Junior doctors conference 2018
Getting time off work to attend the BMA junior doctors conference

To ensure you don’t miss out on attending the grassroots event or the conference, it’s best to plan early.

Remember that junior doctors should not have to use annual leave to go to the conference or the grassroots event, and there are numerous ways in which attendance can be facilitated.

We have put together some helpful tips about how to make sure you can be a part of the BMA junior doctors conference:

1. Explore the possibility of swapping shifts or work duties with colleagues.
2. Let your medical staffing department know as soon as possible that you wish to attend and advise them whether or not cover will be needed.
3. Talk to your consultant and discuss whether or not it is possible to rearrange clinical activities during the week prior to, or after, the conference.
4. Some junior doctors have applied for study leave to attend the conference – remember that BMA members will be reimbursed for reasonable expenses so no funding out of your study leave budget is required, just the time off work.
5. Junior doctors are entitled to apply for professional leave to attend a conference such as this. It helps to get your application in as early as possible.
6. Junior doctors who are trade union representatives should be allowed time off work to take part in trade union duties and activities. If you are interested in becoming a local junior representative for your trust, contact your regional BMA centre.

If you are concerned that you are not being allowed time off work to attend the conference this year, and would like further advice and support from the BMA, please contact the BMA junior doctors committee secretariat (info.jdc@bma.org.uk).
Claiming expenses at the BMA junior doctors conference 2018

Please note the following information about claiming expenses:

Expenses will only be reimbursed to BMA members. Representatives are asked to obtain the cheapest available ticket for their journey. Receipts must be supplied in all cases.

Members must submit their expenses via Concur. If you do not have an account, please visit http://www.bma.org.uk/committeeexpenses to register. Paper expense forms will no longer be accepted.

Overnight expenses for accommodation cannot be claimed by those travelling from within 40 miles of Birmingham city centre (see map below).

For those attending both the grassroots event and conference: overnight expenses will be reimbursed for accommodation on Friday 18 May (up to a maximum of £150.00 per night).

For those attending the conference dinner on Saturday 19 May: overnight expenses will be reimbursed for Saturday night’s accommodation (up to a maximum of £150.00 per night).
For those attending the junior doctors conference only: overnight allowances of up to £150.00 for an overnight stay (bed and breakfast) and £35.00 for dinner are payable provided that it is necessary for the representative either to leave home prior to 6:30am or arrive home later than 11:00pm on the day of the event or in exceptional circumstances where the member has prior authorisation from the JDC secretariat.

Representatives are entitled to be reimbursed for first class rail travel to and from the conference for journeys of over 50 miles, and standard class rail travel for journeys of less than 50 miles. Air travel is permissible if the distance travelled is over 350 land miles or where road or rail travel is geographically impossible (e.g. Northern Ireland to England).

**Refundable payments of** £35.00 for those attending the grassroots dinner on Friday 18 May and the junior doctors conference dinner on Saturday 19 May will be required when you submit your application form. The cost of your dinner ticket(s) can be reclaimed via Concur with your expenses. The cost of tickets for guests at the dinner cannot be reclaimed.