



Physician Associate SESPA Fellowships TVW Pilot 2023

Supporting Information and FAQ

We have collated the supporting information here for Physician Associates (PA) and employers in relation to the new Education Fellowship offered by the South East School of Physician Associates (SESPA). This is a pilot fellowship in the discipline of Education. The fellowship project is aimed to be rolled out across the South East in the future following successful completion of the pilot stage. If you have any further questions following reading this document, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

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The PA Education Fellowship at SESPA is starting this September 2023 and is the first UK educational dedicated opportunity for experienced Physician Associate development with fellowship status. Applications are open to all PAs working permanently in the Thames Valley and Wessex region.

This fellowship will comprise of a 1 day per week secondment to the South East School of PAs to enable the PA both the dedicated learning opportunities and educational time to complete the fellowship successfully. The fellowship will include a fully funded PGCert in Healthcare Education, as well as a fellowship status following successful portfolio completion, accredited by Advance Higher Education. There will be many teaching opportunities provided to the PA from our internal educational offering or through our local partnerships.

Intended Outcomes for PAs:

- Achieve education fellowship status and PGCert in Healthcare Education
- Gain skills, knowledge and experience in a variety of educational settings
- Further role development opportunities with their employer
- Gain confidence and ability to lead educational projects with their employer

Intended outcomes for employers/health care systems:

- Support future healthcare students and colleagues of all backgrounds
- Encourage the retention of their PA workforce
- To develop future educators and leaders within their organisations
- To attain individuals able to lead educational projects and programmes
- Improve multi professional learning to benefit patient care

Timeline:

Application Go Live	16th June
Applications Close/Shortlist Date	28th June
Interview Date	7th July
Final shortlisting list sent to UoR	7th July
Candidates informed of successful outcome	14th July



FAQs:

How do I apply:

Please click this link to complete the online application form:

<https://healtheducationyh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/education-fellowship-application-2023-sespa>

Who is it for?

This developmental opportunity is aimed at experienced qualified Physician Associates with an interest in medical education.

What experience do I need to apply?

You should have at least 3 years' experience working clinically as a Physician Associate in any setting, either primary or secondary care or mental health.

What is the time commitment needed?

You will be required to ensure you can commit to the expectations of study time; there is a high level of self-study required. Some of this will be factored into the fellowship secondment day; however, you will need to complete some activities in your own time to complete all elements.

When is the fellowship?

You will be required to be seconded to the school 1 day per week for 1 year, this will usually be Thursday, however your employer may be required to support further compulsory university contact days which may fall outside of the standard Thursday. In this instance, you can swap the Thursday with the necessary day on that particular week.

How long is the fellowship?

The fellowship starts in September 2023 and is expected to be completed over 12 months.

Will I need to sign a contract?

The PA, employer and SESPA will all sign a learner agreement prior to the fellowship commencement to confirm the required commitment to the programme for its duration.

Can I apply if I only locum in the Thames Valley and Wessex region?

Unfortunately, we can only accept applications from applicants with permanent PA roles in the Thames Valley and Wessex region.

Do I need to be on the PAMVR?

You will need to provide your PAMVR number and ensure you stay on the register for the duration of your fellowship.

Where can I find more information about the Advance HE fellowship aspect?

As part of the SESPA fellowship we will fund and support you to undertake the Advance HE fellowship accreditation. This fellowship is widely and internationally recognised evidence of your ability and commitment to Education. This will also grant individuals to use the post-nominal letters FHEA. Please see their website for more information: [Fellowship | Advance HE \(advance-he.ac.uk\)](https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/fellowship)

Where can I find more information about the PGCert in Education?

It is anticipated the PGCert will be delivered through the University of Reading. Further details can be found on their website: [PG Cert Healthcare in partnership Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and University of Reading](https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/PGCertHealthcareinpartnership/)



Will I be expected to travel?

Travel will be expected to attend the university days in person at the University of Reading, to the SESPA hub site, as well as to our local partnerships across the Thames Valley and Wessex region, such as Higher Education Institutions. When undertaking opportunities within education and teaching, we will endeavour to ensure this is within your area, if possible. There will be some opportunities for remote working during the programme.

How many university days are there?

There will be 11 F2F days at the University of Reading, including an induction day. These will be incorporated into the secondment days but as detailed the usual secondment Thursday may need to change on a particular week to support the university day if it is not planned for a Thursday.

What will I be doing on the SESPA secondment day as part of the Fellowship?

A timetable will be shared with successful fellows for the secondment days. Time will be allocated to university days, educational teaching opportunities (HEI/employer/SESPA), assignment and module work, portfolio building and Advance HE workshops.

What is the benefit of completing the SESPA Fellowship?

We envisage that this pilot initiative PA Education Fellowship will enable you to gain the necessary skills, experience and confidence to provide high level educational opportunities to health care professionals. This will enable you to offer your expertise to your employing organisation following the fellowship completion and undertake future responsibility for areas within your workplace for education. PAs will be able to successfully support multi professional learning to benefit patient care.

Will my employer get salary back payments or funding for releasing me?

No, your employer will not receive any salary back payments. It is expected that your employer will continue to pay your full salary throughout the fellowship and release you 1 day a week to the school as a secondment paid by your employer. We believe that this is an opportunity that will benefit both the PA and the employer, as you will be able to use the skills and experience when returning to your employer full time after finishing the fellowship. It may be that you chose to undertake the fellowship in your own time on a non-working day if you only work part time or only work certain weekdays.

Does my employer need to pay anything for this opportunity?

The post graduate qualification and fellowship to achieve fellow status will be fully paid by SESPA. Your employer only pays for the PAs full salary as normal. This is considered as part of their contribution and investment to the PA's development within the organisation and the future benefit in the employer setting upon the PA's successful completion.

Will there be any additional costs?

The PA may incur additional costs such as travel expenses between educational environments, university and place of clinical work or home. You may also have general study costs such as study materials. These will not be reimbursed by SESPA or the university.