

How do I become a Volunteer Patient?

If you would like more information or if you would like to register as a Volunteer Patient, please contact:

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After you have completed our registration form, we will contact you to check your availability for any sessions we are planning. Twice a year, we hold an information session to which you will be invited so you can meet fellow volunteers and staff involved with the programme.

The Volunteer Patient Programme is supported by NHS Scotland



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland number SC013532



Can you help us by becoming a **Volunteer Patient?**



We have been training medical students at the University of St Andrews for almost 600 years now, but we still look for ways to improve what we do.

University of St Andrews
School of Medicine

Volunteer Patient Programme

Questions and Answers

What is a Volunteer Patient?

A Volunteer Patient (VP) is someone with a long-term condition who is willing to help medical students at the University of St Andrews develop their clinical skills. The VP will meet with a small group of students who will take a medical history and ask questions under the guidance of a tutor. All discussion is treated confidentially.

How much time is involved?

You can volunteer for as many or as few sessions as you wish. Each session lasts 2-3 hours. You can try it out, without further commitment, before deciding if it is for you.

Sessions are usually on Tuesday afternoons, in term time, at Adamson (Cupar), Cameron (Windygates), Glenrothes and St Andrews Community Hospitals. We also hold sessions in the School of Medicine in St Andrews, usually on Mondays and Thursdays.

Who can become a Volunteer Patient?

VPs must be aged 18 or over, and they come from a wide range of backgrounds. No specialist knowledge is required, just a willingness to describe your condition and how it affects your life. We ask VPs to relax, be themselves, and let

the medical students take the lead. In addition some VPs also agree to be physically examined by the medical students. (This is done on a voluntary basis and is not a requirement to be a VP). The medical students really learn a lot from speaking to 'real' patients about their experiences.

Will it cost me anything to be a VP?

No. You are giving your time and we greatly appreciate that. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

What will I get out of being a Volunteer Patient?

You will have the great satisfaction of knowing that your participation is contributing to the clinical skills training of the next generation of our doctors. The sessions prepare students well for taking medical histories, considering all symptoms. By working with real patients instead of actors, students develop the very skills that they will need on hospital wards or in general practice.

Our VPs tell us that they enjoy working with young people, that the atmosphere is relaxed and pleasant, with everyone working to a common goal. It is an enjoyable yet very worthwhile way to spend a couple of hours.

Will I receive medical advice?

No. Although there will be a medically trained tutor present, no medical advice will be given. You should make an appointment with your GP if you have any questions about your condition.

What is next?

Look overleaf for the next step ...



“A doctor who cannot take a good history and a patient who cannot give one are in danger of giving and receiving bad treatment”