

July 2019

Students from the UK - Registering with a Medical Practice and Pre-arrival Vaccinations

Dear Student

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Durham University! We know that you must be excited to arrive in Durham, however, before you start your university life, you need to be thinking about what has to be done prior to leaving home so that you can access healthcare whilst living here.

Registering with a Doctor

We take the health and wellbeing of all our students very seriously. One of your top priorities should be to register with a local medical practice so that you can see a doctor and access healthcare in Durham when you need it. This is especially important if you have an ongoing health condition or require repeat prescriptions.

Your choice of medical practice will be determined by the area in which you live, so that you can get to the practice easily and a doctor can visit you if the practice considers a home visit necessary.

The practice area of the Claypath and University Medical Group covers the University and the Colleges, and the majority of our new students register with this practice:

Claypath and University Medical Group

University Health Centre, Green Lane, Old Elvet, Durham DH1 3JX

Email: medical.registrations@nhs.net

Tel: 0191 386 5081

Website: <http://www.durhamstudenthealth.co.uk/>

There are other medical practices in Durham that you may want to consider. A full list with locations can be found at: <http://www.northdurhamccg.nhs.uk/about-our-ccg/member-practices/>

If you wish to register with the **Claypath and University Medical Group** you can start the process **before arrival** by completing the **National Health Service (NHS) Family Doctor Services Registration Form (GMS1)** and a **confidential patient medical history questionnaire**. These should be sent to the practice by **20 September 2019** by email or post.

The NHS GMS1 registration form is available at: <http://www.durhamstudenthealth.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Download-the-NHS-GMS1-Registration-Form-all-new-patients.pdf>

The NHS GMS1 registration form is a pdf which is acceptable handwritten or completed digitally using a fill and sign tool. The practice will accept electronic versions by email including scanned or photographed copies.

The NHS Family Doctor Services Registration Form (GMS1) asks for a Home address. Please give the address of the accommodation where you will be living in Durham and not the address of your family home. Please also make sure that you provide your NHS number on the form.

A **confidential patient medical history questionnaire** for you to complete is included with this letter.

The practice is able to receive completed NHS GMS1 registration forms and the medical history questionnaires electronically sent via email to the **Claypath and University Medical Group** at medical.registrations@nhs.net If it is not possible to email your documents then you can also send them using the postal address for the practice as above. Please note that sending your documents by post will extend the process of registration.

To register with any **other local medical practice**, please complete the **(NHS) Family Doctor Services Registration Form (GMS1)** and on arrival in Durham take the form to the medical practice **in person with a form of photo id and proof of address.**

Please also bring your **NHS Medical Card** when you come to university.

Once you are registered with a medical practice in Durham, you will need to complete a temporary resident form when you are elsewhere in the UK and need to see a GP.

Starting at Durham can be a busy and exciting time so, if you have a long term medical condition and require medication, we recommend bringing sufficient medicines to last for the first couple of months of your time here to cover the transition in medical registration.

Vaccinations

Before coming to university we recommend that you check your vaccination history and ensure your vaccinations are up to date.

It is particularly important that all students have had a vaccination to prevent meningitis and septicaemia. The MenACWY vaccine is highly effective in preventing illness caused by the four meningococcal strains, including the highly virulent Men W strain. In the UK a catch-up programme of vaccinations has been introduced for all first year university students under the age of 25 years. Please arrange an appointment with your current doctor to receive this vaccination before coming to Durham University.

For further information on meningitis and septicaemia please visit the following website:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/men-acwy-vaccine.aspx>

In recent years there has been a decline in immunity to measles and mumps amongst certain age groups and as a result there have been outbreaks in universities and colleges. The reason for this decline is that many students will only have had one dose of the mumps, measles and rubella (MMR) vaccination instead of the current UK practice of two doses. We advise you to consult with your current doctor and, if necessary, have an MMR booster before you come to Durham.

For your convenience we have enclosed a letter for you to share with your current doctor explaining that you need to be up to date with your meningitis and MMR vaccinations before starting university.

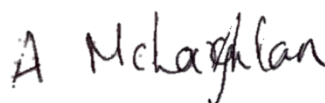
If you are unable to receive vaccinations before you arrive in Durham you should make an early appointment with your chosen practice on arrival.

We do hope that your time at Durham University will be happy and healthy. If you have any queries relating to the information contained in this letter please contact your college in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Sam Dale,
Director of Student Support and Wellbeing



Amelia McLoughlan
Welfare and Liberation Officer, Students' Union

Enclosures: confidential patient medical history questionnaire; letter for current doctor