



Surgical First Assistant Course

2026

Aimed at
Theatre Nurses &
Operating Department Practitioners

Surgical First Assistant Courses

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This course is aimed at qualified theatre staff holding a registered qualification. Its purpose is to support these staff in gaining the appropriate skills to enable them to function effectively in the perioperative environment as a Surgical First Assistant. The Surgical First Assistant Course Part I will be provided completely online, with live group video teaching sessions led by our faculty. Part 2 of the course will be provided online as for Part I, but with the Key Instruction in Surgical Skills being delivered by a one day face-to-face programme.

Students will undertake this course whilst employed within an operating department. Clinical practice will be facilitated by an appointed and appropriately trained mentor and clinical supervisor within the student's workplace, and will be undertaken as part of their employed work activities. Students will be expected to be assessed using the competency document provided. Students will receive a suggested plan of topics and activities to help them organise their study time. The plan will be devised to provide direction and support related to the identified topics within the practice competencies, ensuring they receive theoretical support linked to the practice experience.

Learning will be directed through teaching materials related to the indicative content provided via a dedicated website. Self tests will be included to enable students to measure their progress.

All courses will include online sessions with Faculty members and increased lectures which students can access via home or work, with the opportunity to ask questions and interact with not only the lecturer but the other students on their course. Each session will be recorded and emailed to all students for reviewing again or for students who missed the session.

It is advised that a learning contract should be negotiated with their mentor within the first month of commencing the course.

The Course:

This course will offer students a number of routes for these theoretical courses all of which have been developed to support the Surgical First Assistant. These courses offer the qualified scrub practitioner the opportunity to:

Develop and expand their professional boundaries gaining the underpinning knowledge to support the clinical practice gained at local level.

This course aims to enable the scrub practitioner to competently assist the surgeon in relation to recognised duties of the role of the Surgical First Assistant.

Recognising the legal position, accountability and responsibility in accordance with their specific code of conduct.

Prerequisites to attend course:

This course is aimed at both Nurses and Operating Department Practitioners who have a minimum of 12 months theatre experience.

Students would be able to apply for each individual course (course A or B) or all together (C)		
A: 30 Credits Level 6 Surgical First Assistant Part I Course	B: 30 Credits Level 6 Surgical First Assistant Part II Course including the Key Instruction in Surgical Skills Course	C: 60 Credits Level 6 (30 part I, 30 part II) Surgical First Assistant Course with extended skills including the Key Instruction in Surgical Skills Course
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online programme and live lectures with one-to-one Zoom sessions with the teaching faculty. Distance learning / on-line programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One day face-to-face skills course Supported with an on-line programme, live Zoom lectures and one-to-one Zoom sessions with the teaching faculty. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online programme supported by live lectures and one-to-one Zoom sessions with the teaching faculty. Distance learning and a 1-day face-to-face for part 2 supported by an on-line programme and lectures

The course will cover:

Course C: 60 credit Part I & II Combined - Surgical First Assistant course with extended skills	
Course A: 30 credits level 6 Surgical First Assistant Part I course	Course B: 30 credits level 6 Surgical First Assistant Part II Course
The PEP course documentation including practice logbooks	The PEP course documentation
Advanced Scrub Practitioner competencies and Portfolio of Evidence	Professional & legal issues related to extending your practice
Professional & legal issues related to expanded practice including consent to treatment	Reflective practice
Exploring the role of the Advanced Scrub Practitioner	Additional Advanced Scrub Practitioner syllabus and competencies related to the new skills and Portfolio of Evidence
The principles of retraction and tissue exposure	Principles of Langer's lines and detailed anatomy of the skin
Preparation of the surgical patient including positioning the surgical patient & surgical draping	Maintaining haemostasis, including knot tying and the application of electrosurgery.
The principles of hypothermia	Extended clinical skills, including knot tying and suturing.
Anatomy & physiology of the skin, physiology of wound healing and surgical wound dressings	Principles and practical aspects of fixation of surgical drains
Communication, pre-operative visiting	Principles and practical aspects of local anaesthetic wound infiltration.
The principles of microbiology, pathology, immune system, blood-borne infection, antibiotic resistance and universal precautions	Theory of superficial wound closure and potential complications
Male and female catheterisation	Optional extended ASP competencies

The principles of electrosurgery	
The principles of minimal access surgery	
Optional competencies	

Clinical Hours

It is anticipated that the trainee Surgical First Assistant will need approximately 100 hours clinical practice in the SFA role (Part I) and also 100 hours in the SFA with extended skills (Part II). It is estimated that these clinical hours could be translated into 1 day (2 sessions) per week over a period of approximately 22 weeks. The total number of clinical hours an individual practitioner requires will be influenced by a number of issues.

Surgical First Assistant (SFA) Portfolio of evidence

As part of the training process trainees will compile a portfolio of evidence which will be used to verify overall clinical competency. Practitioners wishing submission of their portfolio of evidence for academic accreditation will be required to complete their University Accreditation document at the commencement of their programme when the trainee will be given a training / university identification number. On completion of the programme, the portfolio of evidence will be submitted to PEP where the portfolio will be assessed by two educationalists anonymously using the training / university identification number.

Course Fees are for courses	Courses fees
Course A: 30 Credits Level 6 – Surgical First Assistant Part I course	£1050
Course B: 30 Credits Level 6 - Surgical First Assistant Part II Course incl. KISS course	£1050
Course C: 60 Credits Level 6 - Surgical First Assistant course with extended skills incl. KISS course	£2100
Course D 30 Credits Level 6 Surgical First Assistant Part II Course exclusive of KISS course (please note, the KISS course is compulsory, however some students will have already undertaken this course)	£650

Course Dates

Course A: Surgical First Assistant Online Course	SFA Course Part A – Saturday & Sunday 24-25 th January 2026
Course B: Surgical First Assistant Part II Course incl. KISS course	SFA Course Part B – Friday 10 th July 2026 commencing with a face-to-face study day/practical
Course C: Surgical First Assistant course with extended skills incl. KISS course	Commencing Saturday & Sunday 24-25 th January 2026 & Friday 10 th July 2026
Course D: Surgical First Assistant Part II Course exc. KISS course	SFA Course Part D – Friday 10 th July 2026

Course fees include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lecture Course & Individual SFA training number Delegate Pack to support course including Course Handbook & Mentor Handbook Online tutorials during programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accreditation if successful, Award of each 30 Level 6 credits course A & B and 60 credits course C, credit rated by the University of Greenwich
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Academic Accreditation

The programme is offered at Academic Level 6 to support the development of the portfolio of evidence reflecting the level of education and training required of the Surgical First Assistant. Successful completion and assessment of the portfolio of evidence will provide the trainee with 30 Level 6 Academic Credit rated by the University of Greenwich.

Tutorials

The programme offers the trainee access to sufficient tutorial time during the course with a local PEP educationalist aimed to provide guidance on the development of the Portfolio of Evidence. This can be organised in groups or individual sessions.

Mentors and Supervisors

Each trainee will be required to have both a professional mentor and clinical supervisor (consultant surgeon).

Venue:

These initial courses will take place as follows:

Part I- This course will take place online

Part II - Online with one day face-to-face concentrating on Key Instructions in Surgical Skills to be held in Manchester.

For further information please contact: Mrs Jenny Parr Course Administrator, The Beeches, 121 Nantwich Road, Middlewich, Cheshire CW10 9HD Email: info@pepractice.co.uk Telephone: 07909 903081 / 07977 997395.

(Please complete all sections of this application form in block capitals)

Surname:		Forenames:		Title:	
Address (for all correspondence):					
Telephone (daytime):				Telephone (evening):	
Email Address:				HCPC/NMC registration No:	
Present Appointment -Hospital:				Specialty:	
Special Dietary Requirements:					
Course costs include:	1. The Advanced Scrub Practitioner Course - A, B or C 2. Lecture notes for entire course 3. Accreditation at the University of Greenwich, if successful, Award of 30 course A & B, 60 credits course C , level 6 credits 4. Tutorials during the programme.				

Please tick course you wish to attend and date

Course	Courses Fees	✓	Course Start Date
Course A: 30 Credits Surgical First Assistant Course Part I course	£1050		
Course B: 30 Credits Surgical First Assistant Course Part II inc. KISS course	£1050		
Course C: 60 Credits Surgical First Assistant Course Part I & Part II inc. KISS course	£2100		

Please note that your fee of: does NOT cover accommodation

To undertake this course, you must gain support from your department manager, to gain the opportunity to act within the Role of the Advanced Scrub Practitioner and gain the necessary clinical hours to support the programme.

Manager's Name (Please print)	
Manager's Signature	
Name of proposed Mentor	
Name of proposed Clinical Supervisor (Consultant Surgeon)	

PAYMENT: Please tick the box next to your payment method:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a Cheque / Postal Order payable to 'PEP':	£	
<input type="checkbox"/>	OR PAY ON LINE www.pepractice.co.uk	£	

<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice my employer / company for a total of	£
Purchase order number: (This must be provided if your employer is funding the course)		
Invoice Address (Including Department)		
Post-code:		Telephone number:

Once complete, please return this form along with your payment to PEP; Mrs Jenny Parr, Course administrator, The Beeches,
121 Nantwich Road, Middlewich, Cheshire CW109HD

Please note, in the event of a cancelled place or non-payment please see our cancellation policy on our website,
www.pepractice.co.uk