A quick guide to

Society Partnership Scheme
What can the Society Partnership Scheme do for our GP Society?

What is the Society Partnership Scheme?

The RCGP is committed to inspiring tomorrow’s GPs and future leaders of the profession. We want to attract, engage and educate our future workforce by providing vibrant and engaging opportunities to experience general practice throughout your time at medical school.

The Society Partnership Scheme provides official recognition, greater resource and guidance to UK GP Societies. Societies are awarded different levels of partnership dependent on the stage they are at in their growth and development.

GP Society Summit

In 2019-20, the Student Projects Group will evolve into the newly created GP Society Summit. The event will take place on Wednesday 23 October in Liverpool; bringing together GP Societies from across the UK to develop, share knowledge and celebrate their successes. The day-long event will comprise of training opportunities; networking and opportunities to hear from leaders of the profession.

At least one member of every affiliated GP Society must attend. The number of tickets issued to your GP Society will be dependent on your level of affiliation. Travel and one night’s accommodation is covered for those attending. Apply for your tickets 2-9 September.

Funding

Your funding, allocated based on your level of affiliation, will be issued in October.

Got an ambitious plan for a new project or event? Don’t forget that you can apply to the Society Development Fund, available to affiliated societies for one off grants of up to £500. To apply, at any time in the year, visit bit.ly/SPSDevFund.

Stash

Enjoy a stock of stash including t-shirts and a pop-up banner as well as careers literature, pens, post-it notes and lanyards to give out at freshers’ fair and other events. We will also give you 2 google cardboard virtual reality headsets to show the Discover GP 360° experience. Visit bit.ly/DiscoverGP360. Make sure you don’t give everything out at once, you’ll want to keep a stock as the months go on!

Celebrating success

If you have not done so already, we would heartily recommend nominating your GP Society, or someone who has inspired and enabled students at your medical school to see general practice in a new or exciting way, for an Inspiring the Future Award. These awards celebrate the excellent work of people such as yourselves in inspiring the next generation of GPs.

Please make your nominations by 20 September at bit.ly/RCGPInspireAwards.
The RCGP Annual Conference is a great space for medical students to come together to craft the future of general practice; discover what a career as a GP can offer; and forge invaluable relationships across the primary care landscape including leaders of the profession.

The 2019 event takes place in Liverpool 24-26 October, preceded by the GP Society Summit on 23 October.

Check out the student & foundation doctor highlights at bit.ly/RCGPACMSFY.

“RCGP Annual Conference in Liverpool was filled with an overwhelmingly infectious energy... a three-day brouhaha of ideas, concepts and connections. The event provided a creative environment where thoughts were challenged and learning was a plenty.”

Emma Tonner - former president of University of Leeds GP Society

“Students are the future of medicine and the future of our profession. Dedicated support, resource and expertise provided as part of the scheme, is designed to allow GP Societies, and their members, to become advocates for general practice and to experience the endless possibilities that a career as a GP can offer.

The RCGP strives to enthuse and inspire tomorrow's GPs and we hope that our Society Partnership Scheme will allow GP Societies, and their members, to have an even more effective role in shaping the future of general practice.”

Professor Helen Stokes-Lampard

“Ask me about GP Societies, Society Partnership Scheme and upcoming events.”

Rebecca - University of York

“Ask me about all things student-related, from RCGP membership to upcoming opportunities.”

Chris - University of Kent

“Ask me about all things student-related including improving general practice placements and undergraduate teaching.”

Bryn - Loughborough University

“Ask me about getting involved in representative groups and becoming an advocate for the profession.”

Michelle - University of Sunderland

“Ask me about engaging school pupils and getting involved in widening participation initiatives.”

Welcome to TeamGP!

Chair’s welcome

Discover GP team
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of affiliation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Developing</strong></td>
<td>A developing society may be small but they have a big appetite to make a difference. They have a strong vision for their future; they are finding their voice and creating local networks. A developing society would benefit from the support and reputation of the RCGP and the chance to develop through training and networking with other GP Societies.</td>
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<td><strong>Visionary</strong></td>
<td>Visionary GP societies have a proven track record of putting on fantastic events and aspire to become leading societies. They are engaging regularly with their local RCGP faculty and other networks to cultivate access to further opportunities. A visionary society would benefit from networking opportunities and possibilities to engage with external stakeholders at events such as RCGP Annual Conference and GP Society Summit.</td>
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<td><strong>Leading</strong></td>
<td>Leading GP societies are trailblazers in promoting general practice; their output is dynamic, innovative and authoritative. Leading societies are consolidating their voice on a national level and looking to enhance their reach, impact and legacy. A leading society would benefit from tapping into RCGP’s national networks and gaining greater access to decision makers in primary care.</td>
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• Marketing for membership
  Gaining and retaining new members can be a tricky business. This toolkit will teach you how to clarify your society’s mission; increase the quality of your society’s output and enhance access to these across your student body – you will find it easier to recruit and retain members as a result. Check it out at bit.ly/SPSMarketing.

• How to run a great event
  Most GP Societies’ output revolves around an extensive event schedule. An exciting event timetable can show the diversity of what your society, and general practice as a career, can offer. This toolkit will give you a head start on getting it right. Check it out at bit.ly/SPSEvent.

• Running and leading a successful committee
  Being able to run and lead a society successfully can be an art. Having the right people in the right places, coupled with strong leadership and a clear reason for being can transform and define a society. This toolkit should teach you how to become a high functioning and effective team, built on collaboration and communication. Check it out at bit.ly/SPSCommittee.

• Handover and succession planning
  A good handover should equip you and your new committee with the knowledge, support and signposting needed to hit the ground running. For any GP Society to be effective and efficient in the long term, committees must turnover as seamlessly as possible. This toolkit will help you ensure that your group continues to go from strength to strength. Check it out at bit.ly/SPSHandover.
Team GP is a vast, interconnected support network. We are all here for you; check out your guide to the who’s who of your new family...

Discover GP team
We are based at RCGP HQ in London and work to improve student experience of general practice across the UK. Meet us around the country at events; in the GP Societies Facebook group; or on email at discovergp@rcgp.org.uk.

RCGP faculty
Your local RCGP faculty board are a group of advocates leading the agenda in your region. As part of the partnership scheme, you will be invited to link with your local faculty and will be expected to attend their board meetings. Find your faculty at rcp.org.uk/faculties.

RCGP GP Societies
This Facebook group brings GP Societies together to collaborate, chat to one another and share ideas and opportunities. Join the group at bit.ly/RCGPGPSocs.

Your medical school
Head of GP Teaching
Your medical school should be very supportive; make sure you forge a relationship with your Head of GP Teaching as they will represent your needs within the medical school and can offer support and access to local networks.

Foundation Doctors (FYs) and GP Trainees (AiTs)
Near peers are great role models; we recommend that as a GP Society you aim to reach out to local FYs and AiTs and consider appointing an FY rep to your committee. To enhance your connections with your near peers locally, approach your local RCGP faculty and join the RCGP Foundation Doctors Facebook group at bit.ly/RCGPFYDocs.

GPs and local practices
Your local GP practices can offer exciting opportunities; from setting up audit schemes to speaking at events. Tips for maintaining your relationships can be found in the ‘how to run a great event’ toolkit.
Our very own research found that peer-to-peer engagement has a profound impact on the experience and perception of medical students towards general practice. We therefore wish to support and empower GP Societies to be our greatest advocates within their locality.

Throughout the year there will be numerous opportunities to engage in the College’s campaigning activity and to ensure the College is considering the views and experiences of tomorrow’s GPs. To ensure you receive high-quality general practice experiences be sure to check out the following reports; Destination GP at rcgp.org.uk/destinationgp and Fit for the future at rcgp.org.uk/futurevision.

Be proud to be part of Team GP; how to use the RCGP brand

As part of the Society Partnership Scheme, your materials should feature one of the following:

- Proudly supported by the Royal College of General Practitioners
- Proud to be an RCGP Affiliated GP Society
- Proud to be a part of #TeamGP

You can also use our branding which is available in this dropbox bit.ly/SPSDropbox.

Please tag us on social media when posting and we will be happy to promote or get involved in the conversation.
As an affiliated society, you are responsible for promoting RCGP student membership to students at your medical school. Visit [rcgp.org.uk/membership](http://rcgp.org.uk/membership) for more information. Membership is free for medical students and boasts the benefits below. As a student member of the RCGP, you are...

### Always learning
- Access RCGP eLibrary & eLearning modules
- Access to free talks, events and conferences
- Attend RCGP Annual Conference at a discounted rate.

### Part of a community
- Join a global network of over 53,000 GPs and an ever-growing student and FY community
- Access free networking and mentoring events.

### Shaping the future
- Explore the RCGP’s Clinical Innovation & Research Centre
- Share your thoughts, ideas and research.

### Taking care of your wellbeing
- Access wellbeing initiatives and events
- Enjoy RCGP Plus – a wide variety of member offers from our selected partners including 3 months free on TOTUM cards.

### The voice of general practice
- The College provides a collective voice for GPs. We campaign to raise the profile of general practice and bring about positive change
- Represent your peers locally and nationally on community groups.
The Society Partnership Scheme is a formal agreement between the RCGP and any given GP Society that is reviewed on an annual basis. To become involved in the scheme, GP Societies must apply via the online application form at bit.ly/RCGPSPS19.

In becoming affiliated with the RCGP through the Society Partnership Scheme, a GP Society shall...

- Behave responsibly and in the best interest of the students, the university and the College they represent
- Attend appropriate meetings, both locally and nationally
- Maintain regular communication with their local RCGP faculty and the RCGP Discover GP team
- Encourage members to sign up to RCGP student membership.

In return, the RCGP will...

- Provide dedicated support and assistance
- Provide training to all affiliated GP Societies
- Maintain regular channels of communication to ensure all parties are well informed regarding any developments
- Attend forums, meetings and events in the interest of students and GP Societies
- Provide financial support and materials (or merchandise) dependent on a GP Society’s level of affiliation and access to a development fund.

The Society Pledge
“The surge in the number of GP Society events is a sure sign of progress in the promotion of general practice within universities and a real tribute to the RCGP’s hard work in supporting these societies. Facilitating collaboration between GP Societies in the coming years will help to create a powerful and inspired student network across the UK.”

Alice James, former president of University of Bristol GP Society