Medical school work experience in general practice

If you are a 6th former or postgraduate student thinking about applying for medical school, it is important that in your application you demonstrate that you have explored what a career in medicine entails. General practice is uniquely placed to offer such work experience placements but due to issues around confidentiality, it is advised not to approach your own practice, a practice that you know friends or relatives are registered at, or another practice close to your home.

A list of practices[1] who offer work experience can be found below or if you have a compatible browser, take a look at this map[2].

If the cost of travelling to a practice away from home is an issue, we have a small number of £20 travel bursaries that can be applied for. Please contact gprecruitment.ne@hee.nhs.uk[3] for more details.

You should make initial contact with a practice using the contact details listed. If they provisionally agree to accommodate you, you will need to complete the application form,[4] and arrange to get confirmation from your tutor that you have both the aptitude and the commitment to consider a career in medicine. This form will then need to be sent to the practice.

After reviewing your application form, if the practice is able to accommodate you, you will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement[5] which should be returned to the practice.

The length of a placement is for you to discuss with the practice, but between two and three days should provide you with adequate experience to reflect on.

You should plan to complete the evaluation of work experience[6] document at the end of your placement. This will encourage you to reflect on your experiences in preparation for a medical school application.

Following your placement we would also ask you to complete a student feedback form[7] and return this to address stated on the form. This will allow us to make suggestions to practices to improve placements for future students. You are not required to put your name on this form? so please be honest!

All documentation to support you in applying can be found in the related documents section below.
Information for schools and 6th form colleges

Please use the information above to point prospective students in the direction of a general practice who would be able to offer them suitable work experience.

Should you wish a GP in training to come into your institution and talk about a career in medicine then we have a cohort of such doctors available. Please contact gprecruitment.ne@hee.nhs.uk [8] to arrange.

Information for general practices

Together with the RCGP northern faculty, we would like to thank those practices which have agreed to be listed on this site as willing to accept prospective medical students for a work experience placement.

We believe that being able to access such experience independent of personal contacts will go some way to widening access to medicine, and that by offering this in primary care it will add to the work being done to encourage young doctors to consider a career in general practice.

By agreeing to be on this list you are not obliged to accept everyone who applies. Students are expected to complete an application form which includes a section for their tutor to sign confirming aptitude and commitment. It might also be appropriate for the practice to set an annual limit you could accept to avoid the risk of overburdening systems.

The list of practices [9] can be accessed above or in the related documents section. If you no longer wish to be included on this list, if your contact details change, or if you would like to be added, please contact gprecruitment.ne@hee.nhs.uk [8]

The documents and information in the related documents section will be useful to you but the process is not intended to be proscriptive and please feel free to deliver whatever form of work experience you agree with the individual.

If you need further information, including letting us know if contact details don’t appear to be correct, please email gprecruitment.ne@hee.nhs.uk [8]

Related Documents

- Work experience application form (.docx) 14.25 KB  [10]
- Confidentiality agreement (.docx) 15.31 KB  [11]
- Information for practices (.docx) 16.46 KB  [12]
- Student evaluation form (.docx) 21.5 KB