

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).