

MED Undergraduate scholarship

Role Title: Undergraduate Scholar - MBChB Year 4

Department: Medical Education Directorate, NHS Lothian

Base: Little France Campus with potential to work at other NHS Lothian sites.

Term: 1 year with the opportunity for renewal by agreement with MED Leadership

Scholarship: £4000 per annum (paid six monthly in two instalments)

Overview

The Year 4 Undergraduate Medical Education Scholar role is a flexible and rewarding opportunity for medical students interested in contributing to, shaping, and improving medical education.

This role is particularly suited to students from widening participation backgrounds who are keen to bring their undergraduate perspective, lived experience, and insight into ongoing medical education work. Scholars will work alongside the Medical Education Directorate, Medical Education Fellows, staff members, and fellow scholars to support existing projects and develop their own areas of interest.

A key strength of this role is the contribution you bring as a current medical student. Your experience of navigating medical education, clinical learning environments, and university systems is highly valuable in helping us understand what works well and what could be improved for future students.

Role description

As a Year 4 Undergraduate Medical Education Scholar, you will contribute to ongoing work within the Medical Education Directorate by offering an undergraduate student perspective and supporting projects linked to education, widening participation, student experience, and educational improvement.

The role is self-directed and exploratory. There is no single pathway through the scholar role, and your experience will depend on your interests, initiative, and willingness to engage. Some weeks may involve research activity, while others may focus on meetings, project planning, feedback, collaboration, or developing new ideas.

Key roles and responsibilities

Scholars may be involved in a range of activities, including:

- Supporting ongoing medical education projects led by Medical Education Fellows or members of staff.
- Bringing an undergraduate student perspective to project design, delivery, and evaluation.
- Contributing to research and scholarly activity, including data collection, data analysis, literature review, and writing up findings.
- Taking on organisational and communication roles within projects, such as arranging meetings, coordinating with staff or students, and supporting project timelines.
- Helping to run focus groups, interviews, surveys, or other forms of student engagement.
- Collaborating with fellow scholars through meetings, shared projects, feedback discussions, and peer support.

- Engaging in discussions around innovation, inclusion, widening participation, and improvement in medical education.
- Developing a personal project aligned with key areas of focus within the Medical Education Directorate.
- Presenting or sharing project findings where appropriate, for example through reports, presentations, teaching sessions, conferences, or publications.

What to expect

This role offers scholars the opportunity to develop insight into medical education, research, leadership, and educational improvement. It is not a traditional fixed-placement role; instead, scholars will be supported to explore areas of interest and contribute meaningfully to work already taking place.

You can expect to:

- Work flexibly around your studies.
- Meet regularly with staff, fellows, and other scholars.
- Receive guidance while also taking ownership of your own work.
- Contribute to both existing and emerging projects.
- Develop skills in research, communication, project management, collaboration, and critical reflection.
- Be encouraged to think creatively about how medical education could be improved.

Time commitment

The role requires approximately 5 hours per week during term time. The work is flexible and can be organised around academic and clinical commitments. Scholars will be expected to manage their time effectively, keep up with agreed deadlines, and communicate proactively with supervisors and project teams.

Personal project development

Scholars will be encouraged to develop their own projects based on their interests in medical education. These projects should align with the priorities of the Medical Education Directorate and may relate to areas such as student experience, curriculum development, clinical learning, widening participation, belonging, assessment, feedback, or educational equity.

Person specification

REQUIREMENTS	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Medical Training	Undergraduate (UG) of University of Edinburgh Medical School Year 4 from August 2026 Satisfactory progress through course to date.	

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Widening Access	<p>University of Edinburgh widening access criteria are here: Widening access offers criteria The University of Edinburgh.</p> <p>Additional factors will be considered including: neither parent attending university; unpaid carer; disability.</p>	<p>Leading on projects/initiatives aimed at groups with an interest in equity, inclusion and widening access.</p>
Educational Experience & Scholarship	<p>Interest in design and delivery of clinical education</p>	<p>Evidence of design and implementation of an innovation or improvement project linked to education</p>
Clinical & Systems Experience	<p>Shows a commitment to continuous personal development.</p> <p>Examples may be through your University course or externally (for example in work, student organisations etc).</p>	<p>Evidence of quality improvement work.</p> <p>Evidence of leadership role.</p> <p>Evidence of mentorship role.</p> <p>Prizes or awards linked to clinical education</p> <p>Examples may be through your University course or externally (for example in work, student organisations etc).</p>
Personal & People Skills	<p>Demonstrates NHS Lothian's values in actions and words</p> <p>Evidence of effective communication skills</p> <p>Evidence of leadership potential and ability to work within a small team</p> <p>Able to plan, organise and prioritise workload</p> <p>Approachable and friendly</p> <p>Critical thinking and willingness to engage with others</p> <p>Initiative and self-motivation: ability to take ownership of tasks and projects</p>	<p>Evidence of working in teams</p> <p>Good organisational and problem-solving skills.</p>

Contact Information & Application

Potential scholars are encouraged to ensure they meet the essential criteria for Widening access as per the person spec before applying. Advice on suitability for the role can be sought from the MBChB programme office.

Should you be interested in the role but requiring further information, please contact the Undergraduate Programme team via loth.ugsupport@nhs.scot

Interviews will be held on 28 July 2026 at Western General Hospital from 14.00.

To apply please send a short form resume and a covering letter (of 400 words or less) describing your rationale for application, alignment to the person specification, and aspirations for the role as well as what the financial support will enable you to do. This must be emailed to loth.ugsupport@nhs.com with the subject line: **Scholarship 2026 Application**.

Closing date midnight, Sunday, 12 July 2026