

Patient Partners

Working together today,
supporting the doctors of tomorrow



a.r.u. | Anglia Ruskin
University

Helping to train the doctors of the future.

School of Medicine graduates will be practicing modern medicine into the next half of the 21st century and so we need to equip our medical students with a skills-set that ensures that they know:

- how to interact with patients from an early stage
- how they can effectively examine patients and
- how they can undertake clinical skills to ensure they have the attributes and professional attitude to function effectively as doctors.

Who are Patient Partners?

Patient Partners are volunteers who provide an invaluable role in the development and training of our students. We enlist the help of patient volunteers to act as 'real patients' so that students can develop both their communication skills as well as their diagnostic abilities in simulated real-life situations. In this respect students will be better prepared when on clinical placements in hospitals, clinics and GP practices.

Why do we need patients like you?

We need Patient Partners to help train our student doctors. You can help by being a simulated and/or clinical patient.

Simulated patients volunteer to 'act' as patients, allowing our students to learn how to undertake consultations,



perform examinations and practice procedural skills – such as taking patients' blood pressure.

Clinical patients who have an existing or long term medical condition, volunteer to discuss their symptoms and conditions with our students in order to increase their knowledge and understanding of different conditions from the patients' perspective.

Volunteer FAQs.

What will I be expected to do?

This depends on you.

Students are taught various skills such as communication and examination skills. Simulated patients will help students to develop these skills by enabling the student to take a medical history and explain procedures and treatments.

Students will also be practising non-intimate examination skills and we would require volunteers who are willing to consent to being examined.

Simulated patients may also be called on to participate in student exam situations.

Am I suitable?

We are looking for volunteers of both sexes and all age groups. You will need to be over 18 years old, be reasonably fit and be able to travel to our Chelmsford campus.

You do not need to be an actor, or know anything about healthcare provision in the UK. We will provide you with all the training that you will need. We value your time, commitment and your life experience, all of which helps develop our student doctors.

Will I get any training?

We want our simulated patients to be as 'real' as possible and so before each session we would send you written information on the 'role' you are to play so you can prepare. You will also receive a briefing before the event.

How often will I be required?

There is no maximum or minimum number of times you would be required as this will depend entirely on your availability. However, we would normally ask you to commit to a minimum of 2 x half days across an academic year.

Where will the volunteering role take place?

Teaching and assessments will be held in the School of Medicine building at our Chelmsford campus.

Will I get paid?

We will not be able to pay you, but we will reimburse you for your travelling expenses and we will also provide you with refreshments such as tea and coffee on the day. If you are spending the whole day with us, we will also provide lunch. Please remember to keep your receipts as we can only pay expenses on acknowledgment of these.

What information will we keep about you?

We will need to keep your name and contact details and some limited personal information about you. Only School of Medicine staff involved in the administration of the group and if applicable, the students taking part in the teaching/examinations, will have access to this confidential information. All Anglia Ruskin University staff are trained in General Data Protection Regulation compliance (GDPR).

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If you're passionate about the provision of the best possible health care being delivered then this is the perfect opportunity to help make that a reality. Being part of Patient Partners at the School of Medicine gives those who have the time to volunteer the chance to work alongside the team who will train the Doctors of the future on their journey of discovery into the world of medicine.

Patient Partner volunteers will be involved at all stages of this

journey, being part of the interview process for prospective students, ongoing assessment of those chosen and helping students understand medicine from the patients perspective.

We look forward to building a dedicated team of volunteers who will have the benefit of ongoing training and support as we move forward with this exciting project. ”

Chairs - Patient Partners

Register your interest.

If you are interested in taking part in this invaluable work with us, please get in touch.

You'll need to complete an application form and then we'll ask you to attend a short, informal selection interview.

To download an application form visit aru.ac.uk/patientpartners

For all enquiries please email patientvolunteer@aru.ac.uk

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