

Annual Quality Assurance Summary

This summary provides an overview of how an organisation is meeting our standards for medical education and training as detailed in [Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training](#). It provides an overview of the QA activities undertaken over the course of a year and an overview of findings including any areas of notable practice or requirements and recommendations we have set. The summary is published.

Organisation	St. Andrews School of Medicine (BSc programme)
Review period	September 2024 – September 2025 (Year 1 of cycle)

Overview of findings

Overall findings statement
From the SAQ submission, and the clarification of some points during the SAQ meeting, we consider that St Andrews School of Medicine is meeting the standards set out in the GMC’s <i>Promoting excellence: standards for medical education and training</i>. The QA activities that we have carried out in this annual cycle have provided good opportunities to observe how St Andrews School of Medicine meets our standards in theme two (educational governance and leadership, theme three (supporting learners) and theme four (supporting educators).

Quality Activity undertaken

	Activity	Date	Summary
1	SAQ submission	30 September 2024	The SAQ was submitted on time and covered all five themes of <i>Promoting excellence</i> . The submission included a list of planned St Andrews School of

			Medicine activities that we could observe for quality assurance purposes. We are satisfied that where further information and/or clarification is still required that this can be provided in the next SAQ submission.
2	SAQ feedback meeting	16 January 2025	This meeting was held to provide feedback to St Andrews School of Medicine on its 2024/25 SAQ submission, and to seek clarification and additional information on the submission where required. We also discussed potential QA activities we could undertake in this annual cycle. These activities were selected to improve our understanding St Andrews School of Medicine processes. We did not identify areas of risk during the SAQ meeting. Following this meeting, St Andrews School of Medicine was provided with written feedback on the SAQ submission.
5	Professionalism processes review	17 June 2025	We reviewed the school's professionalism documentation. As part of the professionalism process, educators involved are invited to attend a student professionalism, welfare and fitness to practice event which we observed to obtain evidence of how the school supports educators and learners with FtP processes. This event has been running for over a decade and is held annually for all medical schools across Scotland. It is clear that the school has robust processes in place for dealing with professionalism, welfare or FtP concerns including policies outlining how the school promotes professionalism, supports students and addresses concerns. In addition, the school clearly sets out to students the behaviour, which is expected of them, It is also clear that the school has support in place for students who are subject to professionalism processes, supported by appropriate guidance. The student professionalism, welfare and fitness to practice event focussed on sharing best practice understanding amongst schools including how to report concerns and to who, FtP data, GMC guidance and school/university policies. Participants were

			encouraged to discuss case studies and scenarios, and it was an opportunity to share experiences amongst schools and ask questions of each other. The event also included a session aimed at FtP panel members and focussed on investigations, panel hearings and the appeals process. Overall, the event demonstrated how those educators involved in student professionalism, welfare and fitness to practice are supported in their role. The review of the documentation clearly demonstrates the schools' processes for managing concerns about learners' professionalism and how learners are supported when concerns arise.
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Quality Reporting System (QRS)

We use the QRS to monitor concerns raised by organisation when they identify that our standards are not being met in an education and training environment. Concerns are managed locally by the responsible organisation until resolution.

Activity	Date	Summary
Quality Reporting System (QRS)	Ongoing	St. Andrews School of Medicine have no open items on the QRS. St Andrews School of Medicine is engaged with the QRS system and continue to provide frequent and detailed updates. We are assured that our thresholds for reporting via the QRS are embedded and adhered to.

Next steps

The GMC's responses to the information submitted in the SAQ gives feedback on each theme to help St. Andrews School of Medicine complete the updates to the questionnaire in the next annual cycle. These include:

Theme one:

- LEC1-03; Induction. In the next SAQ, please could you provide an update on the Year 3 Placement document.
- LEC1-04; MPL. In the next SAQ it would be good to get an update on the development of the early years IPE content, as well as the impact of the reintroduction of the ward simulation learning activity into the curriculum.

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- LEC1-05; SIM. In the next SAQ it would be useful to get a further update on the VR pilot currently being undertaken by the school.

Theme five:

- DCA1-03; Patients from diverse backgrounds. It is very good to hear the positive feedback from the students that attended the conversation café. In the next SAQ will be good to get an update on whether this is made mandatory.
- DCA2-01; It is good to hear of the new equipment (iPads), and the move to a new question bank. It would be good to get an update on this move and the impact. I would also be good to get more information on the impact of the new students absence policy.

Organisation's response

The organisation has the right to reply to the AQAS; if they have responded it will be included below.

Organisation's response