

Training and development (haematology)

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.

The approved postgraduate training programme for haematology [1] is available from the GMC.

You will need to complete core training after your two-year foundation programme. Before embarking on higher specialist training, potential haematologists need to complete one of the following:

- **core medical training [2] (CMT)**, which is a two-year programme
- **acute care common stem (ACCS) - acute medicine**, which is a three-year programme
- **level one paediatric training** - specialty training ST1-3, which is a two to three year programme

If you offer CMT or ACCS, you will need to pass the examinations leading to membership of the Royal College of Physicians [3] (MRCP [4]). If you offer level one paediatric training, you will need to pass examinations leading to membership of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health [5] (MRCPCH).

ST3 Specialty Training

Trainees enter specialty training in haematology at ST3 level. Specialty training takes a minimum of five years (ST3-7).

This includes Part 2 Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists [6] (FRCPath).

Before being accepted for higher training applicants must have either:

- 24 months' experience in medical specialties (12 months of which must include care of acute medical in-patients). ACCS may count towards this

or:

- 24 months' experience in paediatrics

It is also desirable to have experience of managing patients with haematological disease and experience of managing haematological emergencies during CT/ST1-2 training.

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 [7] (LTFT)

Experience of extra-curricular activities, achievements and interests relevant to haematology 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 provides information on the curriculum for haematology training [8].

Getting in tips

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

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Tips for medical students

You could consider becoming an undergraduate member of:

- Royal College of Pathologists [9]
- pathological society [10]
- attend conferences on haematology – this will give you an opportunity to network and meet your future colleagues
- undertake a placement in haematology
- undertake a student selected module or project in haematology

Medical students can join the British Society for Haematology [11] for free, as associate members.

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Tips for foundation trainees

- make contact with a local haematology department and find out how you can get involved
- aim to get a rotation in haematology
- 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

Foundation trainees and core medical trainees can join the British Society for Haematology [11] for free, as associate members.

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Tips for specialist trainees

- 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
- join the British Society for Haematology [11] through a discounted membership

Links

- [1] http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/approved_curricula_systems.asp
- [2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Core_medical_training
- [3] <https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/>
- [4] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#MRCP>
- [5] <http://www.rcpch.ac.uk/>
- [6] <https://www.rcpath.org/>
- [7] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/information-doctors/less-full-time-training-doctors>
- [8] <http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/haematology.asp>
- [9] <https://www.rcpath.org/discover-pathology/are-you-an-undergraduate-.html>
- [10] <https://www.pathsoc.org/index.php/about/undergraduates>
- [11] <http://b-s-h.org.uk/membership>