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Imperial College London

A Partnership for Learning The Imperial College Faculty of Medicine and Medical Undergraduate Agreement

Those undertaking a medical degree course in the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London do so in the expectation that the course will equip them to be knowledgeable, competent and professional doctors who experience considerable job satisfaction and contentment. The medical graduate achieves both a degree and a professional qualification and a medical student must behave in a professional manner from the beginning of the course. To maintain professional competence necessitates understanding that learning is a lifelong process and a key aim of the Imperial College London course is to equip medical students with the skills necessary to undertake lifelong learning and encourage reflection. This involves the medical students accessing all learning opportunities available to them and undertaking considerable self directed learning. Intrinsic to the practice of medicine is possession of a comprehensive basic knowledge which covers very diverse conditions. This means that no parts of the core medical course can be regarded as optional. The medical school and the medical students share an obligation to be able to demonstrate that every medical student has covered the full core curriculum of the undergraduate medical course.

All Imperial College London Medical Students are required to comply with (a) standard Imperial College London General Regulations and Code of Discipline, (b) the GMC's Guidance in 'Medical Students: professional values and fitness to practise' * and (c) this agreement. This agreement outlines the key obligations of both Imperial College London and medical students, and for medical students it assumes also full compliance with (a) and (b) above.

Imperial College London will:

- ensure that the learning objectives for each part of the course are clearly outlined
- recognise a diversity of learning styles and wherever possible use multiple educational modalities (problem based learning, e-learning, interactive seminars, case demonstrations, lectures etc).
- ensure that teachers are competent to teach and appraised of the learning objectives and standards that need to be attained.
- make every opportunity to ensure that where teaching of the same subject takes place on many sites there are equivalent opportunities for all medical students.
- treat all medical students with respect, and not tolerate teaching which involves bullying or humiliation.

* http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/undergraduate/undergraduate_policy/professional_behaviour.asp

- encourage independent learning and where appropriate, provide background materials or references.
- make every effort to give advance notice of alterations to timetables or unavoidable non appearance of lecturers. In cases of omission of timetabled subjects every effort will be made to provide that learning opportunity in an alternative way.
- continuously monitor and improve the quality of the course using a variety of quality assurance mechanisms, including student feedback and governance and education monitoring visits.
- be responsive to feedback obtained via SOLE and obtained during regular Staff Student Liaison Group meetings and to demonstrate where changes have been made as a result.
- be explicit about the format of examinations, provide examples of question formats, and provide as much timely feedback as is feasible to medical students experiencing difficulty with their examinations.
- provide good support services including a personal tutor, pastoral and welfare support, and will ensure that all such matters are dealt with appropriate confidentiality.
- make available appropriate careers advice including guidance for those who wish to leave the course.

Medical Students in the Faculty of Medicine agree to:

- recognise that study for a medical degree involves rigorous standards of professionalism.
- familiarise themselves with, regularly review, and observe Imperial College London, National Health Service and General Medical Council guidelines regarding confidentiality and ethical and legal issues related to the practice of medicine.
- observe high standards of probity and integrity at all times, particularly by respecting patients' dignity, privacy and protecting confidential information.
- attend all scheduled learning opportunities punctually or obtain advance agreement, or provide an explanation to the module leader ** and Faculty Education Office (Medicine) for their absence. [As the college has a responsibility to ensure the curriculum has been covered, and has to confirm to Registry the attendance of Medical Students, registers of attendance will be used on a regular basis. Unexplained non attendance will necessitate an interview with the Head of Year. Persistent non attendance will not be tolerated and will be thoroughly investigated, potentially leading to the undergraduate repeating parts of the course or withdrawal from the course].
- understand that on clinical placements they may be required to work outside normal working hours, including evenings and weekends.
- take responsibility for each other's safety and notify the Faculty Education Office (Medicine) if they note the absence of a colleague for more than 3 days and the reason is not apparent.
- understand that inappropriate use of drugs or alcohol is of particular concern in the medical profession and agree to seek professional help should there be a personal problem relating to drug or alcohol use or to raise concerns regarding colleagues, where performance of patient care could be compromised.

** "module leader" may refer to a consultant in charge of a Firm, BSc supervisor or module leader

- understand the importance of demonstrating at all times a duty of care and behaviour, which is characterised by honesty and reliability.
- recognise the limits of their professional competence.
- immediately inform the Faculty Education Office (Medicine) if charged with or found guilty of a criminal offence (including accepting a police caution).
- inform the Faculty Education Office (Medicine) if they develop any disability or condition that might affect their studies, fitness to be a clinical medical student or to practise as a doctor, or that might pose a risk to patients or colleagues.
- maintain appropriate standards of dress, appearance and personal hygiene when on medical school, hospital or other clinical premises so as not to cause offence to patients, teachers, or colleagues, or to jeopardise safety. All will conform to the Dress Code of Conduct that operates in the Trust or Primary Care premises where the student is working.
- respect the right of patients to refuse to take part in teaching. Specifically, students will make sure that the patient has agreed to their presence and involvement, and will not continue if the patient indicates a wish to stop.
- make it clear to patients that they are a medical student and not a qualified doctor, and will take no action which could be interpreted as giving medical advice.
- understand that in order to qualify as a doctor in the UK, they must be willing to examine any patient as fully and as intimately as is clinically necessary.
- act quickly to protect patients from risk if they have good reason to believe that they or a colleague may not be fit to practise, by reporting any concerns to a senior member of staff, their personal tutor, or the Faculty Education Office (Medicine).
- not partake in any form of academic misconduct, including plagiarism, collusion or cheating in an examination.
- maintain communication with staff by attending scheduled appointments with teachers, including their personal tutor (initiating additional contact where necessary), responding promptly to requests for information, and regularly checking their e-mails, the teaching intranet and Blackboard.
- provide timely and constructive feedback on teaching and the student experience via the Student Online Evaluation (SOLE) system and the Staff-Student Liaison Groups, reporting urgent concerns to the Faculty Education Office (Medicine) immediately.
- support other medical students in academic, practical and clinical work and will do nothing to disrupt the learning of others (including talking and using mobile phones during lectures and tutorials).

Please note that the content of this agreement has benefited enormously from a similar agreement produced by the Medical School, the University of Nottingham.

Imperial College London

(please tick the checkbox) I confirm that I have read this document.

I, (CID number.....)
agree to comply fully with the principles outlined within this
agreement and understand that failure to do so may lead to
sanctions against me which can include dismissal from the
course.

I,, being Head of Year agree to
deliver the obligations of the Faculty of Medicine on behalf
of Imperial College

Dated: