

2026-27 Community Team

Applied Personal Excellence Pathway (APEP)

What is it?

APEP is a student-selected project in Year 3 of the MBChB programme. Students explore an aspect of medicine in depth, developing skills in critical appraisal, research methods, basic statistics and clear communication.

Projects may involve research, audit or literature-based work: a systematised review, scoping review or critical appraisal. Assessment is via a written report (60%) and a 5-minute presentation with questions (40%).

When?

The APEP runs from 26th April to 25th June 2027 comprising of eight weeks of project work, then a week for presentations and assessment.

Projects are offered by supervisors from 19th Oct to 9th Nov and students are allocated on the 4th of Jan.

What do I have to do?

If you are allocated a student you will need to meet them and complete the Pre-Project Meeting eForm by 22nd January. You will agree objectives, attendance, resources, training and run and submit the ethics tool if required.

You will arrange weekly supervision from 26 April–18 June to monitor progress, troubleshoot difficulties and set realistic goals. We expect that you will be able to respond to student emails within three working days and be available throughout the project but supervisor holidays can be accommodated with a suitable deputy who meets the supervisor criteria and is known to the student. There must be at least one face to face meeting during the supervision period but preferably more.

You will ensure IT access, training and data are ready before the project starts, obtain any required ethics approval by 26 March and register clinical audits as required. Supervisors, not students, are expected to apply for any required ethics approval.

General feedback on the student's progress by you will be given weekly as well as specific feedback on 2 pages of their report. Supervisors are expected to offer presentation practice and discuss and monitor minimal AI use.

At the end of the project you are expected to mark their report and assess one APEP presentation session which will comprise of other students' APEP projects.

Who can supervise and sign up?

Supervisors must be University staff at Grade 7 or above, or NHS or Public Health employees, including GPs and nurses. They must have a PhD or MBChB, be UK resident and be based in Manchester, an NHS partner organisation or an affiliated General Practice.

New supervisors must submit a New Applied PEP supervisor registration form for approval. You can offer up to 2 projects if new to APEP, or 5 if you have supervised before. Each project must be unique and specific, with just one student per project.

Contact the APEP team to register or discuss ideas. Students rank projects by preference so allocation is not guaranteed. Give your project a clear, appealing title and description to maximise its appeal.

What support will I get?

There are clear APEP supervisor guidelines and you are expected to attend online supervision training in the New Year so you are clear on all parts of the project.

The APEP team can advise you anytime on registration, project ideas and supervision requirements.

Ethics approval

For all projects except **systematised reviews, critical appraisals and audits**, students **must complete and upload** the University of Manchester Ethics Decision Tool to check whether approval is needed.

If approval is needed, the **supervisor must obtain it by 26th March**, not the student.

University ethics approval may be required even when NHS research ethics approval is not.

APEP audits and scoping reviews have prearrange University ethics approval. Supervisors will need to register clinical audits as required.

HRA guidance: [Is my project research?](#)

[Do I need REC review?](#)

How much?

Each APEP student may attract a payment of £1800 provided you are not a university, trust employee or on an honorary contract.

Contact us to find out more

For registration and guidance or if you are interested in providing an APEP in a hospital role please contact:

mbchb.apec@manchester.ac.uk