



University of
Nottingham
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Medicine Course Agreement

Academic Year 2025-26

School of Medicine

Introduction

Welcome to the University of Nottingham School of Medicine.

Congratulations on your successful admission to the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (BMBS) programme. By accepting your place, you are entering a rigorous and rewarding course of study that leads not only to an academic qualification but also to a professional license to practise medicine.

This Medicine Course Agreement outlines the mutual responsibilities and expectations between you (the student), the School of Medicine, and the University of Nottingham. It serves as a formal induction to the principles and standards that will govern your conduct and progress throughout the course.

Purpose of this Agreement

The purpose of this document is to:

- Ensure you understand your obligations as both a university student and a future doctor.
- Reinforce the School of Medicine's commitment to your education, training, and welfare.
- Establish a shared framework for professionalism, conduct, and performance throughout the duration of the programme.

Professional Standards and Professional Conduct

Your enrolment signifies your agreement to uphold the values and principles set out in:

- The GMC and MSCs [Professional behaviour and fitness to practise: guidance for medical schools and their students](#)
- The GMC professional standards guidelines, including [Good Medical Practice](#)
- The GMC's Guidance in [Achieving good medical practice: guidance for medical students](#)
- The GMC's Guidance in [Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training](#)
- The GMC's Guidance on [Health Clearance for medical students](#)

These standards are not optional. They are a professional obligation and will be

monitored and assessed throughout your training. Falling short of them may result in formal proceedings, including referral to the University's Fitness to Practise panel.

Medical students are expected to uphold the highest standards of professionalism in all settings. This includes:

- Students must treat patients, staff, and colleagues with dignity and respect, without prejudice based on lifestyle, culture, beliefs, race, gender, sexuality, age, or social status.
- Students must act in line with the [University of Nottingham Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policies](#)
- Students must be honest at all times and must not abuse the trust of patients or vulnerable persons.

Students must make it clear to patients that they are medical students, not qualified doctors.

A Partnership in Training

You are now part of a professional training pathway. In return for the teaching, support, and clinical exposure provided by the University and the NHS, you agree to:

- Engage fully in all learning opportunities and clinical placements.
- Maintain the highest standards of integrity, conduct, and communication.
- Take responsibility for your personal and professional development.

By commencing this course, you formally acknowledge your understanding of and agreement to the principles set out in this Medicine Course Agreement. It is essential that you familiarise yourself with this document and refer to it regularly as a guide to your responsibilities throughout your medical education.

Responsibilities of you as a Medical Student at the University of Nottingham

By accepting a place on the BMBS Programme at the University of Nottingham, you agree to the following responsibilities and obligations, which are essential to your progression through the course and your future qualification as a doctor:

Core Competency Requirements

You are required to demonstrate and maintain satisfactory standards in the following domains throughout your training:



- Academic Standards as laid out in the University's [Quality Manual](#)
- UoN Code of Discipline [Code of Discipline](#)
- UoN Medical School [Policies, regulations and forms](#)

Dress Code

For health, safety, and professional reasons, students are required to follow the Faculty's clothing guidelines in all clinical and training environments:

- Specific items such as scrubs, overalls, masks, and other protective equipment must be worn when required.
- Students must adopt a "*bare below the elbows*" policy in clinical areas. Jewellery should be avoided; if worn for cultural reasons it must be secured above the elbow, taped, or covered by gloves. Disposable sleeves may be provided if necessary.
- Medical school or hospital-issued scrubs should be worn, or students may wear their own appropriate, modest clothing (covering the legs above the knees, not low-cut or sagging). Clothing must be clean and free from offensive text or images.
- Hair must be clean, tidy, and tied back if long. Shoes must be clean, closed-toe, and suitable for clinical work.
- Students must follow the dress codes of all NHS Trusts and General Practices during placements, which may include restrictions on face coverings in clinical areas (except where required for health and safety reasons).

Health and Wellbeing

Medical students are expected to maintain a positive attitude towards their personal health and wellbeing, recognising the impact this has on their studies, patients, colleagues, and future practice.

- Students must take responsibility for their health and seek timely advice from qualified professionals where appropriate.
- Students must not place patients or colleagues at risk due to poor health. This includes promptly seeking advice if they have, or suspect they have, a condition that could be passed to patients, or if illness, treatment, or symptoms could affect judgement or performance.
- Full engagement with occupational health processes is required.



- If unwell and unable to attend timetabled activities (particularly clinical placements and compulsory course components), students must inform the relevant undergraduate co-ordinator and the Student Service Centre at the earliest opportunity.
- Students must comply with the School's absence and attendance policy that can be found on the [Policies, Regulations and Forms](#) webpage

Mobile phone Use

Medical students must use mobile phones responsibly in all clinical and teaching settings, with consideration for patients, colleagues, and staff.

- Students must be mindful that patients may misinterpret phone use, even when used for educational purposes. Advice from supervising clinicians regarding phone use in clinical areas must be followed.
- While smartphones can be valuable learning tools, they must not cause disruption. In small-group or teaching sessions, students should clarify expectations on phone use with the supervising tutor.
- If a student must attend to an urgent call or message, they must explain the situation to the person leading the session.

Alcohol use

Medical students must act responsibly in relation to alcohol consumption, recognising the impact it may have on personal appearance, performance, and patient safety.

- Students must not attend any NHS premises, teaching sessions, or clinical attachments smelling of alcohol or under the influence of alcohol.
- Breaches may result in being declined entry to sessions or placements and could lead to referral to the Fitness to Practise process.
- Students must remember that they represent both the University of Nottingham Medical School and the medical profession at all times.

Reporting Concerns

Medical students share a responsibility for the wellbeing of their peers and the safety of patients.

- If a student has concerns about the wellbeing of a fellow student, they should discuss this with a senior member of staff or complete a Support Request Form. The Welfare Team will review the form and provide appropriate support.



- If a student has good reason to believe that they or a colleague may not be fit to practise, they must act quickly to protect patients. Concerns can be raised using an Intervention request form which will be reviewed by the professionalism, fitness to practise, and welfare teams.
- Any urgent issues must be reported directly to the Dean of Education or another appropriate senior member of staff.
- Students must familiarise themselves with the Support Request and Intervention Request procedures and be prepared to use them when necessary.

Further information on the Support/Intervention process and Forms can be found on the university website: [School of Medicine Policies and Regulations](#).

Programme Structure and Commitment

Medicine is a full-time, intensive course, you are required to:

- Participate fully in all scheduled academic, clinical, and practical components.
- Travel to placements across Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, and, for Lincoln students, Lincolnshire and reside in a reasonable commutable distance from the placement sites – normally no more than 30 miles away.
- Work hours that reflect NHS clinical environments, including early mornings, and on-call sessions.

The School of Medicine has established fitness to practice procedures specified in the University of Nottingham (UoN) Quality Manual to deal with serious concerns when students fail to meet their professional obligations.

Geographic Placement and Flexibility

You must be prepared to undertake clinical placements at locations designated by the School of Medicine. Requests for specific placements based on personal circumstances will only be considered under the "mitigating circumstances" policy. These are assessed in accordance with the national guidance, such as that provided by the UK Foundation Programme Office who are responsible for allocating you to your first job as a qualified doctor. By using the similar rules, we ensure our policies are consistent with those that will apply once you have graduated.

Agreement to Programme Regulations

By enrolling in the BMBS Programme, you confirm that you:



- Have considered and accepted the nature and demands of medical training.
- Understand that the medical profession requires a different level of commitment and responsibility than many other degree courses.
- Agree to abide by the regulations and structures of the programme as outlined in University and programme documentation.

Behaviours expected of our Medical Students

Concerns regarding a medical student's performance, health or conduct will be managed in accordance with the guidance outlined in the joint General Medical Council (GMC) and Medical Schools Council publication [Professional behaviour and fitness to practise](#).

This guidance provides the framework through which the School of Medicine assesses and responds to issues that may affect a student's fitness to practice medicine.

Responsibilities of the School of Medicine

The University of Nottingham is committed to delivering a high-quality medical education that meets both academic and professional standards. In line with this commitment, the School agrees to the following responsibilities:

- The School of Medicine will provide students with structured teaching, clinical training, academic support, and access to appropriate facilities to enable the successful completion of the BMBS undergraduate medical degree.
- The School of Medicine will ensure compliance with the GMC's standards in '[Promoting Excellence: standards for medical education and training](#)' and will maintain alignment with all requirements set by the GMC for undergraduate medical education.
- The School of Medicine will adhere to the University of Nottingham's internal quality assurance processes as well as the GMC external quality assurance frameworks, ensuring consistent and rigorous evaluation of the programme.
- The School of Medicine will inform students in a timely and reasonable manner of any substantial or material changes to the curriculum, structure of the programme, assessment methods, progression requirements or policy changes. Minor amendments, such as routine timetabling adjustments, may be communicated via standard channels without formal notice.



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Student Declaration

Agreement to the Terms of the Medicine Course Agreement

By accepting an offer and registering on a medical course at the University of Nottingham, you formally acknowledge and agree to abide by all terms, conditions and responsibilities outlined in the Medicine Course Agreement.

This Agreement forms part of your professional commitment as a medical student and reflects your obligations under both University regulations and national professional standards.

You are strongly advised to retain a copy of this Agreement and your signed declaration for your personal records.

Formal Acknowledgement

To complete the process, you are required to confirm your acceptance of these terms by submitting the online declaration form provided by the School of medicine: [Please complete the online Student Declaration Form.](#)