



The College of Emergency Medicine

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CALCULATION OF YEAR OF ENTRY INTO SPECIALTY TRAINING

2007 entry trainees

All trainees holding National Training Numbers (NTN) must enrol with the College of Emergency Medicine. As part of this process the College will confirm that the trainee is eligible for the year to which they were appointed. Because eligible posts differ depending on whether the trainee is appointed with a CCT or CESR (combined programme) training number the College will not start this process until the trainee has been allocated an NTN.

Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT)

This process is followed for trainees issued with a training number ending in the suffix 'c'. These trainees will be awarded a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) once they have successfully completed their training and examinations.

1. Training

The length of time spent in educationally approved ACCS and ST3 posts will be calculated.

Educationally approved posts are those posts undertaken in recognised training jobs within the UK (or within the European Union, providing that the relevant authority provides documentation to confirm the training meets the minimum requirements of Directive 93/16/EC).

ACCS and ST3 posts comprise the following:

- Emergency Medicine
- Acute Medicine
- Intensive Care Medicine
- Anaesthetics
- Paediatrics
- Trauma & Orthopaedics

If the **total time** spent in educationally approved posts is 12 months or less, the trainee is eligible for ST1 (CCT). All eligible posts are counted, regardless of combination, so specialties will be counted more than once.

If **total time** in educationally approved posts is between 12 and 36 months the trainee can be eligible for ST2 (CCT). All eligible posts are counted, regardless of combination, so specialties will be counted more than once.

If **total time** in educationally approved posts is 24 months or more the trainee can be eligible for ST3 or ST4 (CCT) (or ST2 as given above). All eligible posts are counted, regardless of combination, so specialties will be counted more than once.

Examples

A trainee who has undertaken 2 separate 6 month EM SHO posts and also a 6 months T&O SHO post will have 18 months of total training time in educationally approved posts and will be eligible for ST2 entry, but not for ST1 or ST3 . On the other hand a trainee who has undertaken a 6 month EM SHO post and three separate 6 month T&O posts will have a total training time of 24 months in educationally approved posts and will be eligible for either ST2 or ST3 entry.

2 Qualifications

Trainees entering at ST1 or ST2 do not require any postgraduate qualifications (although one life support course is desirable for ST2 entry). They must pass MCEM part A to enter ST3 and full MCEM by the end of ST4.

Trainees entering at ST3 must have, as a minimum, MCEM Part A (or equivalent e.g. MRCP, MRCS, FRCA, MRCGP). At ST3 level two life support courses are desirable. Trainees must pass full MCEM or equivalent by the end of ST4.

For ST4 entry, trainees must have full MCEM (or equivalent). Three life support courses are required.

There are further details on exam requirements in separate guidance produced by CEM on the College website. Arrangements differ for 2007, 2008 and subsequent years of entry to training.

Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR)

This process is followed for trainees issued with a training number ending in the suffix 'e'. These trainees will be awarded a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) once they have successfully completed their training and examinations.

1. Training and Experience

The length of time spent in ACCS and ST3 posts will be calculated.

Training, non-training and overseas posts can be counted, providing ACCS and ST3 competences have been demonstrated.

ACCS and ST3 posts comprise the following:

- Emergency Medicine
- Acute Medicine
- Intensive Care Medicine
- Anaesthetics
- Paediatrics
- Trauma & Orthopaedics

If the **total time** spent in ACCS and ST3 posts, including training, non-training and overseas posts is 12 months or less, the trainee is eligible for ST1 (CESR). All eligible posts can be counted, regardless of combination, so specialties can be counted more than once.

If **total time** spent in ACCS and ST3 posts, including training, non-training and overseas posts, is between 12 and 36 months the trainee can be eligible for ST2 (CESR). All eligible posts can be counted, regardless of combination, so specialties can be counted more than once.

If **total time** spent in ACCS and ST3 posts, including training, non-training and overseas posts, is 24 months or more the trainee can be eligible for ST3 or ST4 (CESR) (or ST2 as given above). All eligible posts can be counted, regardless of combination, so specialties can be counted more than once.

e.g. A Trainee who has undertaken a 12 month Clinical Fellow post (non-training) in EM and also a 6 month SHO post (training) in EM will be eligible for ST1 entry for CCT (6 months time in educationally approved post) or a ST2 entry for CESR (18 months experience in both training and non-training posts).

2 Qualifications

Trainees entering at ST1 or ST2 do not require any postgraduate qualifications (although one life support course is desirable for ST2 entry). They must pass MCEM part A to enter ST3 and full MCEM by the end of ST4.

Trainees entering at ST3 must have as a minimum, MCEM Part A (or equivalent e.g. MRCP, MRCS, FRCA, MRCPCH). At ST3 level two life support courses are desirable. Trainees must pass full MCEM or equivalent by the end of ST4.

For ST4 entry, trainees must have full MCEM (or equivalent). Three life support courses are required.

There are further details on exam requirements in separate guidance produced by CEM on the College website. Arrangements differ for 2007, 2008 and subsequent years of entry to training.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1 Does time spent training abroad count as relevant experience?

The only posts which will be recognised towards a CCT are those training posts undertaken either in the UK or in a European Union country (the latter require confirmation from the competent authority in that European country that the training meets minimum requirements of Directive 93/16/EC).

This area is probably the greatest source of confusion and has understandably arisen as, previously, training in countries such as Australia, if recognised by the parent College, would have been recognised by the College of Emergency Medicine towards training. The GMC however will not recognise such training retrospectively towards a CCT and the only way in which such training might be recognised would be by way of prospective approval from the competent authority at the time (the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board). Therefore any time previously spent in training posts outside of either the UK or the European Union will not be recognised towards a CCT. This previous experience can however be recognised towards a CESR.

2 Can non-training posts such as Clinical Fellow posts be recognised towards a CCT?

The simple answer is no. Non-training posts, i.e. posts without educational approval, cannot be recognised towards a CCT. This is the case even if the post holder in question worked alongside a colleague who occupied an educationally approved post, undertook exactly the same clinical duties, including on-call, and received the same educational input, appraisal etc. GMC will only count those posts with prior educational approval towards a CCT.

Such non-educationally approved posts may however be counted towards a CESR.

3 What previous experience might be recognised as an Acute Medical post?

Clearly posts specifically designated as Acute Medicine posts can be so recognised, as will General Medicine posts which have included exposure to acute undifferentiated medical input.

Specialty posts in Medicine (e.g. Endocrinology, Haematology etc.) may be recognised if the post holder participated in the Acute Medical intake. Evidence of the competencies gained will need to be shown in the trainee's portfolio, preferably by completion of WPBA and a structured training report. However it is recognised that this type of post may have been completed prior to the introduction of WPBA and a supporting letter from the supervising consultant confirming that the competences in Acute Medicine have been achieved would be satisfactory. This needs to be explicitly stated in the application form/CV and it is the trainee's responsibility to provide this information otherwise it will be assumed that recognition of the post is not required.

4 What previous experience might be recognised as a Paediatric post?

Training posts (i.e. SHO or ST posts) in Paediatric medicine (ward based) or Paediatric Emergency Medicine completed in the UK or EU can count towards training (the latter require confirmation from the competent authority in that European country that the training meets minimum requirements of Directive 93/16/EC). Paediatric Surgery posts would not be counted.

5 Can non-ACCS and ST3 posts be recognised?

Posts such as Cardio-Thoracic Surgery contain, for example, exposure to some relevant part of the EM curriculum. However the only posts which can be recognised as ACCS and ST3 posts are:

- Emergency Medicine
- Acute Medicine (see FAQ 3)
- Anaesthetics
- Intensive Care
- Paediatrics (see FAQ 4)
- Trauma & Orthopaedics

Whilst other posts may offer exposure to some of the competencies required this is merely a reflection of the broad based nature of Emergency Medicine which crosses all Specialties. The Emergency Medicine curriculum necessitates exposure to the six ACCS and ST3 Specialties noted above.

One frequent problem which arises is probably a result of the old-style Specialist Registrar training and relates to the previous secondments required in the pre-MMC programme. Whereas secondments in Cardiology, General Surgery, Acute Medicine, Paediatrics and T&O were a requirement of previous **Specialist** Registrar training they are not a requirement for the new **Specialty** Registrar training programme which has a completely different structure. There is no cross-over between the regulations for Specialist Registrar and Specialty Registrar training and thus previous experience in General Surgery will not be recognised for Specialty Registrar training as this is not part of the new curriculum.

CEM March 2010