

Academic Training Pathways

This information is for trainees who wish to pursue an academic pathway within the specialty of surgery. General information on academic pathways can be found using the following links http://www.mmc.nhs.uk/download_files/A-pocket-guide.pdf; and www.nccrcd.nhs.uk.

The Joint Committee on Higher Surgical Training is intent on supporting academic careers within surgery and has ensured that the surgical curriculum is flexible enough to accommodate academic pathway. The curriculum specifies that each individual trainee's training is planned and recorded through the learning agreement. At the beginning of each year the programme director will outline the global objectives for the year, which will include the general academic requirements for those with an NTN (S). The specific academic requirements for those with an NTN (A) will be defined jointly by the programme director and the assigned academic supervisor.

Clinical Academic Fellows are generally expected to achieve the same level of competence in the early years of surgical training (e.g. ST1 and ST2), as NTN (S) trainees within the same time frame, though some Clinical Academic Fellows may be appointed in ST3, either during transition or because they apply having previously completed ST1 or ST2. There may be regional/local variation as to how the academic programme is managed for NTN (A) trainees in ST1 and ST2. In order to progress through training pathways the Clinical Academic Fellow, in addition to demonstrating competence in clinical aspects, will generally be required to have obtained a funded Research Training Fellowship in order to undertake a PhD or MD, which they may be able to complete during an out of programme period.

Some trainees during their period of full-time research may want to carry out some clinics or on call, if they and their academic supervisor feel that it is in their best interests.

On successful completion of a PhD or MD the Clinical Academic Fellow will either return to their clinical programme, apply for a Clinical Lecturer or Clinician Scientist post. Trainees, whether NTN (S) or NTN (A), will need to satisfactorily complete all the essential elements of their specialty syllabus in order to be awarded a CCT. Details of these requirements are to found in the relevant [specialty syllabus](#). It is acknowledged that most Clinical Academics will almost certainly take somewhat longer in training to achieve competence at CCT level than trainees taking a clinical pathway; however they will be supported fully and treated individually, with their personal progress being matched to their learning agreement.