

Training and development (CN)

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 clinical neurophysiology is available from the GMC curriculum for clinical neurophysiology [1].

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

- core medical training [2] ? CMT, which is a two-year programme
- acute care common stem ? ACCS (Medicine), which is a three-year programme
- framework of competences for Level 1 training in paediatrics

Applicants for specialty training at ST3 should also hold the full MRCP (UK [3]) or MRCPH. 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 clinical neurophysiology at ST3 level. Training takes a minimum of four years (ST3-6).

Trainees who wish to achieve a CCT in neurology as well as clinical neurophysiology must have applied for and successfully entered a training programme which was advertised openly as a dual training programme. Alternatively, trainees may apply in open competition for a post in the second specialty, having completed training in the first. If successful, the Specialist Advisory Committee would advise on how much time and competence from the first specialty training could be allowed towards the second. Normally trainees having successfully completed a training programme in neurology will require 2 further years in clinical neurophysiology to achieve dual CCT. [4]

The JRCPTB has detailed information on the curriculum and assessment for clinical neurophysiology [5].

Detailed entry requirements and all essential and desirable criteria are listed in the person specification 2017 for clinical neurophysiology ST3 [6].

All 2017 person specifications [7] 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, local education and training boards [8] (LETBs) or the GMC [9].

Getting in tips

These tips will give you some ideas 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

- opportunities in medical training to visit neurophysiology departments is limited so make an effort to find out about this specialty
 - join your university medical society
 - attend conferences for medical students ? many are free ? 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 process
 - consider joining the specialist society for your chosen specialty as a student member, eg British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology [10]
 - consider becoming a student member of the BMA (the British Medical Association [11] 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 career 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 neurophysiology so apply for a rotation in a related field such as rheumatology
 - 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
 - don't just look at the bigger and more visible specialties when considering your career choice
 - 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 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 [12]
 - write case reports or make presentations (in acute medicine, for instance) with a neurophysiological focus
 - enter essay prizes and competitions
- Core and specialty trainees

Expand / collapse

- ensure a good grounding in acute general medicine
- join the British Society for Clinical Neurophysiology [10] and get help with navigating your way through specialty training from a BSCN member in your region

- 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

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

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.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#RCP>

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

[5] <http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/clinical-neurophysiology>

[6]

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/portals/1/Content/Person%20Specifications/Clinical%20Neurophysiology/Clinical>

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

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

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

[10] <http://www.bscn.org.uk/>

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

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