

# Developing Surgical First Assistance Module

LBR6573 | LBR7522

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Course information

#### When is the next course start date and when can I apply?

The dates for 2019 so far are: 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019 or 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Enrolment will be completed quicker if you have applied at least four weeks before the start date.

#### What is the difference between level 6 and 7?

Both modules are 20 credits and either one allows you to practice as an SFA. If you have already completed a degree then you may want to consider competing the level 7 module. If not, then you will undertake the level 6 one. The pass mark for level 7 is 50% and level 6 is 40%. Both modules require you to complete the same competency portfolio but the level 6 assessment is a written case study assignment whereas the level 7 assessment is a viva voce based upon a case study.

#### Is there a difference in fees between the two modules?

No, both modules cost £656.

#### How can I apply for the course?

You apply online here: <https://www.bcu.ac.uk/courses/cpd-developing-surgical-first-assistance>

#### What is the entry criteria?

You will need to be a registered nurse or ODP, with a minimum of 12 months post-registration experience. For newly qualified nurses you will need 18 months or more experience working in theatre and recent experience working in the scrub role is essential. You will also need the agreement of your line manager and at least one consultant surgeon to oversee your training and development as you are required to complete a minimum of 100 hours in the role as well as reaching competence in a number of assisting competencies such as camera holding and retraction.

#### How is the course taught?

There are two taught days that you will need to attend with the remainder of the module delivered through our online learning platform – Moodle. Here you will find resources to support your own development at a time to suit you and in a variety of ways including workbooks, screencast presentations and e-learning resources. The face to face taught sessions will explore theoretical aspects including the legal, professional and ethical issues facing the SFA as well as allowing you to practice basic surgical skills using skin jigs and laparoscopic trainers.

## Are there any recommended reading lists or book purchases?

There is an online reading list which you can access when you start the module. There are no recommended purchase books as different books suit different people and some books are available as an e-book through our library. My only recommendation at this stage is that you read the PCC Position statement before you start the module – the link to this document is [here](#)

## Who runs the module?

The module team consists of Julie Quick, the Module lead and Mark Owen, the module deputy. Julie worked as a surgical care practitioner for over 11 years whilst Mark trained as an SFA. We also have a visiting lecturer, Gina Lewis, a gynaecology SCP who you may see as well.

## Assessment information

### How many clinical hours do I need during the course?

You need to be able to demonstrate 100 clinical hours working as an SFA with a surgeon. This can be at the table assisting but also can demonstrate attendance at clinics and ward rounds.

### I have already completed an in-house competency document do I need to complete them again?

There is opportunity for the marking team to assess your competence using previously completed but unaccredited competencies however these will need to map to the BCU competencies as well as demonstrating 100 hours and confirming you are still working to the standard expected. Please contact [julie.quick@bcu.ac.uk](mailto:julie.quick@bcu.ac.uk) before you start the module for more information on submitting previously completed in-house competencies or AfPP SFA toolkit as part of this module.

### I have not written an assignment for a number of years. Might I struggle to complete the module?

A number of students who have not studied recently have successfully passed this module however it does require a commitment from you to reading around the topic areas required for the essay and allocating time to write the assignment will give you the opportunity to achieve this. The university can also support you in academic writing in a number of ways - the module team are usually on hand to help with essay content and can review a plan of your assignment in advance of the submission date. The library also offer help with literature searches and referencing and our professional development department can help with essay structure, particularly if you struggle with spelling and grammar. All of these services are available through booking an appointment with the appropriate person. Most of these departments will offer either face to face, via phone or email tutorials.

### I am not local and so can't keep coming to the university library – is there a library I can access closer to home?

The university is part of the national SCONUL scheme which allows BCU students to access a local library near to them. To find out more please click [here](#)

## Placement information

One of the consultants I work with has agreed to be my mentor but my Trust does not recognise the SFA role. Can I still do the module?

No, you will need the support of your line manager and higher management as well as the agreement of a surgeon to undertake this course otherwise you will not be covered by your employer's liability insurance if anything were to go wrong.

Can you organise a placement for me?

I am unable to arrange placements. You will need to ensure arrangements are in place for this prior to commencing the module.

How long should my placement last for?

The module runs over 6 months however the length of time on placement working as an SFA will vary and depend upon how long it takes you to achieve all the competencies. A minimum requirement is that it will take 100 hours however for some this may take longer. If you complete one day per week over 6 months as an SFA then you should accrue more than the minimum hours.

## University information

The campus is at City South campus, Edgbaston B15 3TN

Where can I park?

Parking is not available on site however parking is available only a few minutes' walk away at Broadway Plaza at a reduced day rate for students. You will need to enter your car registration in the key pad by reception before you leave for the day. Details on the City South Campus facilities and parking are [here](#)

For information on how to get to the City South Campus check out our [BCU website](#) for more information

I will need to stay overnight – where is the best place to stay?

BCU city south campus is close to a number of hotels and B&Bs – please click [here](#) for more information