

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PREGNANCY & MATERNITY / PARENTAL LEAVE GUIDELINES

1. These guidelines have been drafted to advise and support students studying medicine while pregnant and during post-natal recovery. Two factors are explored in these guidelines:
 - a. The safety of mother and unborn child while undertaking study.
 - b. Guidance on post-natal leave arrangements for both mothers and fathers.

2. These guidelines sit within The University's advice on leave of absence, which can be found at: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/advice/academic/loa/> and should be read in conjunction with the University's policy on leave of absence: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/media/teaching-and-learning/policies/leave-of-absence.pdf>

3. The School of Medicine Policy on Leave of Absence (LoA) can be found in the Med School Handbook at http://medhandbook.st-andrews.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/UG-teaching_regulations_leave_of_absence.pdf

4. There are several important safety factors to consider for pregnant students. A risk assessment will be conducted for each case, covering all risks - including:
 - a. Manual Handling: lifting and moving patients and equipment
 - b. Long periods of standing that are common in clinical settings
 - c. Potential exposure to harmful substances in the DR, including but not restricted to formalin and formaldehyde.
 - d. Potential exposure to infectious diseases while on Clinical Placements

The risk assessment is to be signed the School Safety Officer.

5. Reasonable adjustments will be made for pregnant students. Students should discuss their situation with their Year Lead or Module Controller for advice in the first instance.

6. Interruption to studies for birth and post-natal recovery or parental leave. Both the BSc and Graduate Entry (ScotGEM) courses are intensive with high-contact hours and are regulated by the GMC. Every situation will be unique, and advice should be sought from the medsupport team (medsupport@st-andrews.ac.uk) to ensure students are fully informed about their situation. Students should be aware that Medicine cannot be completed on a part-time basis and for shorter absences, they should consider the utilising the [absence policy](#).

7. Applications for Leave of Absence beyond one academic year will be considered for approval by the Professionalism and Welfare Committee as per the School's [LoA policy](#).

University of St Andrews - School of Medicine Handbook

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Date	Revision Description	Major Changes
28/06/2022	minor update	