

UG MEDICINE
STUDENT PROFESSIONALISM AGREEMENT (2026/27)
(for MBChB (ScotCOM) including BSc (Hons) students)

**RELATING TO PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOUR AND
FITNESS TO PRACTISE IN THE SCHOOL AND ON PLACEMENTS**

This agreement is based on the 4 domains of professionalism outlined in the GMC / Medical Schools Council publication; [Achieving good medical practice: guidance for medical students](#).

It is helpful to think that you are now a doctor in training. Since your medical studies will include work in professional environments and involves interaction with the public and patients, it is essential that you are aware of and begin to develop appropriate professional attitudes and standards of behaviour. Your professional behaviour always must be the same as a fully qualified member of the profession with regards to confidentiality, attendance, and behaviour towards patients and colleagues. These professional standards are described in '[Outcomes for Graduates](#)'.

The School of Medicine considers the development of an individual's *professional behaviour* and ultimately *fitness to practise*, as a learning process. The School will monitor behaviour/attitudes and provide information, advice and support relating to these issues.

Medical students must demonstrate an adequate knowledge base and fulfil the professionalism requirements detailed in the General Medical Council publications, [Good Medical Practice \(2024\)](#) and [the duties of medical professionals registered with the GMC](#).

The Medical School Professionalism & Welfare Committee (PWC) will consider any concern expressed about an individual student relating to their attendance or conduct. If PWC identifies concerns regarding a student's fitness to practise, it will refer these to the Dean of Medicine for further consideration. If a student's behaviour or health raises serious or persistent concerns about their ability to continue on a medical course, they will also be referred for consideration of their fitness to practise.

As a guide, we have drawn up a series of statements that form this agreement. You are required to read this document carefully and understand its implications. We have added explanatory text in italics to some of the statements, but if you are unsure of any element of this agreement please discuss in further detail with your personal tutor. You are asked to confirm (see Galen) that you accept these statements, and you will be asked to reconfirm this declaration annually.

Professional behaviour is a core responsibility of all doctors. Consequently, any failure to comply with this agreement will result in referral to the School's Professionalism and Welfare Committee (PWC), which may lead to a pause in your progress or referral for consideration under Fitness to Practise procedures.

Domain 1 – Knowledge, Skills and Development

1. I will familiarise myself and comply with the regulations of the Medical School and the University of St Andrews as detailed in the [School Handbook](#) and [University Student Handbook](#). *Comprehension of School and University policies is achieved in partnership; the School will publish and advertise regulations, the student should find the regulations that apply to them and seek advice if unsure.*
2. I will attend classes as required by the regulations of the course, and I will work diligently to complete my degree. This includes attendance and active participation in tutorials, workshops, practicals and clinical placements. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to make sure I am registered as present at compulsory activities. I also acknowledge that I am expected to engage with any coursework, including regularly updating my portfolio and adhering to deadlines. *Classes and clinical placements are typically timetabled between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday and regular attendance is expected of all students. Appropriate engagement and conduct in any activity either within or outside the School is expected and will be monitored. In phase 2 of your studies there may be the occasional evening and weekend placements, these will be scheduled in advance and are there to best prepare you for your foundation training.*
3. I will adhere to the School Absence Policy. I will complete any sign in sheets or absence self-certificate truthfully and accurately and I accept that lying in such submissions will be viewed as dishonest and fraudulent. If I miss a compulsory activity, I will discuss options for catching up with the relevant staff. *Absences from any compulsory classes will be monitored.*
4. I will take responsibility for my own learning and reflect on feedback about my performance and achievements. I will respect the knowledge and skills of those involved in my education.
5. I will be honest in submitting course work for assessment and will never plagiarise material from other sources and submit it as my own work. I will follow the [University's policy on the use of Generative AI](#). *The Academic Misconduct policy is available in the [School Handbook](#) and [University Catalogue](#).*
6. I will participate in practicing clinical examination on my peers, simulated patients and patient partners irrespective of their demographic or social characteristics. There will never be any expectation that you will examine intimate areas of your peers' bodies.
7. While you may choose not to be examined by staff or peers for the purposes of teaching and learning, if you do consent to being examined by students or medical staff tutors to support clinical skills development, you should not refuse examination by a particular individual based on their demographic or social characteristics. There will never be any expectation that you allow others to examine intimate areas of your body.
8. I will read and comply with the [policy on incidental findings](#).
9. I will only use the clinical skills learning environment for practicing skills and will not use the equipment for self-diagnosis or monitoring. Equipment in the Medical School should only be used as part of teaching and should not be removed for personal use.
10. I am willing for my performances in clinical and communication skills to be recorded and stored for teaching and assessment purposes. I will read the [data information for students](#) and comply with the requirements that are set out. *Capturing, storing and analysis of clinical skills scenarios is standard practice for assessing medical practitioners in interactions with simulated patients. This procedure is also valuable in providing feedback to medical students.*

11. I will only download lectures via the secure Panopto App to maintain appropriate security and integrity of potentially sensitive information.

*Students may **not** download lectures directly via the St Andrews Panopto site even though the option may be enabled. Use of the Panopto app to download lectures ensures that the downloaded file is held securely thus preventing their loss or misuse.*

12. I will read and abide by the [Dissecting Room code of practice](#).

Domain 2 – Patients, Partnership and Communication

13. I will make sure that I can be contacted, always respond to messages and attend meetings with staff when requested. During term time I will check my University email account at least every 48 hours and respond in a timely manner. I will provide a current local address and telephone number to Galen and MySaint.

The School may need to contact you urgently to discuss, for example, short-notice changes to your timetable or issues relating to your personal safety. Medsupport may also need to contact you regarding support issues.

14. I am willing to physically examine all patients (including simulated patients) irrespective of their demographic or social characteristics. *For a medical practitioner to practice safely it is essential that the practitioner can examine every patient fully. Measures should be undertaken to avoid transfer of infection from or to the patient where appropriate and by recognised measures, such as hand washing, wearing gloves or masks. A student or practitioner cannot refuse to examine a patient or certain anatomical parts because of the patient's sex, gender identity, ethnicity, culture, beliefs, disability, or disease.*

15. I will listen to patients and respect their views, treat patients politely and considerately, respect patients' privacy and dignity, and respect the right of patients to refuse to take part in teaching.

16. I will not use any private video or audio recording equipment in a clinical setting; either real or simulated¹. I will not reproduce or distribute any images of myself, other students, patients, simulated patients or staff that were created by me or by any other person during teaching or clinical practice.

Domain 3 – Colleagues, Culture and Safety

17. I will follow the [GMC's advice](#) and register with a GP local to my university address and seek appropriate medical advice and care and will engage with occupational health as required. *This is good practice for all students, particularly any student with ongoing health condition(s) and complies with GMC guidance.*

18. I will conform to the [School of Medicine Dress code](#) by dressing in an appropriate and professional way and being aware that patients will respond to my appearance, presentation and hygiene. I will conform to NHS Scotland standards for clinical care when in a clinical setting; both real and simulated.

The appearance of a student doctor or medical practitioner should not be such as to potentially affect a patient's trust in that person's medical judgement or standing.

19. I will expose my face fully to patients, teachers and colleagues at all times.

Patients and teachers must be able to identify students to verify their identity. Showing one's face also makes it easier for patients who are hard of hearing to hear you and/or lip-read, and an important part of communication is by using facial expression. Head dress routinely worn as part of religious observance must not cover the face.

¹ Personal audio capture of lectures is permitted

20. I will [make my concerns known to appropriate staff](#) about any patient safety issues, including reporting anybody who has contact with patients who falls short of [the standards expected of them](#) as outlined by their regulatory body.

21. I will treat classmates and staff with respect. In all situations I confirm that I will not allow my views about a person's lifestyle, culture, beliefs, race, colour, gender, sexuality, age, social status, or perceived economic worth to prejudice my interaction with fellow students, patients, teachers, or colleagues.

Racial harassment, micro-aggressions and discriminatory behaviour of any type will not be tolerated and students are supported to speak out if any concerns.

Domain 4 - Trust and Professionalism

22. I will always make clear to patients that I am a student and not a qualified doctor, and I will not recommend treatment or suggest patients take any action that might be interpreted as medical advice. I will always wear an identification badge in a clinical setting.

23. I confirm that I will be honest and not abuse a patient's trust in me. For example, I will not establish improper personal relationships with patients or their close relatives.

24. I understand, accept and agree to be bound by the principle of confidentiality of patient records and patient data. *I will take all reasonable precautions to ensure that any personal data concerning patients and colleagues, which I have learned by virtue of my position as a medical student, will be kept confidential.*

25. I have been truthful in my application to the medical school, and that I did not omit important information relevant to my application.

If the School discovers that an applicant has been untruthful in his or her application, it may withdraw the offer or terminate the course of study.

26. If I am under 18, I understand, accept and agree to be bound by UK licensing Act with regards to alcohol consumption while studying at the University. I also confirm that I will not use fake ID.

Under-18 considerations - The licensing act permits under-18s to consume alcohol in private but forbids organisations from selling or providing alcohol to them. It is important that medical students avoid committing a civil offence which may, in future, contribute to a fitness to practise issue. To avoid compromising both yourselves and the University the onus lies with you not to consume alcohol at official events.

Using fake ID does amount to fraud and a student caught using fake ID would be subject to Fitness to Practise proceedings.

27. I will comply with the [School guide on social media](#) and will consider carefully the appropriateness of any comments I propose to post on public websites before doing so.

28. I will tell the School if I am charged with or convicted of a criminal offence, issued with a fixed penalty, warned, cautioned or interviewed by the police in any country or been subject to any University or Student Association disciplinary procedure during my time as a student at St Andrews or in the period between applying and matriculating. I acknowledge that the School follows the GMC's Fitness to Practice process which, in extreme cases, may lead to expulsion if the reputation of the medical profession is compromised or patients are put at risk. Expelled students are added to the Medical Schools Council's Excluded Student Database.

Although student doctors are required to join the 'Protecting Vulnerable Groups' scheme the student should report new convictions or cautions promptly.