

M4RD Medical Student Ambassador Job Description



Role: M4RD Medical Student Ambassador

Responsible to: Medics4RareDiseases CEO and Board of Trustees

Tenure: Two years with recommitment at end of year 1. Maximum term is 2 years with a 12 month period before reapplying to the programme.

Background

M4RD exists to provide education and practical tools targeted at medical professionals, enabling them to reduce the diagnostic odyssey and improve the patient experience.

Thanks to innovation in diagnostics and therapeutics there are increasingly exciting prospects for those living with rare disease. Yet, despite this, patient stories continue to demonstrate a lack of basic understanding by medical professionals of the relevance of rare disease to everyday clinical practice. This perpetuates the existence of the diagnostic odyssey and exacerbates the impact that a rare disease can have on patients and families. M4RD believes that fundamental teaching about rare disease is essential for early recognition of rare disease, coordinated care and early instigation of treatment where available.

We are driving an attitude change towards rare diseases amongst medical students and doctors-in-training in order to improve the patient journey and shorten the diagnostic odyssey. With a packed medical school curriculum and over 7000 rare diseases, it is unfeasible to teach about each disease. However, M4RD has a tried and tested method for raising awareness of the relevance of rare diseases, as a whole, in clinical practice. We are a grassroots movement that is helping grow a future generation of doctors that are rare disease advocates.

Our ambassador programme enables M4RD to work with the wider rare disease community so we can learn from their expertise and experience. Our Medical Student Ambassadors help inform our projects, identify teaching opportunities, spread the word about events and opportunities for medical students and doctors in training.

Role description

A Medical Student Ambassador is a voluntary representative of M4RD who promotes the work and messages of M4RD within their medical schools whilst completing their medical training. Suggested activities for the clinical ambassador will include:

- Supporting the M4RD team in their aim to raise awareness of rare diseases amongst medical students and doctors in training.
- Engaging and supporting medical students and doctors in training to encourage their interest in rare diseases and to get involved in M4RD.
- Supporting a rare disease group at your associated medical school/hospital or encouraging a society to have a rare disease ambassador on its committee.
- Supporting rare disease events at your associated medical school/hospital.
- Providing basic education in rare diseases, e.g. 1in17; long wait for diagnosis; isolation; expert patients; etc - see M4RD's Rare Disease 101 module.
- Gathering information on rare diseases to produce content for social media and website, that are relevant to our target audience - 1/2 blog posts each year.
- Promoting the M4RD annual symposium, the Student Voice Prize annual competition, rare disease surveys and M4RD's Rare Disease 101 learning module.
- Attending events organised by M4RD and their collaborators wherever possible and relevant.
- Representing the charity in a professional manner.

Skills, experiences and qualities

- Professional, personable and enthusiastic.
- A passion for improving the lives of those living with a rare condition.
- An enthusiasm for educating.
- Confident in public speaking.

The benefits to you

- A chance to influence the culture of medical education, making it more sympathetic and inclusive towards the needs of those with rare conditions.
- Experience working with a charity and opportunities to further connect with stakeholders in the rare disease area.
- A sense of satisfaction and pride for helping to make a valuable difference as enhancing the patient experience in this field is the ultimate goal of M4RD.
- Free entry to the M4RD annual symposium.
- Research and project opportunities.

- **Doctors-in-training:** An opportunity to develop your leadership skills, mentorship skills in advocating for patients with a rare disease, meet experts in the rare disease field and opportunities for reflection in your portfolio.

What you can expect from M4RD

- An induction session to introduce you to the charity, recognise your skills and identify any ongoing support you may need from us in order to fulfill the role.
- A designated point of contact for support and guidance, when needed.
- Reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses, for example when traveling to and from events.
- Ongoing involvement with the Rare Disease community following your ambassadorship