

## Salisbury Managed Procurement Services

Information & Guidance – Public Sector Procurement Services

C1546.387- Provision for Public Sector Employers

### Physician Associate Apprenticeship

Employer Access Guide



in partnership with

Health Education England



Leadership Academy



Reference Number	C1546.387
Title	National - Physician Associate Apprenticeship
Category	Education & Training
In Partnership with	Health Education England & employers
Eligibility	All public sector bodies
Valid Until	01 July 2026
Contact Point	Simon Dennis (simon.dennis@nhs.net)
Access Method	URN form required, Direct Award or Further Competition

## Background

Salisbury NHSFT's Managed Procurement Services, in partnership with Health Education England and on behalf of employers nationally, have conducted a national competition to appoint a group of providers for the above listed Apprenticeship. Providers may be accessed by direct award, by sending a completed URN form to Salisbury, or request a further competition against local criteria run through Salisbury's team.

## Appointed Providers

The following organisations are available via this Procurement :

**Higher Level Procurements** are where Salisbury have worked with partner organisations, such as HEE or employer groups, to set a more stringent awarding criteria for providers. These are typically profession specific, have asked in depth questions about quality, delivery, and added value available to employers. These include national frameworks (for example, the national Nursing & Midwifery framework and the NHS Project Futures programme) as well as regional procurements and those aimed at enabling provision for smaller professions. As with the general framework, employers can either direct award via Salisbury, or a further competition can be run against specific additional questions. Providers' bid responses for higher levels procurements are available on request from Salisbury.

ST0518 Physician Associate (Degree) Apprenticeship							
Regions given are delivery locations for physical delivery elements, not regional awards							
Provider	NEYH	NW	SW	SE	EE	MID	LDN
Edge Hill University		√					
Queen Mary, University of London							√
Sheffield Hallam University	√						
University of Central Lancashire		√					
University of Derby	Online - National						
University of East London							√
University of Greenwich				√			√
University of Keele						√	
University of Plymouth	Online - National						
University of Worcestershire						√	

## Details of standard Occupational profile

Physician associates are healthcare professionals who work alongside registered doctors and provide medical care as an integral part of a wider healthcare team. They

are *dependent* practitioners, which means that they must work with a dedicated medical supervisor, but are able to work autonomously with appropriate support. They can be found working in GP surgeries, accident and emergency departments, care homes and hospitals. Physician associates are medically trained to provide all aspects of health care to patients, including: consultation, assessment, treatment and management of their health care. They can take medical histories, perform physical examinations, request and interpret investigations, diagnose and manage patients, and perform an extensive range of specialised procedural skills within their scope of practice. Physician associates ability to practise medicine is enabled by collaboration and supportive working relationships with their medical supervisors, meaning that there is always a registered doctor who can discuss cases, give advice and attend to patients if necessary. In this way, physician associates increase the numbers of the medical workforce and increase access to quality care for patients. They act in an enabling role, helping to reduce the healthcare team's workload, and bring new talent to the NHS, adding to the skill mix within the teams. Physician associates may work in specialist fields of medicine but always maintain their generalist knowledge and skills. They offer continuity and stability.

Responsibilities and duties of the role

A Physician Associate (PA) can:

- take medical histories from patients
- perform evidence based physical examinations on patients, for example listening to a patient's heart and lungs, i.e. heart and lung auscultation
- make clinical decisions based on patient centred assessments
- determine the direction of patient management and care
- formulate, implement and critically evaluate a patient management plan
- perform specialised diagnostic and therapeutic interventions, for example perform and interpret an electrocardiogram (ECG)
- request and interpret specialised diagnostic studies for patients, for example requesting blood tests and interpreting the results
- build and sustain the clinician-patient relationship
- provide health promotion and disease prevention advice to patients
- develop and mentor other health care professionals (including other PAs in training)
- produce records of clinical decision making and actions
- adhere to information governance requirements

Typical Job titles: Physician associate

Qualification requirements:

Apprentices will be required to complete a Diploma or MSc in Physician Associate Studies.

Apprentices without level 2 English and maths will need to achieve this level prior to completing the end-point assessment.

For those with an education, health and care plan or a legacy statement, the apprenticeships English and maths minimum requirement is Entry Level 3 and British Sign Language qualification are an alternative to English qualifications for whom this is their primary language.

Entry requirements:

*Typically, entry requirements are a bioscience-related first degree or a Nursing and Midwifery Council Registered Nurse or Midwife, or a Health and Care Professions Council Registered Allied Healthcare Professional.*

Professional Registration

Apprentices are required to register with the Managed Voluntary Register (PAMVR) which is held by the Faculty of Physician Associates and anticipated to transfer into the agreed statutory register.

Level 7

Duration

Typically 30 - 36 months

## Accessing Providers

Employers wishing to access providers should request Provider Contact details and original bid packs from Salisbury by emailing [simon.dennis@nhs.net](mailto:simon.dennis@nhs.net) or [sft.commercial@nhs.net](mailto:sft.commercial@nhs.net). Salisbury will then issue a URN Request form – this acts as the Order Form which the employer should complete and return to Salisbury, who will then issue the appropriate contract to the Provider. **It is important that employers follow this process in order to be fully protected by NHS Contracts which include the Providers' bid responses and commitments**, and to ensure compliance with both their internal procurement requirements and PCR2015. Providers are all told not to issue contract paperwork direct to employers, if they do this please return them and notify Salisbury. The call off / contracting flowchart is included at the end of this Guide.

## Why order through Salisbury Managed Procurement Services?

- The only specialist health education procurement service
- A service from the NHS, for the whole public and third sectors, plus private healthcare providers,
- Higher level competitions are the only national procurements evaluated by system partners, subject matter experts, and employers
- No cost to employers at any time
- No need to employers to conduct expensive and lengthy local procurements – fully managed service where a further competition is requested by employers
- Regularly updated for new standards and providers to join, and fully compliant with Public Contract Regulations
- Stringent entry thresholds and checks on providers to ensure high quality training delivery
- Streamlined, easy process : from one of our employers :

*The procurement process with you guys has taken so much stress out of our daily lives, you wouldn't believe it. If you ever need a testimony for other Trusts please, please don't hesitate to get in touch. I no longer have sleepless nights about procurement thanks to this! (Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust)*

- The URN (Framework Order) process is your protection that the correct and current contract is being used for your providers and gives you compliance with the Public Contract Regulations, and DHSC contract requirements for NHS organisations.
- Please complete the order form and send to Salisbury when you know the number of learners who will be enrolling
- This includes commitments to free resits / retakes, protection from penalty charges, and ensures providers' commitments on national procurements are included within the contract
- Salisbury will automatically check most current contract version is in place but cannot do that without a URN form for enrolments

## Selection Criteria

In order to be accepted onto this Framework, providers have had to demonstrate / agree the following :

- Registration on the ESFA Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers, or evidence of a current application to ESFA,
- Where an Ofsted visit / full report has been issued, this must be Grade 1 or Grade 2 relating to apprenticeship delivery,
- Where an Ofsted Monitoring Visit / Report has been issued, this must show Significant Progress or Reasonable Progress across all reported areas, and cannot include any finding of Insufficient Progress or less for any delivery area,
- Organisations without an Ofsted visit / report must provide evidence of learner success rates above the national average for apprenticeships (across all courses).

- Must provide within the Levy funding band, one resit per module and one resit at EPA for each learner
- Must not require additional entry criteria to that listed in the Standard
- In depth subject specific knowledge of the standard, a commitment to co-production with employers, and not to exceed entry criteria written in the Apprenticeship Standard. Full provider commitments are in their bid pack available from Salisbury.

Please note providers may be removed where their Ofsted rating subsequently falls below the above criteria.

## Contracting

Contracts will be under NHS Terms & Conditions, with Provider bid response, commercial response, and Employer/Provider written agreements already inserted. Employers can then complete the Contract Call Off and exchange with their selected provider, with a copy to Salisbury. Employers and Providers then need to report learner start numbers to Salisbury throughout the life of the Framework contract. All Providers have been advised they must not issue contracts or employer agreements (excluding learner commitment statements) outside the NHS contract. If a provider requests you to sign standalone contracts, please refuse and refer them to Salisbury.

### First time with provider or new standard with existing provider



### New enrolment / cohort with existing provider

