

Student Anaesthesia Associate Job description

Job Title	Student Anaesthesia Associate
Reference	To Be Confirmed (TBC)
Department / Team	TBC
Location	TBC
Band	Band 6 (Provisional)
Responsible to	Clinical Lead Theatres and Anaesthetics
Accountable to	Divisional Clinical Director (DCD) Theatres and Anaesthetics
Responsible for	TBC
Review date	Assignment timeframes may need to be reviewed
End date	

Role Specifics

The post holder will complete this role in a blended learning environment; using clinical sessions in conjunction with their online learning and tutorials to gain the practical skills and knowledge required for successful progression through their Anaesthesia Associate MSc. This will include, but is not limited to:

- Learning how to deliver Anaesthesia, monitor and maintain the condition of patients, and conduct the induction and emergence from anaesthesia under the supervision of a consultant anaesthetist or anaesthesia associate.
- Learning how to safely and correctly administer drugs for induction and maintenance of anaesthesia, intra-operative fluids and post-operative analgesia under the direct supervision of a consultant anaesthetist or anaesthesia associate.
- Learning how to undertake pre-operative and post-operative patient assessments.

Background

Duties

Communication

- Maintain effective communication links with Anaesthetic Consultants and Trainees, Anaesthesia Associates, Sisters/Charge nurses, theatre staff, surgical staff and other divisional or departmental teams as appropriate.
- Able to communicate complex conditions and related information to patients and their relatives in a manner that demonstrates empathy and reassurance, under appropriate supervision from a consultant anaesthetist or anaesthesia associate.
- Always exercises and maintains confidentiality.

Personal and People Development

- To actively partake in their formal educational plan with their educational supervisor, including meetings every module and two formal reviews of competency progression. Performance will be monitored against set objectives as detailed in the University College London (UCL) Anaesthesia and Perioperative Science MSc programme handbook.
- Maintain an educational portfolio and logbook to ensure progression in all aspects of the programme as dictated by the requirements of the UCL Anaesthesia and Perioperative Science MSc programme handbook.
- Take part in reflection and appropriate learning from practice, to maintain and develop competence and performance.
- Be responsible for developing and sustaining own knowledge, management, and clinical skills (as appropriate) and professional awareness in accordance with the Anaesthesia and Perioperative Science MSc requirements.
- Be responsible for maintaining good professional behaviour.
- To practice under appropriate supervision the role of student anaesthesia associate, working within the boundaries of the programme.
- To work in accordance with professional anaesthetic standards, and to achieve competence in monitoring and maintaining anaesthesia.
- Participate in the education of patients and their careers.
- To establish a good working relationship within the wider hospital and offer support when required. Participate in the assessment of other team members.

Responsibility for Patient Care

- Learns how to and actively engages in planning anaesthetic provision within appropriate supervision.
- Learns how to administer drugs as prescribed and does so under direct supervision of the consultant anaesthetist.
- Learns how to initiate and manage fluid and blood therapy within the plan of care.
- Develops competence and demonstrates skills in assessing and interpreting acute patient conditions, taking appropriate action, recognising and managing emergency situations.
- Learns to perform pre-operative assessment of patients under the supervision of the anaesthetist.
- Learns to implement anaesthetic care under the supervision of the anaesthetist.
- Learns to administer and/or participate in the planned administration of general, regional and spinal anaesthesia for a variety of surgical and medically related procedures.
- Learns to use a variety of techniques, anaesthesia agents, drugs and equipment in providing anaesthesia care.
- Learns to interpret and utilise data obtained from invasive and non-invasive monitoring equipment.
- Learns to utilise information systems as required.
- Learns to assess, develop and implement anaesthetic programmes within prescribed framework, and how to provide advice to the surgeon on anaesthetic care of the patient.
- Learns to evaluate and/or collect patient information from the patient's history, physical examination, laboratory, radiographic and other diagnostic data and identify relevant problems.
- Learns to identify and take appropriate action in the immediate post-operative period in relation to common post-operative problems, and where to escalate as appropriate.
- In addition, may gain some experience in advanced clinical practice with the following skills:
 - Conscious sedation
 - Advanced major surgery (invasive lines, inotropes, advance monitoring)
 - Provision of anaesthesia to an operating list under consultant supervision (2:1 model) while working directly with a qualified Anaesthesia Associate (AA)
- Legislation permitting, students may be enrolled on a prescribing course as an alternative component of the MSc programme.

Physical Skills

- Demonstrates high levels of dexterity and accuracy required for the role.
- Learns how to position and supervise positioning of patients to ensure optimal physiological function and patient safety.

Mental Effort

- Concentration on patient anaesthesia for lengthy periods.
- Assessment of patient responses for readiness to move to next level of care in relation to common post-operative complications.

Health, Safety and Security

- Ensure maintenance of clean and safe clinical environments within the department.
- Ensure practice and care delivery is in accordance with relevant research and evidence base and trust policies and guidelines.
- Ensure potential risks for all staff, patients and visitors are identified, action taken as required and relevant incident reporting procedures adhered to.
- Contribute to drawing up action plans to minimise and manage risks.
- Identify and address opportunities for shared learning resulting from incidents and complaints.

Service Improvement

- To help facilitate the development of policies, protocols and patient directives within the anaesthetic team, by partaking in surveys and data collection.
- To partake in anaesthetic department research and audit projects, including the collection of data if required, as appropriate.

Equality and Diversity

- Carry out duties and responsibilities with regard to the Trust's Equal Opportunity policy.
- Recognise the importance of peoples' rights and act in accordance with legislation, policies and procedures.
- Ensure that staff acknowledge and recognise peoples' expressed beliefs, preferences and choices, respecting diversity and valuing people as individuals.
- Take account of own behaviour and its effects on others.

Key Working Relationships

The Student Anaesthesia Associate will work closely with the following:

- Divisional Manager
- Divisional Clinical Director
- Consultant and Medical Staff
- Matron for Time and Attendance (T and A)
- General Managers
- Theatre Teams all grades
- Ward and Departmental Sisters
- T and A Admin team.

Specialism Person Specification

Qualifications

The position is open to applicants from two different routes:

1. Registered health care practitioners (for example: nurses, operating department practitioners) require one or both of the following:

- at least three years' full-time, post-qualification work experience in a relevant area
- an upper-second class Honours degree in a health-related subject
- **and** demonstrable evidence of recent academic activity or achievement.

2. New Entrants to health care (graduates, or graduate equivalent) require:

- a biomedical science or biological science background
- an upper second-class Honours degree or better, or other evidence of recent and successful academic activity
- a demonstrable commitment to a career in health care.

Applicants **must** also be able to satisfy the [entry requirements](#) of University College London (UCL).

Skills and Knowledge

- Communicates effectively with a wide range of people in a manner consistent with their level of understanding, culture and background and preferred ways of understanding.
- Empathetic and reassuring when communicating highly sensitive condition related information and advice to patients, carers and relatives.
- Good communication skills both written and spoken English.
- Demonstrate basic competence in use of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and the internet (essential) and Patient information systems (desirable).
- The ability to problem-solve and demonstrates flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances.

- Demonstrate the ability to function well under pressure and in emergency situations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of purpose of the role and works to trust protocol.
- Demonstrate understanding of the role of Clinical Director, Local Clinical Lead, Consultant Anaesthetist, Qualified Anaesthesia Associates, and Lead Anaesthesia Associate.
- Demonstrate the ability to work successfully within multi-disciplinary teams.
- Able to manage own time and priorities' workload.
- Demonstrates an understanding of the Royal College of Anaesthetics (RCoA) AA guidelines and how these impacts on practice.
- Able to concentrate for long periods of time. Fluctuating workloads with short periods of intense concentration.
- Ability to work in potentially distressing or emotional challenging situations and circumstances. Resilience to cope with intense pressure, possible conflict and criticism. Awareness to seek help to maintain personal wellbeing and professional performance.
- Able to work in an operating environment with potential exposure to bodily fluids.
- The post holder will be required to exert frequent moderate physical effort for several short periods during a shift, for example, moving patients with mechanical aids.
- Understands basic principles of research, literature searching, appraisal and reviewing evidence and demonstrates a critical and enquiring approach. Demonstrate an interest in on-going learning and personal development.
- Demonstrate the ability and willingness to undertake Anaesthesia Associate MSc education programme.
- Demonstrate the ability to attend regional and national tutorials and examinations as required by the UCL which may involve overnight stays.
- Able to exercise and maintain patient confidentiality at all times.

Requirements	*Essential	**How assessed	Met	Not Met	Evidence to support assessment
1. Knowledge and Qualifications Three years relevant post qualification experience in healthcare OR 2:1 or 1st BSc in biomedical or life science field Advanced Life Support Provider Prescribing qualification Successful completion of a numeracy assessment	E D D E	A A A T			
2. Experience Demonstrable experience of team working Demonstrable experience of patient focused care Recording and setting treatment plans and evaluation of progress against plan Experience in liaising with Senior Managers/Senior Clinicians Experience of research and critical incident analysis and clinical risk management/clinical governance Working with integrated care pathways, protocols and patient specific directives	E D D D D D	A/I A/I A/I A/I A/I			

Experience of service improvement and quality initiatives	D	A/I			
3. Communication					
Demonstrates awareness of the importance of working as part of a team	E	A/I			
Communicates effectively verbally, in writing and in electronic formats	E	A/I			
Communicates with people in an empathetic manner	E	A/I			
4. Personal and People Development					
Demonstrates evidence of professional development and maintains updated portfolio	D	A/I			
Evidence of participation in research or academic activities	E	A/I			
Willingness to work with Electronic Patient Record (EPR) and any future Electronic Health Record System (EHRS)	E	A/I			
5. Health, Safety and Security					
Monitors and maintains health, safety and security of self and others	E	A/I			
Promotes, monitors and maintains best practice in health, safety and security	E	A/I			

6. Service Improvement					
Able to develop and deliver evidence-based care	E	A/I			
Demonstrates commitment to service improvement in clinical areas	D	A/I			
Evidence of contributing to practice development and research in clinical area	D	A/I			
Support the Surgical Safety agenda	E	A/I			
7. Quality					
Understands importance of and own role in Clinical Governance and risk management	E	A/I			
Demonstrates understanding of and engagement with quality issues	D	A/I			
Evidence of involvement with audit and quality in clinical area	D	A/I			
Priorities own Workload	E	A/I			
Acts on own initiative and problem-solves utilising resources available	E	A/I			
Articulates reasons for desire to work in this clinical area.	E	A/I			
Committed to providing safe, effective and timely patient-centred care	E	A/I			

8. Equality and Diversity					
Respects the privacy and dignity of the individual	E	A/I			
Understands the implications of equal opportunities in practice	E	A/I			
9. Specific requirements					
Can act as an ambassador for the AA role	E	I			

* Essential (E), Desirable (D)

** Application form (A), Interview (I), Test or Assessment (T), Certificate (C)

