



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

GP Placement Programme



Thank you for your interest in taking University of Galway Medical Students in your General Practice

We are currently recruiting GPs to take medical students.

Students in their fourth (penultimate) year of the undergraduate medical programme spend two weeks on General Practice placement in the community, in Semester 1 and two further weeks, with a different GP practice in Semester 2.

What is involved?

GPs agree to take a student for a 2 week placement. During this 2 week period, the student spends 8 days in your practice. Usually students are placed one at a time, although some practices prefer to accommodate two students at the one time.

If you want to find out more, or to indicate interest in becoming involved, please email una.stjohn@universityofgalway.ie

How many students will I be expected to take?

You can take as little as one student per year, up to a maximum of 8 students (maximum 64 placement days). Most of our practices take 4 students per year, two in Semester 1 (Sept-Dec) and two in Semester Two (Jan- April).

How much time will I need to commit?

Your student will spend 8 days in your practice; during the two week allotted placement. The 8 days can be allocated at your preference. For example 4 days per week, or five days in week one and three days in week two, or spread over all 10 days, with shorter duration days.

Do I receive reimbursement?

Yes. The GP tutor is reimbursed at a rate of €300 per student per week.

Do I have to assess the student?

As a marker of the important value we place on the GP clinical placement, GPs contribute to the overall assessment of students in two ways. GPs complete a brief online evaluation of the student's engagement and performance on clinical placement, and GPs provide the student with access to a patient for the student to complete their patient based assignment on.

What am I expected to do with my student?

Provide a welcoming supportive learning environment that offers the student opportunities to be involved in every-day General Practice. Students learn best by doing, and direct patient contact is the cornerstone of the GP clinical placement.

Encourage your students to take patient histories, conduct clinical examinations, devise management plans, explain interventions to patients, and where possible engage in opportunities for supervised experience in basic clinical skills; for example taking blood, giving IM injections, urinalysis, measuring and interpreting BP, PEFr, ECGs, drafting referral letters, medication review.

If your practice has sufficient space for the medical student to see patients on their own first, before presenting the patient to you, then that is ideal.

What supports are available to GP tutors?

You will become part of a network of GP tutors, with over 120 GP colleagues all along the West of Ireland. We provide guidance to GP tutors on simple, effective teaching strategies that enable GPs to teach in a time efficient and sustainable manner. We conduct annual visits to support you and share your experiences of taking students, and provide you with student feedback. Each November we host an educator development weekend meeting called **Teachers in General Practice** (Friday night/ Saturday morning), in collaboration with the GP Training Schemes in the region. Additional meetings may be held at various other times in our regional Medical Academies in Sligo, Letterkenny, Castlebar and Ballinasloe. Finally, there is always a member of the Discipline of GP, available via email or phone, for any problem or unexpected issues that may arise with your student.

I have a GP Registrar/ GP Intern/ Medical students from another Medical School – Can I still take a student from University of Galway?

Yes! Having GP learners at different stages of their training and development provides for a very rich learning environment. Many of our GPs are trainers, or take medical students from several institutions, both national and international.

