

Certification Guidelines for Cardiothoracic Surgery

All trainees seeking certification in Cardiothoracic Surgery must:

- a) be fully registered with the GMC and have a licence to practise.
- b) have undertaken 6 years of higher surgical training in a UK or Ireland training programme¹.
- c) have successfully passed the Intercollegiate Specialty Board examination.
- d) have been awarded an outcome 6 at a final ARCP (gained all required competencies).

In addition, trainees should be able to satisfy the following specialty specific guidelines:

	Guidelines for Cardiothoracic Surgery
Clinical experience - evidence of the breadth of clinical experience defined in the specialty syllabus	Trainees should have had exposure to both adult cardiac and thoracic surgery. Trainees must be able to demonstrate that they are keeping their knowledge and skills up-to-date.
Operative experience - consolidated logbook evidence of the breadth of operative experience defined in the specialty syllabus	There are no specific numeric requirements for the number of operations performed. Candidates should demonstrate broad exposure to operative cardiothoracic surgery.
Operative competence - evidence of competence in indicative operative procedures to level 3 or 4 (evidenced by PBAs defined by the specialty)	Trainees should demonstrate competence across a broad range of cardiothoracic procedures as evidenced by completed PBAs.
Research - evidence of an understanding of, and participation in, research as defined by the specialty	Trainees should provide evidence of study of research methodology, possess a higher degree or have published a paper in a peer-reviewed journal.
Quality Improvement - evidence of an understanding of, and participation in, audit or service improvement as defined by the specialty	Trainees should have evidence of an audit completed within the two years prior to certification.
Medical Education and training - evidence of an understanding of, and participation in, medical education and training as defined by the specialty	Trainees should have completed courses in training and education by the time they apply for certification.
Management and leadership - evidence of an understanding of management structures and challenges of the NHS in the training jurisdiction	Trainees should have completed courses in NHS management by the time they apply for certification.

¹ This will include out of programme training

Additional courses / qualifications - evidence of having attended specific courses/gained specific qualifications as defined by the specialty	There are no specific additional courses/qualifications required for certification in cardiothoracic surgery.
Educational conferences - evidence of having attended appropriate educational conferences and meetings as defined by the specialty	Trainees should have attended a major national or international meeting in each year of training.