

Oxford graduate entry medical course



Information for prospective GP tutors

Overview

The Oxford GEC was set up in 2001 and expands in 2019 to take 36 students each year. It is a four year accelerated course for graduates with experimental science degrees. The Oxford GEC places strong emphasis on early clinical contact. Although the first year is mainly pre-clinical, students spend one day a week (Wednesday) devoted to clinical teaching divided between GP practices and DGHs. Teaching takes place during University term time. For the rest of their course (2nd to 4th years) GEC students join the standard Oxford medical school clinical course but also undertake some additional study/projects. For more information about the GEC see www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/medicine/accelerated.

The students

The students are highly motivated – and practices enjoy having them. They all have science degrees, some have PhDs/Masters degrees and may have given up established careers [research, finance etc.] to start medicine. Generally they are very enthusiastic and enquiring which makes them a pleasure to teach. Most are making significant sacrifices to start medical training. One of the particular challenges of teaching GEC students is the diversity of students' backgrounds. Some will have just completed typical bioscience degrees, others may have a background more in physical sciences; students have a spectrum of prior clinical experience.

The teaching

In the first term students focus on learning how to talk to patients in a structured way as well as being introduced to physical examination. In the second term students learn how to examine patients systematically and present their findings. Across both terms students visit their longitudinal patient on four or more occasions. This is a patient selected by the GP tutor with an evolving or significant health problem. At the end of the year, students write a case report on this patient for their GP tutor and submit an extended essay to the medical school as part of their overall assessment.

The GP tutor time commitment

is limited to a maximum of 17 Wednesdays during October – November and January – March with final sessions in April or May. There is no teaching during Christmas or Easter holidays. The usual pattern of teaching is of small group seminars in practices in the mornings with students being dispersed in the afternoons to their usual practices. Typical seminar topics include introduction to history taking, examination of systems and also include formative assessments. Students travel to practices by taxi leaving Oxford at 8 am and being collected at 4.30 pm.

Requirements of tutor/practice

Enthusiasm for teaching, interest in students, protected time (and some space). We don't currently require teaching certificates etc. but some tutors go on to obtain these/become trainers. If yours is a training practice then most registrars are keen to be involved in teaching GEC students with the appropriate supervision.

In return

Tutors enjoy the contact with the students and the stimulus and challenge they bring. We have had a stable group of practices who have been involved from c. 2001. Remuneration is appropriate - currently £107/hr for GP time. Practices submit invoices termly for the time spent and payment is to practices not individuals.

There is an induction session for new GP tutors, an annual GEC GP tutor meeting in early September and an annual meeting in Oxford in June for all GPs tutors from both the standard and grad entry course. The medical school runs occasional seminars e.g. on small group teaching which tutors are welcome to attend. Students tend to come from the same Oxford college to a practice and occasionally GPs meet up with their students in College.

Perhaps the most important thing is to emphasise that the students are generally highly motivated and very appreciative of the GP teaching they receive. If you would like to know more please do get back in touch, or I am happy to talk on the phone if helpful.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Harrington', written in a cursive style.

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