

JCST curriculum derogations¹ (updated November 2021)

GMC approved curriculum derogations in place for 2021 and beyond².

1) MRCS Part B (DO-HNS Part 2 for ENT)

This derogation:

- only applies to the period of COVID-19 related disruption
- requires prior success at MRCS Part A

Run-through ST2 trainees, and CT2 (uncoupled) trainees who are successfully appointed to ST3 at national selection, **can proceed to ST3** if they have registered for or attempted but not yet passed MRCS Part B or DO-HNS Part 2 (ENT only) and if:

Either

- at least one of the exam diets is cancelled

Or

- the trainee is denied access to one of these diets because of insufficient capacity due to COVID-19³

AND

Either

- the CT2/ST2 ARCP panel is content that the trainee has no other outstanding curriculum requirements requiring extra training time at CT2/ST2 level

Or

- if there are other outstanding curriculum requirements due to COVID-19, which would normally require extra training time at CT2/ST2 level, and the CT2/ST2 ARCP panel is content that it will be possible to meet these during ST3⁴

All trainees, with no exceptions, must pass MRCS Part B (DO-HNS Part 2, ENT only) before progressing into ST4.

Background to derogation 1

The principle being applied is to permit 3 attempts at MRCS Part B (DO-HNS Part 2, ENT only) during the ST2/CT2 year

- *run-through trainees have always had these opportunities*
- *this would give parity to uncoupled trainees*
- *is educationally consistent with the curriculum requirement to pass MRCS Part B prior to completing Core Surgery*

2) Current ST2 run-through trainees or CT2 uncoupled core trainees who have **passed the MRCS** examination BUT have other outstanding curriculum requirements due to COVID-19, which would normally require extra training time at CT2/ST2 level:

If the CT2/ST2 ARCP panel is content that it will be possible to meet these during ST3⁵ trainees can proceed to ST3 but **must** achieve all Core curriculum requirements by the ST3 ARCP (before progressing to ST4).

¹ Derogation: an exemption from or relaxation of a rule or law.

² Derogations will be subject to further alterations, if required, to accommodate changes in the training environment.

³ The Royal Colleges have indicated that they will have capacity for all CT2 and ST2 applicants. Insufficient capacity would only apply if a trainee could not be offered a place at any of the Colleges' diets.

⁴ In these circumstances the ARCP panel will award an outcome 10.1 with a specific time bound action plan.

⁵ In these circumstances the ARCP panel will award an outcome 10.1 with a specific time bound action plan.

3) Current ST6 (ST5 in OMFS and Urology) trainees who have otherwise been progressing satisfactorily BUT have not been able to gain specialty curriculum requirements because of COVID-19 related disruption:

can proceed to ST7 (or ST6 in OMFS and Urology) and sit the FRCS examination if they have the support of their Training Programme Director (TPD)⁶.

4) Current ST8 (ST7 in OMFS and Urology)

Whilst alternative evidence may be used to demonstrate that competencies have been met, trainees will only achieve an ARCP outcome 6 and be recommended for the award of a CCT where they have completed all requirements of the curriculum.

- Curriculum requirements for which alternative evidence, to what is normally required either within the curriculum or in the certification guidelines, is acceptable:
 - Research
 - Evidence of having met the relevant requirements for research and scholarship, as described in the GMC's Generic Professional Capabilities framework.
 - Broadly, this includes:
 - The demonstration of evidence based practice
 - Understanding how to critically appraise literature and conduct literature searches and reviews.
 - Understanding and applying basic research principles.
 - Understanding the basic principles of research governance and how to apply relevant ethical guidelines to research activities.
 - Quality Improvement
 - Evidence of an understanding of, and participation in, audit or service improvement.
 - Medical Education and training
 - Evidence of an understanding of, and participation in, medical education and training
 - Management and leadership
 - Evidence of an understanding of management structures and challenges of the NHS in the training jurisdiction.
 - Additional courses / qualifications
 - Evidence may include previous passes in particular courses (e.g. ATLS, PILS), alternative equivalent courses (e.g. European Trauma Course) or WBAs demonstrating equivalent competencies.
 - Educational conferences
 - Evidence of having attended appropriate educational conferences and meetings (online or otherwise).

⁶ In these circumstances the ARCP panel will award an outcome 10.1 with a specific time bound action plan.