

General Practice Placements

YEAR 1



Placement aims

To prepare the students for working in the clinical environment. To facilitate the enjoyment of, and enthusiasm for, the practice of medicine. Themes for Clinical Practice Placement:

- Opportunities to observe a range of doctor/patient consultations
- A minimum of 50% of the sessions should be spent observing a GP
- To learn the preliminary clinical and communication skills required of a doctor
- Understanding how to build a relationship with a patient, opening a consultation, gaining rapport, and taking a medical history
- Performing a basic physical examination
- An introduction to defining problems
- Principles used in reaching a basic diagnosis
- To develop an understanding of and awareness of public health and the wider determinants of health

NB: this is not to imply all of this is covered in single placements.

What happens in placements and where are they?

Students are allocated in a group of four to a GP practice. Each group will attend your practice on two Tuesday afternoons, for three hours. This is 'protected time' and ideally you should see a reduced number of patients in that period to deliver as much teaching potential as possible out of each encounter.

This is most students' first experience with clinical practice, and they really enjoy meeting patients and observing consultations. Students are encouraged to take histories and perform examinations (under direct supervision), which facilitates comfort in talking to patients. During this time students are asked to analyse consultations that they witness to use as examples for the student portfolio, which forms one of the assessments.

Feedback from a Year 1 student

“ It was amazing. The GP was enthusiastic and made us feel welcome. I learnt a lot from the experience. The best aspect was being able to shadow and able to put what we've learned from lectures into a clinical setting.”

Please email us for information about teaching fees. Remuneration is competitive, and there is an uplift available for practices located within five miles of Brighton & Hove.

Sample Tuesday afternoon timetable

While having a group of Year 1 students sitting in observing consultations, we would recommend a lighter clinical workload, to facilitate questions and debrief. Students can be split up into different clinics. A timetable might look like this:

14:30	14:40	14:50	15:00	15:10	15:20	15:30	15:40	15:50	16:00	16:10	16:20	16:30	16:40	16:50	17:00	17:10	17:20	17:30
[Pre-bookable]	Patient Consultation	Patient Consultation	Student Catch-up	Patient Consultation	Patient Consultation	[Same Day]	Student Catch-up	Patient Consultation	[Urgent (Embargoed)]	Patient Consultation	Student Catch-up	[Same Day]	Patient Consultation	Patient Consultation	Student Catch-up	Patient Consultation	[Urgent (Embargoed)]	[Urgent (Embargoed)]

There are eight group dates, all of which take place on Tuesday afternoons (a total of sixteen half-day visits). Practices must commit to all groups where possible. Sessions are a three hour period from 2pm until 5pm (or equivalent), please email us for the dates.

What is expected?

Students begin with observation of the consultation, looking at communication styles, types of questions and agendas. Students are encouraged to take histories from patients, carefully facilitated by the GP teacher. Later in the visits, they are also encouraged to practice examinations. In Year 1 this involves an introduction to the examination of the cardiovascular, respiratory, and abdominal systems. This, however, is not mandatory.

Please be aware that due to the schedule of these placements, the students who visit in term one will be very new to the syllabus. Attending your practice may be their first experience of F2F clinical practice.

Assessment

Attendance and Clinical Skills Logbook (PORTAL App)

There is an attendance record for the clinical attachments in the Clinical Skills PORTAL (Phase One Rotation and Technical Attendance Logbook) app. GP placements must be recorded by the students themselves.

Family Study Essay

An essay titled: How babies affect the family, develop, and are helped to stay healthy. Students will be expected to integrate their personal experience of the Child & Family afternoons, run in the medical school, and to demonstrate knowledge gained from learning and reading. Again, these assignments are marked by our in-house facilitators.

Portfolio

This will contain thoughts and reflections on clinical and educational experiences. The portfolio comprises three assignments across the year marked by their small-group facilitators. The underlying theme is 'reflective practice'.

What students learn in Year 1

The four principal themes of the Clinical and Community Practice (CCP) module are:

- Health of people, communities, and populations
- Clinical and communication skills
- The wider team in promoting health and wellbeing
- The life cycle

The CCP module integrates with the clinical teaching delivered at BSMS, which covers:

- Foundations of health and disease
- Heart, lungs, and blood
- Nutrition, metabolism, and excretion

Summary of each visit

Visit 1 Learning Outcomes

- To understand the structure and purpose of the primary care visits
- To review structure of Primary Care and its contribution to patient care
- To observe and understand the role of the doctor in the consultation
- To begin to identify and explore the current complaint of a patient

Visit 2 Learning Outcomes

- To begin to identify different listening skills and types of questioning
- To understand the role of the practice nurse
- Be aware of current recommendations for infant immunisation and problem areas for parents
- To develop simple listening and questioning skills when talking to patients
- To practice taking histories from patients

There is a third afternoon as part of this programme, which is spent in a simulated home visit, taught by one of our GP facilitators on campus.

Feedback from a GP

“ I wanted to feedback how impressed I was with the student group who visited the surgery this week and last. They were punctual, well-presented, keen, attentive, engaged, inquisitive, ready to learn, ask questions and get stuck in with taking and presenting histories from a number of patients. The patients found them a pleasure to talk to.”

Year 1 Clinical and Admin Contacts

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