

Anaesthesia as a Career in the NorthWest

The programme of training leading to a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in Anaesthetics

Introduction

To obtain a UK CCT in anaesthetics a trainee has to follow a training programme with an indicative duration of seven years. There are two entry routes:

- directly into the anaesthesia programme and
- via Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) training which will usually take one year longer. ACCS training is described at the end of this article.

Aim

The aim of the programme leading to the award of a CCT in anaesthesia is to produce high quality anaesthetists with a broad range of skills that will enable them to practise as consultant anaesthetists in the United Kingdom.

Duration of Training

To obtain a CCT in anaesthesia a trainee has to follow a competency based specialty training programme covering basic, intermediate, higher and/or advanced levels of training in anaesthesia, pain management and Intensive Care Medicine (ICM). The indicative duration of training is 7 years of which:

- basic level will normally last 2 years;
- intermediate level will normally last 2 years; and
- higher and/or advanced level will normally last 3 years.

The actual duration of an individual's training will be determined by the rate at which they achieve the necessary competences.

Dual CCT in Anaesthesia and ICM

It is possible for all trainees from the ACCS route and, with proper career planning, direct entrants to the anaesthesia programme, to obtain a dual CCT in anaesthesia and ICM within the anaesthesia training programme. Anybody considering this option should discuss their career plans with the Regional Advisor for ICM at an early stage of their training and/or the office of the Intercollegiate Board for Training in Intensive Care Medicine (jgoodwin@rcoa.ac.uk).

Overview of Anaesthetic Training in the Northwest

ST1/ST2

Acquiring basic competencies and must pass Primary FRCA MCQ and OSCE/Oral Exam. Includes 1 X 3 Month ICU module

ST3-ST4

Competitive entry to ST3 which requires Primary FRCA along with evidence of Audit, Teaching, Life support courses, Clinical Governance activities etc..

ST3 in the North West is "Specialities" year :Paeds/ Cardio-thoracics/ Neuro/ Obstetrics

Includes a further 3 months ICM in ST4 and need to pass the Final FRCA by end of ST4

ST5-ST7

Advanced specialty training along with advancement in educational/ research/ governance and management skills

Opportunity for Out of programme experience/Fellowships/Advanced ICU or Pain years

Includes a final 3 months ICM.

Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) Training

Every year a small number of ACCS training posts are reserved for trainees who ultimately want to become anaesthetists. ACCS training lasts two years and usually consists of:

- one year of anaesthesia and ICM of which a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 9 months can be spent in each specialty.
- 6 months of General (Internal) Medicine (Acute).
- 6 months emergency medicine.

On completion of ACCS training the trainee enters year 2 of the anaesthesia basic level training programme and follows a 6 year course in anaesthesia and ICM. The amount of time spent in anaesthesia and ICM during ACCS training will affect the balance of training at the interface of the basic and intermediate level programmes e.g. a trainee who spent 3 months in anaesthesia and 9 months in ICM during ACCS training, all things being equal, will be considered to have completed the intermediate level ICM syllabus and may spend the first months of the intermediate level programme completing basic level anaesthesia training.

The Group of Anaesthetists in Training (GAT)

Email: gat@aagbi.org

Website: <http://www.aagbi.org/gat.htm>

The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland (AAGBI)

21 Portland Place, London W1B 1PY

Tel: 020 7631 1650

Email: info@aagbi.org

Website: <http://www.aagbi.org/>

The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA)

Training Department 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG

Tel: 020 7092 1552/1553/1554

Fax: 020 7092 1730

Email: training@rcoa.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.rcoa.ac.uk>

The Intercollegiate Board for Training in Intensive Care Medicine (IBTICM)

c/o The Royal College of Anaesthetists 35 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4SG

Tel: 020 7092 1556

Email: ibticm@rcoa.ac.uk

Website: <http://www.ibticm.org>

Anaesthesia UK <http://www.frca.co.uk>

Fantastic resource for junior and wannabe anaesthetists with lots of interview questions

Northwest Anaesthesia <http://www.nwanaesthesia.org.uk>

NorthWest School website: lots of useful info including details of study day/conferences.

Northwest Deanery www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk

Contact a.davies@NWpgmd.nhs.uk to find out who the College Tutor for Anaesthetics is in your current hospital, they will be more than willing to discuss career options with you.

Alternately if you have a specific question about the NW school then one of the Specialty Training Committee maybe able to help.

North West School of Anaesthesia Specialty Training Committee Executive Board

Dr Chris Till -Head of School chris.till@mbht.nhs.uk

Dr Jo Rogers –ICM STC Chair Jo.Rogers@uhsm.nhs.uk

Dr Chris Clarke- ACCS Training Programme Director dr.clarke@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk

Lancashire School- Dr Rod Emmott rodemcott@aol.com

Central School – Dr Nick Smith nick.smith@rbh.nhs.uk

South School – Dr Christopher Tolhurst-Cleaver Christopher.cleaver@uhsm.nhs.uk