MPA707	Research Methods & Evidence Based Medicine 2	30 Level 7 Yr 2 C

Competence and Curriculum Framework for the PA against the programme modules

Module/ CCF key	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
MPA701	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MPA702	X	X	X			X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
MPA703	X									X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
MPA704	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MPA705	X	X	X				X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
MPA706	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MPA707	X	X				X					X	X	X			X	X	

3. Aegrotat award: Is only offered for the PgCert and PgDip exit awards and not for the MSc award.

The final award of MSc in Physician Associate Studies will enable students to proceed to the PANE. If the PANE exam is passed, they may proceed to professional registration and professional practice as a Physician Associate. A Board or Examiners must be confident that the candidate has sufficient knowledge, skills and understanding of the subject to warrant the degree without completion of all the prescribed assessments. Given this is a dedicated programme that trains a specific healthcare professional, satisfactory completion of final assessments are required for progression and entry into the Physician Associate profession. These assessments ensure that sound knowledge and practice is evidenced to ensure patient safety. Faculty would propose that the aegrotat award is restricted to the exit awards of PgCert and PgDip in Medical Studies, rather than the named professional Physician Associate Studies award.



Daniel Meehan, Revalidation Unit Co-ordinator
(Education)

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads 'Daniel Meehan' in a cursive script.

Professor Aine McKillop, Associate Dean

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background. The signature reads 'Aine McKillop' in a cursive script.