

## **I have a 2:2 degree, but my preferred university has increased their requirement to a 2:1 – can I still become a Physician Associate?**

Due to increased interest in studying to become a Physician Associate, (shortened to PA from here on) many universities have increased the minimum requirement for entry to a 2:1 in a Life / Health science degree, however, some universities still ask for a 2:2. If you feel you have suitable experience or training to join the programme it would be beneficial to contact the admissions team at your preferred university to enquire about applying with a 2:2

## **I have already obtained a Masters and am unable to receive a post graduate loan – can Health Education England assist me in any way?**

Health Education England (shortened to HEE from here on) will provide a £5000 payment across the two years to all PA students – in the Northwest the payment is made in line with the clinical placements you are required to attend and can assist with travel costs. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide any other funding.

Some post - graduate students use scholarships or private sponsorship to assist with their costs. We recommend you contact your chosen university to see if they have a directory of organisations who offer grants and bursaries or if any scholarships are available to apply for.

## **I am struggling financially; can HEE assist me with tuition fees or a bursary?**

Unfortunately, HEE cannot help with the payment of your tuition fees, but you may be eligible for a post graduate loan. We do not issue bursaries to students.

Information on post graduate funding is available on the Education section of gov.uk  
<https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study>

## **I have heard HEE pay PA students a grant, is this still available?**

Yes, we still make this payment to all PA students. Health Education England, currently pay students £2,500 per annum - in the Northwest this payment is paid in line with the courses required clinical placements and is aimed at assisting students with travel costs.

## **When will I receive the £2500?**

HEE will transfer the funding to our university partners in three payments during the academic year. It is at the universities discretion to how and when they transfer the funding to their students. It maybe that the £2500 is split into numerous smaller payments or distributed in relation to your clinical placements dates.

## **What do I need to send Health Education England to receive the £2500 funding?**

You don't need to apply for the funding. HEE will send the funding to your university who will transfer the payment to you. It is not means-tested, and you do not need to fill in any application forms.

## **Can students work during the Physician Associate programme?**

The PA post-graduate programme is an intensive 2 years with 50% of your time on clinical placement and as such our university partners advise against working too many hours. We recommend you contact your preferred programme to discuss this and how flexible you must be if working.

## **Can I transfer during the Physician Associate programme to a medical school so I can train as a doctor?**

No, whilst Physician Associates work to the medical model and play a vital role in the medical world, they are a supervised profession and the 2 years spent studying to be a PA do not count towards a medical degree. To train as a doctor you will need to apply to medical school, complete the 5 years required study followed by 2 years as a foundation trainee before moving to speciality training.

## **When will Physician Associates be a regulated profession?**

The Department of Health and Social Care advised in July 2022 that the legislation required is expected to be completed by late summer 2023. Because of these delays, regulation for P.A.s may not start until the second half of 2024. You can sign up to updates on regulation dates by visiting the [GMC website](#)

## **When will Physician Associates be able to prescribe? I'm starting my study soon so hoping I can prescribe when qualified.**

Physician Associates are currently unable to prescribe medication in the UK but prescribing rights for Physician Associates may change once statutory regulation is introduced.

The General Medical Council (GMC) are charged with regulation of PAs and hope regulation will begin in late 2024.