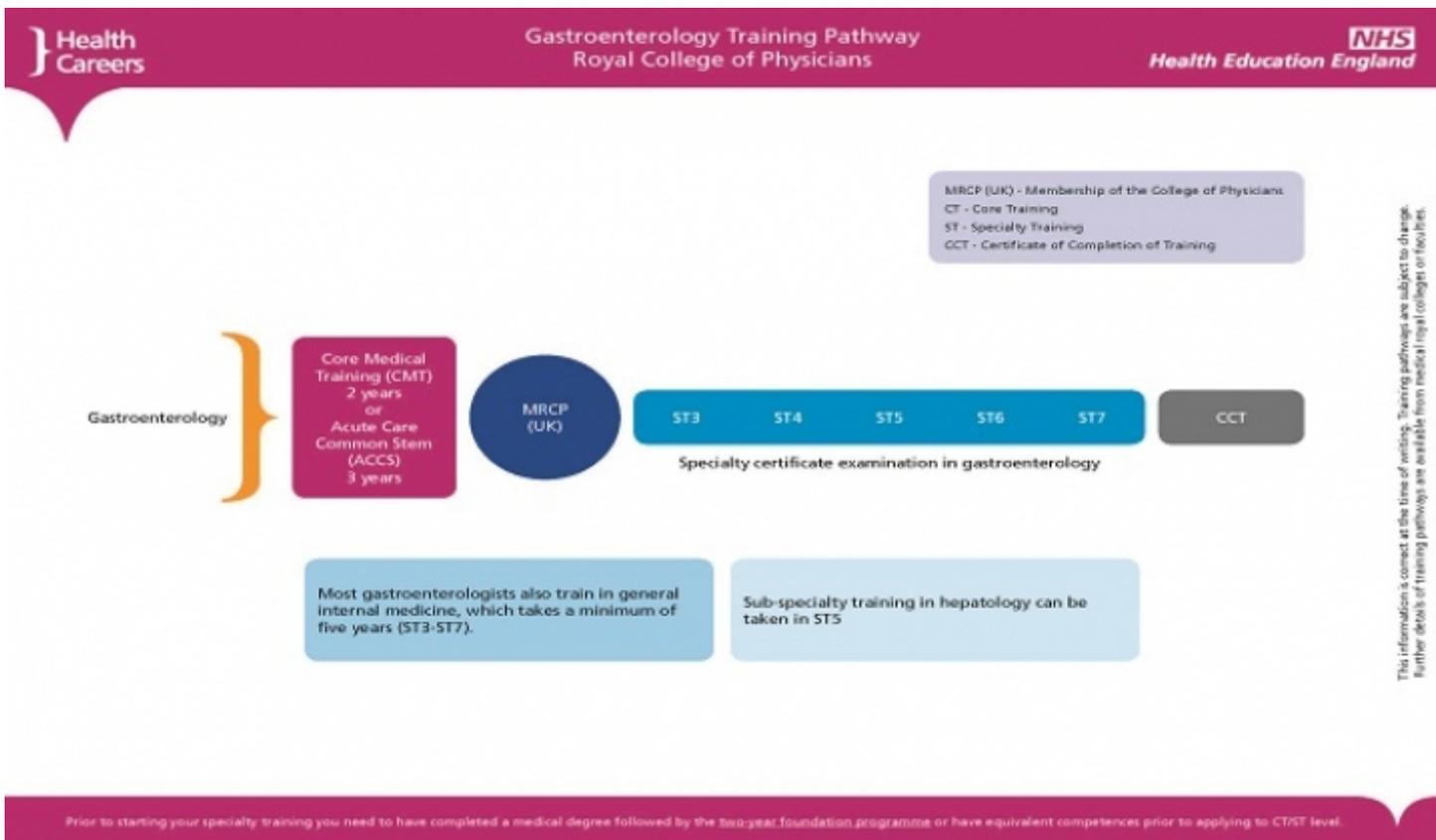


Training and development (gastroenterology)

This page provides useful information on the training and development for this specialty and also has tips for people at all stages of their training including medical school.

[Download full image of Gastroenterology pathway](#) [1]



The approved postgraduate training programme for gastroenterology is available from the GMC. [2]

You will need to complete core training after your two-year foundation programme. Core training has a choice of two pathways:

- [core medical training](#) [3] – CMT, which is a two-year programme
- acute care common stem – ACCS (acute medicine), which is a three-year programme

Programmes generally consist of four to six placements in medical specialties which must

include direct involvement in the acute medical take. Trainees record their supervised learning events in an ePortfolio which they continue to use in specialty training.

Applicants for specialty training at ST3 should also hold the full [MRCP](#) ^[4] (UK). Not all applicants who meet the required standard to continue will necessarily be offered a post due to the level of competition.

Trainees can enter specialty training in gastroenterology at ST3 level. ST3 training takes a minimum of four or five years depending on the pathway chosen. Most consultant gastroenterologists in the UK and most specialty registrars training in gastroenterology choose to train both in their specialty and in general internal medicine (GIM) which takes a minimum of five years. Trainees are expected to spend time in a busier hospital and to have six months each of core liver and nutrition training. There are a number of different pathways from ST3 which enable trainees to develop sub-specialty expertise.

The JRCPTB has detailed information on the [curriculum and assessment for gastroenterology and hepatology](#) ^[5].

Detailed entry requirements and all essential and desirable criteria are listed in the [person specification 2017 for gastroenterology ST3](#) ^[6]. Arrangements for less than full time (LTFT) training and work patterns are now well established.

All [2017 person specification](#) ^[7]^[8] can be found on the NHS specialty training website. Please note that these documents are updated every year in the autumn before the recruitment round opens.

For information about integrated medical and academic training in gastroenterology, see the [NHS National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\)](#) ^[9].

This information is correct at the time of writing. Full and accurate details of training pathways are available from medical royal colleges, [local education and training boards](#) ^[10] (LETBs) or the [GMC](#) ^[11].

Getting in tips

It is important to develop your practical skills and interest in gastroenterology as early as you can. This will also give you valuable experience to add to your CV.

Whether you're a medical student, foundation trainee or doing your core specialty training, there's information below to help you.

- Medical students

Expand / collapse

- join your university medical society
- attend conferences for medical students – this will give you an opportunity to network and meet your future colleagues
- get involved with the GMC (General Medical Council), eg medical students can participate in visits to medical schools as part of the GMC's [quality assurance](#) ^[12] process

- consider joining the specialist society for your chosen specialty as a student member, eg the taster membership scheme of the British Society of Gastroenterology ^[13] and participate in the informal mentoring scheme
- consider becoming a student member of the BMA (the British Medical Association ^[14] is the trade union and professional association for doctors and provides careers advice)
- make your specialty decisions in good time so that you can test it out before committing yourself, eg by using hospital visits and clinical placements arranged as part of your course to ask questions and observe people at work
- choose the topic of your supervised research project carefully to test out your thinking
- Foundation trainees

Expand / collapse

- remember your first priority is to demonstrate that you have developed the personal, learning, clinical, practical and management skills needed by all doctors
- think laterally when applying for rotations – vacancies may not be available in gastroenterology so apply for a rotation in a related field such as general internal medicine
- talk to your clinical and educational supervisors about particular areas of interest to explore
- use full placements to experience specialties that you might be interested in or apply for taster experiences if you can't get a placement
- talk with your peers about their career ideas and experiences – you may be able to help each other
- listen to information and advice from more experienced doctors but make your own decisions
- taking part in a clinical audit ^[15] is important for your development as a doctor but you may be able to choose an audit project related to a specialty that interests you
- ensure your Foundation e-portfolio has plenty of medical evidence and that this is kept properly up-to-date
- try to gain teaching and management experience
- look at competition ratios (ie the number of applicants to places) critically. Find out what is happening this year and spot any regional differences in competition ratios
- view the careers resources on the Foundation Programme website ^[16]
- write case reports or make presentations (in acute medicine, for instance) with a gastroenterology focus.
- Core and specialty trainees

Expand / collapse

- ensure a good grounding in acute general medicine
- join the taster membership scheme of the British Society of Gastroenterology ^[13] and participate in the informal mentoring scheme
- speak to consultants about what the role is like
- read as much information as you can on the websites of relevant professional bodies
- question your own perceptions and possible negative stereotypes of the specialty
- impress interviewers by showing that your interest in the specialty is intrinsically motivated, ie you are drawn to the work and not just attracted by admiration of

someone you have shadowed (You will also be happier in your career in that specialty many years later!)

- be prepared to move to where the vacancies are
- continue to develop your practical and academic expertise
- undertake a research project
- try to get some of your work published and present at national and international meetings
- join or start a Journal Club (a group who meet to critically evaluate academic research)
- teach junior colleagues
- take on any management opportunities you are offered
- sign up for an [endoscopy](#) [17] simulation course (see <http://www.jets.nhs.uk/> [18] to get a taster of whether you would enjoy [endoscopy](#) [17])

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/medicine/gastroenterology/training-and-development>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/resources/gastroenterology-training-pathway>

[2] http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/postgraduate/approved_curricula_systems.asp

[3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Core_medical_training

[4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#MRCP>

[5] <http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/gastroenterology-includes-sub-specialty-hepatology>

[6] <http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/portals/1/Content/Person%20Specifications/Gastroenterology/Gastroenterology%20Specifications>

[7] <http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/specialty-recruitment/person-specifications-2013/2017-person-specifications/>

[8] <http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/specialty-recruitment/person-specifications-2013/2016-person-specifications/>

[9] <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/>

[10] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/about-us/our-leaders-structure/local-education-training-boards>

[11] <http://www.gmc-uk.org/>

[12] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Quality_assurance

[13] <http://www.bsg.org.uk/>

[14] <http://bma.org.uk/>

[15] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Clinical_audit

[16] <http://www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/pages/medical-students/your-career-path/resources>

[17] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Endoscopy>

[18] <http://www.jets.nhs.uk/>