

Glossary

Assistantships

An assistantship is a placement during medical school, where final year medical students, under supervision, undertake most of the duties and responsibilities of a Foundation Year 1 doctor.

Electives

Electives are placements where medical students can learn by assisting in real healthcare situations and can complete an elective in the UK or abroad.

Foundation Y1 doctor

A foundation doctor is a doctor undertaking the Foundation Programme, a two-year, general postgraduate medical training programme which forms the bridge between medical school and specialist/general practice training. Doctors in the first year of the programme are known as Foundation Year 1 (FY1) doctors.

OSCEs

An Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is a common method of assessing clinical competence in medical education. An OSCE assesses performance in a simulated clinical environment.

Type of curriculum – integrated / non-integrated

In the UK, standard entry medical students undertake a five- or six-year undergraduate degree in medicine. Some medical schools offer a few years of pre-clinical education which consists of classroom learning only, followed by a few years of clinical education which includes workplace-based learning (non-integrated curriculum). Other medical schools offer a so-called integrated curriculum, where students will complete clinical training throughout the full duration of their curriculum in addition to modular learning.