

Healthcare Science Career of the Week



Physician's Assistant – Anaesthesia

Area of HCS: Medical Associate Professions

Pay Scale: £27k - £41

AMAZING FACT

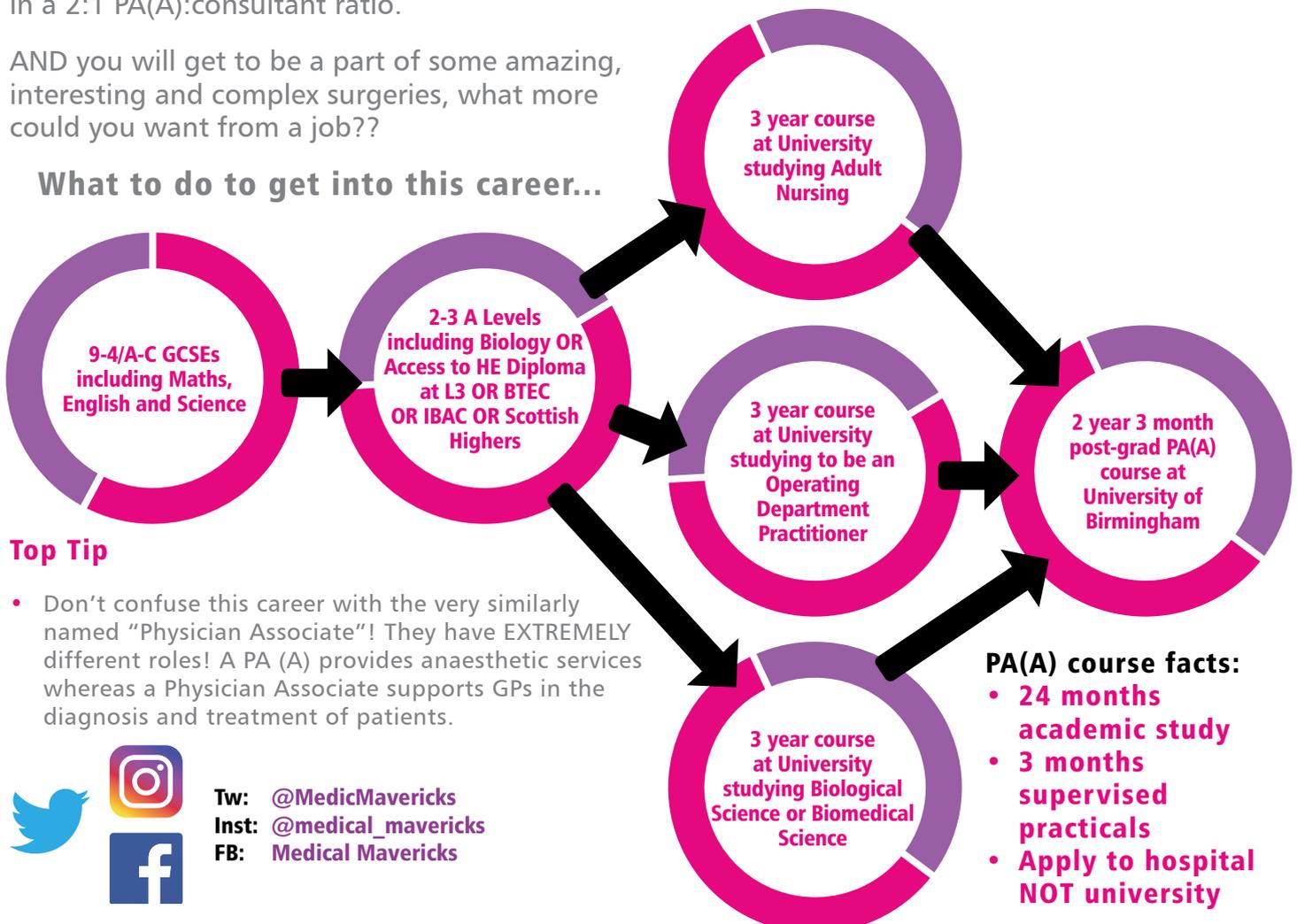
- The word “anaesthesia” comes from the Greek ‘an’ without ‘aisthēsis’ sensation, which refers to the loss of sensation that occurs when you undergo anaesthetic. This was a brand new word that only appeared in the English languages in the late 1840s!

Physician's Assistant (Anaesthesia) from now on referred to as PA(A), provide anaesthetic services to patients. You'll actually be involved in nearly every step of the operation process, it's your role to undertake pre-op interviewing to make sure your patient is physiologically and psychologically prepared. You'll be required to take a patient history, as well as more hands on tasks such as administering drugs and general anaesthetic. You won't just work in theatre, you'll also go into hand and burns units too for minor operations.

For this role you'll need good communication skills alongside an empathetic and caring personality, people can very worried when they are about to go under! Good data interpretation skills is a must, patients are monitored with a huge amount of equipment and it's up to you to understand and explain all of it. You will be working under the direct supervision of a consultant anaesthetist, in a 2:1 PA(A):consultant ratio.

AND you will get to be a part of some amazing, interesting and complex surgeries, what more could you want from a job??

What to do to get into this career...



Top Tip

- Don't confuse this career with the very similarly named "Physician Associate"! They have EXTREMELY different roles! A PA (A) provides anaesthetic services whereas a Physician Associate supports GPs in the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

PA(A) course facts:

- 24 months academic study
- 3 months supervised practicals
- Apply to hospital NOT university



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