

General Practice Placements

YEAR 4

Placement aims

General practice teaching sits at the heart of the BSMS curriculum and Year 4 is a chance for students to become integrated in a GP team for four weeks. Students receive in-house GP simulation teaching and preparatory lectures before and a wrap-up day after their GP placement (“bookend days”). The aim is for students to become familiar with the management of acute and chronic illness including the patient journey from community to specialist care. They will build on the skills developed in earlier years to deal with undifferentiated problems in GP. Through an “apprenticeship” model of learning on GP placement, students should be introduced to general practice within a supported environment.

Student-led surgeries

We recognise that the timetable will differ at each surgery but should include at least two sessions of student-led surgeries per week, with opportunistic presentations such as minor symptoms, chronic disease, multi-morbidity and basic prescribing. We expect students will progress quickly in their ability to take patient histories independently and most can start consulting alone within one or two days of starting. Student-led surgeries are highly evaluated by students. The remaining sessions can include a range of activities, e.g. supervised home visits, time shadowing other healthcare practitioners, attending practice meetings and wider community services (e.g. pharmacist or community nurses). **All patients seen by a student must also be seen by a fully qualified GP.**

Strategic principles for consultations in GP

At BSMS we use a ‘strategic principles’ approach to consultations. Examples include ‘doctor as drug’, ‘golden minute’, ‘incremental management’ and ‘buying time’. Students are taught these before their placement and are asked to look out for them in consultations (see <https://shorturl.at/giszd>).

Rotations

There are seven possible four-week rotations, which run from mid-September to mid-June. Students will attend for 3.5 days per week for four consecutive weeks, starting on a Friday and ending on a Thursday. Please email us for the dates. 4th year students can either visit in pairs, or individually.



Who signs off PebblePad logbooks?

Sign-offs are via an online platform called PebblePad. Students are responsible for ensuring that they obtain the necessary sign-offs.

Practice Manager

- Induction (student has a section to self-certify in the logbook)

GP teacher/s

- Observation of/feedback on student's consultation skills (four observations: opening a consultation; examination; incremental management and closing a consultation)
- Public health task (one discussion e.g. on value of PSA test)
- End of placement feedback discussion

Student self sign-offs

- Clinical experience (three activities); clinical skills (three activities); organisational tasks (three activities); Prescribing tasks (four prepared online tasks)

BSMS in-house GP team

- Placement presentation (six-minute GP case)

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.

GP placement presentation

Students are required to present one GP case from their placement after returning to BSMS. This should be based on a patient seen while on placement. Only basic details are required, and anonymity is paramount. This should not describe unprofessional behaviour or errors. Students are also asked to describe one opportunity (or idea) for promoting sustainability and one for tackling health inequality through general practice.

Induction

All students must receive an induction, often provided by the practice manager, covering core areas such as confidentiality, personal safety, documentation of consultations, timetable, contacting surgery if ill, etc. We encourage the use of confidentiality agreements.

Individual research project/personal study

Students have one day per week to undertake their Individual Research Project (IRP)/personal study. The IRP is supervised by BSMS, and typically takes place on a Monday. Surgeries may select an alternative day subject to agreement from the student's project supervisor.

Sample weekly timetable

Please develop a timetable to fit in with your routine clinical activities, the below is just an example.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
AM	IRP/Personal study	Student-led surgery	Chronic disease clinic	Student-led surgery	Chronic disease clinic
LUNCH	IRP/Personal study	Home visit	Home visit	GP tutorial	Telephone consultations
PM	IRP/Personal study	Community visits	Student-led surgery	GP surgery	Personal study

Student evaluation

Each student is asked to provide feedback at the end of their placement, which will be collated and sent to you at the end of the year. We ask students for their views and opinions on their time in general practice and the teaching they received. This feedback provides a good source of content for appraisals.

Feedback from a Year 4 student

“ I very much enjoyed my GP placement, it was one of the best clinical placements during my time at BSMS. Using my system login I was able to review records, investigations and results. My GP teacher was brilliant and very happy to allocate us our own patients and was always available to discuss them and answer any questions/concerns. The entire team at the practice was lovely and very welcoming. It was a pleasure working at this surgery for four weeks!”

Year 4 Clinical and Admin Contacts

Quality and Placements Team

GPPlacements@bsms.ac.uk

Heidi Swain Quality and Placements Officer
GPPlacements@bsms.ac.uk / 07823 516381

Dr Max Cooper GP Clinical Lead Year 4
m.cooper@bsms.ac.uk

Dr Carl Fernandes Senior GP Teaching Fellow
c.fernandes@bsms.ac.uk