

Participant Information Sheet

Undergraduate GP Placement Survey - evaluating the factors affecting the ability of GP Practices to host undergraduate medical students in England.

You are being invited to participate in a research study. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to ask us if you would like more information or if there is anything that you do not understand. We would like to stress that you do not have to accept this invitation and should only agree to take part if you want to.

Thank you for reading this.

General Information

The aim of this research is to identify the main drivers and barriers to General Practices in England hosting undergraduate Student Doctors on clinical placement within Primary Care. There is currently a national shortage of General Practitioners in the UK. It has been recognised that increased undergraduate exposure to General Practice, through clinical placements, positively influences students' decision to enter GP training as postgraduates. Despite this, most medical schools in England are struggling to meet their current placement requirements within Primary Care. This survey aims to identify the factors that affect a practices decision whether to host Student Doctors for clinical placement or not. The information gathered will help guide medical schools to develop curricula which is deliverable within the capacity available in Primary Care currently and identify opportunities to support and increase placement numbers as medical student numbers grow.

Why have I been chosen to take part?

You have been invited to participate as you are a GP or Practice Manager currently working in Primary Care in England. Please read through this information before agreeing to participate.

Do I have to take part?

No. Please note that participation is voluntary. If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw at any point for any reason before submitting your answers by pressing the 'Exit' button/ closing the browser. All questions are optional. Your consent to participate will be implied by your completion of the online questionnaire.

What will happen if I take part?

To participate in this research, you will be asked to complete a short, anonymous, online questionnaire. This questionnaire will ask if you are currently hosting, or have ever hosted, medical students on placement at your practice. It will then ask you to identify the drivers and barriers behind this decision. This should take about 5 minutes. No background knowledge is required. No written consent is being sought by the research team, your consent to participate will be implied by your completion of the online questionnaire.

How will my data be used?

We will not collect any data that could directly identify you. Your IP address will not be stored. We will take all reasonable measures to ensure that data remain confidential.

The responses you provide will be stored in a password-protected electronic file on University of Liverpool secure servers and may be used in academic publications, conference presentations and reports for external organisations. Research data will be stored for 10 years after publication or public release of the work of the research.

The data you provide may be shared with other medical schools within the UK and The Society of Academic Primary Care. This anonymous data will be shared to support placement planning and development for medical school primary care clinical placements.

We would also like your permission to use the data in future studies, and to share data with other researchers (e.g. in online databases). Your completion of the survey will imply your consent to this data sharing (all data will be anonymous at collection).

Expenses and / or payments

There are no expenses or payments available for participation in this research.

Are there any risks in taking part?

The research team do not anticipate any potential risks of disadvantages to participants associated with completion of the questionnaire. If you should experience any discomfort or because of completing the questionnaire, please make this known to the research team immediately by contacting Dr Kathryn Harrison on docthark@liverpool.ac.uk.

Are there any benefits in taking part?

It is hoped that by identifying key barriers to hosting student doctors on clinical placement in General Practice it will be possible for medical schools to identify ways to address these, ensuring adequate placement availability for the increased student numbers planned by Government. By maintaining, or even increasing, undergraduate exposure to General Practice it may be possible to positively influence students' decision to enter GP training as postgraduates.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The responses you provide may be used in academic publications, conference presentations and reports for external organisations.

As your responses are collected anonymously, we will not be able to share with you details of any resulting publications.

What will happen if I want to stop taking part?

If you do decide to take part, you may withdraw at any point for any reason before submitting your answers by pressing the 'Exit' button/ closing the browser. Once you have submitted your responses it will not be possible for you to withdraw consent after this time as the data is being collected anonymously.

What if I am unhappy or if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy, or if there is a problem, please feel free to let us know by contacting Dr Kathryn Harrison on docthark@liverpool.ac.uk and we will try to help. If you remain unhappy or have a complaint which you feel you cannot come to us with then you should contact the

Research Ethics and Integrity Office at ethics@liv.ac.uk. When contacting the Research Ethics and Integrity Office, please provide details of the name or description of the study (so that it can be identified), the researcher(s) involved, and the details of the complaint you wish to make.

The University strives to maintain the highest standards of rigour in the processing of your data. However, if you have any concerns about the way in which the University processes your personal data, it is important that you are aware of your right to lodge a complaint with the Information Commissioner's Office by calling 0303 123 1113.

Who can I contact if I have further questions?

Dr Kathryn Harrison (Principal Investigator)

docthark@liverpool.ac.uk

School of Medicine, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

Cedar House

Ashton Street

Liverpool

L69 3GE