

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

PROFESSIONAL DECLARATION FOR MSC PHYSICIAN'S ASSOCIATE STUDIES

Submission to QAC for consideration of an addition to graduation for PGT in IEHMS

Related to MSc in Physician Associate Studies programme

October 2024

Background

The Physician Associate (PA) profession becomes regulated by law from December 13th 2024. The regulator for this healthcare role and its training is the General Medical Council.

Consideration for the University

We have been training PAs for over a decade and are the only PA education and training programme in Scotland.

In light of the new statutory regulation of the PA profession and with increasing scrutiny of PA training, education and standards we wish to make the commitment of the MSc in Physician Associate Studies programme to high quality patient care and safety clear and obvious.

Request to make an amendment to the graduation ceremony for this group

In line with other regulated healthcare professional graduands (e.g. MBChB and BDS) we wish to add a declaration related to the standards of care and practice expected of this group.

The proposed text for declaration has been shared with colleagues and students for feedback with the final draft contained overleaf.

It is proposed that this take effect from the Summer 2025 graduation ceremonies onward.

Declaration for Graduands of the MSc in Physician Associate Studies

“I solemnly promise to practice as a healthcare professional using the standards of care and professional behaviour that are expected of me as a Physician Associate. In doing this I will ensure that my knowledge, skills and conduct keep patients safe. I shall always act to respect human life and dignity and only use my skills and knowledge for the good of humankind. I shall seek always to earn the trust of patients by being truthful, fair, considerate and respecting of confidentiality. I shall appreciate the values, beliefs and traditions of all those I care for and work with. I shall carry out all my professional duties with honesty and integrity. I shall always work for the good of patients and in collaboration with colleagues of all disciplines.”

“Do you take this declaration as your own?”

Graduands reply "I do"