Training and development (chemical pathology)

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 Chemical Pathology pathway [1]

Training for chemical pathology has traditionally been a run-through training programme starting after foundation training [2] at ST1, where training takes a minimum of five years.

However, it is possible to train in the specialist area of metabolic [3] medicine at ST3 and this is becoming the most common route into the specialty. Before starting ST3 training you will need:

- core medical training (CMT) – two years or
• acute care common stem (ACCS) – three years

The length of training can vary, for example it is possible to train flexibly if you fulfil the criteria for Less than Full Time Training, (LTFT).

Part 1 of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath) is taken at the end of ST3 and is required to progress to ST4.

Part 2 of the Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists (FRCPath) is taken at the end of ST4 and is required to progress to ST5.

Experience of additional extra-curricular activities, achievements and interests relevant to chemical pathology are also desirable.

Selection panels also look for evidence of academic and research achievements, which as well as additional academic qualifications include prizes, awards, distinctions, publications and presentations. An understanding of research, audit and teaching is also important as is evidence of the ability to work in a multidisciplinary team. Good leadership and organisational skills are also important.

A demonstrable interest in and understanding of the specialty is also required.

The GMC [4] provides information on the curriculum for chemical pathology: Detailed entry requirements and all essential and desirable criteria are listed in the NHS Person Specification 2017 for ST3 chemical pathology-metabolic medicine. [5] Detailed entry requirements and all essential and desirable criteria are listed in the NHS Person Specification for chemical pathology, which will be available next time there is recruitment into ST1.

All 2017 person specifications [6] 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.

This information is correct at the time of writing. Full and accurate details of training pathways are available from medical royal colleges or the GMC [7].

Getting in tips

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

Here are some suggestions for people at different stages of their career:

• Medical students Expand / Collapse
  You could consider becoming an undergraduate member of:
  
  o Royal College of Pathologists [8]
  o pathological society [9]
  o attend conferences and scientific meetings on chemical pathology – this will give you an opportunity to network and meet your future colleagues
  o undertake a placement in chemical pathology
- **Foundation trainees Expand / Collapse**
  - make contact with a local chemical pathology department and find out how you can get involved
  - aim to get a rotation in chemical pathology
  - undertake an audit or research project that is relevant to pathology
  - try to ensure your e-portfolio has broad clinical experience and that this is kept properly up-to-date
  - try to gain teaching and management experience

- **Specialty trainees Expand / Collapse**
  - make contact with a local chemical pathology department and find out how you can get involved
  - undertake a relevant research project
  - try to get some of your work published and present at national and international meetings
  - teach junior colleagues
  - take on any management opportunities you are offered

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**Source URL:** https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/roles-doctors/pathology/chemical-pathology/training-and-development-chemical-pathology

**Links**

1. https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/resources/chemical-pathology-training-pathway-0
2. https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training
3. https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Metabolic