

SAC member role description and person specification

Role description

SACs and the JCST

The Joint Committee on Surgical Training (JCST) is an advisory body to the four surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland. Working closely with surgical specialty associations and trainee groups, it advises on all matters related to surgical training, providing important support to the health service.

JCST's Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs) focus on each surgical specialty, defining the curriculum and quality indicators, selecting trainees, and making recommendations for inclusion on the specialist register. Appointed SAC members are consultant surgeons with a wide variety of interests, specialisms, backgrounds, and experience.

The role of SAC member

This is an enjoyable, stimulating, and rewarding role which allows you to use your passion for surgical training to shape the future of your specialty. It complements other educational roles and can support your personal and professional development.

Through SAC activity, you will meet and learn from enthusiastic and knowledgeable colleagues from across the UK and Ireland. You will be able to share best practice with your peers and make a real difference to the future surgical workforce.

As an SAC member you will support a specialty training programme and Specialty Training Committee (STC) outside your own region, participating in the ARCP process and advising on local issues. This role (as SAC Liaison Member) can also provide a valuable insight and perspective to apply to your own training programme. You will also have opportunities to lead on areas such as curriculum development, national selection and CESR through the SAC.

About you

If you are a surgical trainer with a strong personal commitment to the health service and experience of training administration or management at a regional level, the SAC could be the next step in your development as a leader in surgical education and training. While additional experience in roles such as training programme director, examiner, college tutor, or director of medical education is valuable and welcomed, we encourage applications from surgeons with a wide range of experience and backgrounds.

Relationships

As an SAC member, you will work closely with the chair and other members of the SAC. You will also advise, collaborate with, support and be supported by others including trainees, trainers, Postgraduate Deans, Heads of Schools of Surgery, Training Programme Directors, Specialty Training Committees, Statutory Education Bodies, and JCST staff.

Time and travel commitments

Appointment as an SAC member is usually for five years and involves a time commitment of around one day per month. Some SAC roles will require additional time, and some activities (e.g. national selection) will run over consecutive days. Your trust CEO (or delegated representative) will need to agree in advance to grant leave and travel expenses as JCST cannot cover these costs.

SAC activities involve a combination of virtual and in-person meetings to allow all members to contribute alongside their other professional and personal commitments.

How to apply

For more information on SACs, the JCST, and surgical training, go to www.jcst.org.

For details on how to apply, go to www.jcst.org/committees.

Person specification

Expertise and experience in training

Essential criteria
Surgical trainer (CS or AES)
Experience of administration / management of training at regional committee level or equivalent (e.g. Specialty Training Committee member or School of Surgery Training Committee member etc.)
Thorough knowledge of the current medical training environment
Thorough knowledge of ISCP and the current specialty curriculum, including pathways, critical progression points, certification requirements, and assessment tools
Completion of Training the Trainers course (or equivalent)
Desirable criteria
Experience as a TPD and/or STC Chair (current or recent)
Experience in a Royal College role (e.g. regional representative, tutor, course faculty)
Experience within local employer educational structures (e.g. Director / Assistant Director of Medical Education, other remunerated local employer role related to education / training)
MRCS and/or FRCS examiner
Participant in national selection for core or specialty training posts
Experience of engagement with the ARCP process as a panel member
Postgraduate educational qualification (e.g. PGCertEd or higher)
Development of educational materials
Member of Education Committee of Surgical Specialty Association (current or recent)
Other educational activity

Contribution to local service and profession

Essential criteria
Leadership experience
Evidence of team working
Evidence of skills in areas such as problem solving, conflict resolution, change management
Up to date appraisal / revalidation

Desirable criteria
Contribution to service development / management / other achievement for local employer (Clinical Lead etc.) beyond requirements of standard consultant job plan
Demonstrable commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion

Surgical expertise

Essential criteria
In good standing with employer and regulator

Desirable criteria
Achievement in educational research
Achievement in audit / quality improvement