




# PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATE

OUR ALUMNI



**At the University of Reading we are proud to produce well trained and capable Physician Associates. With an impressive current 100% pass rate in the National PA examinations and a 100% employment record, we are incredibly proud of our graduates.**

In this booklet you will read the profiles of just six of our 50 Physician Associate alumni trained since 2017 and who are currently working and making a difference in the NHS.

Working with Health Education England Thames Valley, many local primary care providers and several local Hospital Trusts, we are a nationally recognised institution of excellence in Physician Associate training, offering Physician Associate programmes via two entry levels:

**For Postgraduates:**

Our two year Physician Associate MSc or PGDip.

**For Undergraduates:**

Our new four-year MPAS programme taking students from A-levels or equivalent to fully trained Physician Associate.

We hope that the profiles here inspire you to pursue this incredibly rewarding career.



## Samantha Bautista

Neurology, PA Ambassador

**I really enjoy my job, particularly as it is so varied and hands-on. It is great to have the opportunity to be involved in a patient's medical care, and be a part of their medical journey.**

In some clinics, I routinely see patients throughout the year which allows me to build a rapport and make a difference in their quality of life. I am grateful that I get to work with a fantastic and supportive group of clinicians, while treating and managing patients.

My job role in Neurology is really quite varied. I run a number of clinics, including a headache specialist clinic. Headaches are one of the most common neurological conditions for which a huge proportion of referrals into the department are made.

I also run independent botox and nerve block clinics for a number of medical conditions such as cervical dystonia and occipital neuralgia. In addition to this, I have also been trained in nerve conduction studies which I perform in clinic.



## Ruhel Miah

Geriatric and Acute Medicine

**As a PA I can provide a real continuity of care and make a positive impact on people's lives. Within the Geriatric and Acute Medicine department I work alongside a very supportive team of medical professionals. I have a great working relationship with my consultants and am continually learning and developing.**

My role involves working with inpatients with multiple co-morbidities and liaising and discussing complex patients with various specialists to meet their challenging healthcare needs. This includes attending best interest meetings for patients with complex discharges and addressing sensitive topics with patients and family members, for example advance care planning, ceilings of care and end of life discussions.

I really enjoy my job and take the time to mentor new Physician Associate students and promote the role of Physician Associate – a new medical profession with a very promising and bright future.





## Nikki Saunders

Rheumatology

**My undergraduate degree was in biomedical science and I really enjoyed the course, but when I started work in labs I really missed the interaction with people so when I heard about the PA programme it seemed like the best of both worlds. I get to use my degree and get the patient facing interactions – I'm very happy I did the course and Reading was a great place to study.**

Three out of five days I work on the ward doing ward rounds with a consultant and carrying out procedures, the other two days I work in outpatient clinics.

In one of my clinics I am being trained to use ultrasound to assess people's joints to identify autoimmune problems like rheumatoid arthritis. Where I am able to identify signs of active disease I am able to treat with injections within the clinic.

I'm being supervised at the moment but the intention is that I will be running my own clinic soon. It's exciting because with this new combined clinic we are able to assess and treat at the same time so we only have to see patients once, effectively doubling the number of patients we can see and treat.



## Alice Wills

Endocrine

**I love working at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH), it's a great place to be. I had great support whilst training here, from the consultants and staff, as well as the team at the University of Reading, and that support has continued in my time working here.**

The hospital is really supportive of the role of Physician Associates. Their awareness of who we are and what we can do gets better every year as more PAs join.

I work in Endocrinology, I like the variety in my job - I have a mixture of inpatient and outpatient work and acute medical intake so I get to see and treat lots of different conditions.

The team I work with are all really encouraging, always looking for ways to add to my portfolio, in terms of what I can do and in the conditions I can treat.





## Adam Calthrop

Emergency Medicine

**I work in the Emergency Department seeing patients across all areas, Majors, Resus, Minors and Paeds ED.**

I'll take a history, examine the patient, do some basic investigations and interpret them, create a set of differential diagnoses, decide if any further investigations are required to make a definitive diagnosis, create a management plan, and decide whether the patient needs to be admitted to hospital for this, or whether they could be managed as an outpatient.

All of this is done whilst working under a Consultant in Emergency Medicine or a Registrar, and I discuss all my patients with them as a dependent practitioner.

What's great about my job is that no two days are the same, there is no such thing as an average day. This comes from having to be able to manage the first four hours of every presentation, which covers a whole range of severity, from the critically ill, to the child with a cold.

The thing that keeps me coming back is the joy of taking somebody with an undiagnosed problem and being able to find the root of that problem and hopefully help that person as a result.



## Laura Taylor

Clinical Haematology, PA Ambassador

**I was part of the first cohort of Physician Associates to graduate from the University of Reading in 2017. I now work in Clinical Haematology at the Royal Berkshire Hospital and as PA Ambassador for Health Education England.**

My work is outpatient based, running clinics for stable haematology patients, performing bone marrow aspiration and trephine biopsies, reviewing patients on our day unit and working as part of the research team.

I enjoy the flexibility of my job and continuity of care I am able to offer patients. Every day is slightly different which enables me to maintain my generalist medical knowledge.

I would highly recommend studying the PA programme at the University of Reading. The teaching faculty are dedicated and supportive. The course is demanding, however, it's extremely rewarding and worthwhile. The RBH is incredibly supportive of the PA role and currently the biggest employer of PAs in our region. This makes students placements valuable as the medical and nursing staff are aware of PA students and how best to support their learning.







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