

JCST LAT Guidance (for implementation from 1st October 2012¹ - updated September 2015)

Introduction

Specialty Training Registrars (StRs) may have relevant training undertaken in a Locum Appointment for Training (LAT) counted towards their total training in a given specialty and its related CCT or CESR (CP)².

The LAT post must take place in a GMC approved specialty training slot, with the appointment made in accordance with the Person Specifications for the relevant specialty. It must be a training post within an approved training programme that is normally occupied by a StR with the only difference being that the LAT post is for a fixed term.

By definition, a LAT appointment must be for a minimum of 3 months (wte). On occasions, a trainee working in a LAT post may not complete this time before acquiring a numbered post or further LAT appointment. Under these circumstances, a period of less than 3 months will not count towards training unless there is evidence that it is seamlessly linked to the appointment to a ST3+ with a National Training Number (NTN), or another LAT post in the same Local Training and Education Board (LETB) or Deanery and programme.

The following guidance sets out the circumstances of when and how accreditation of a LAT will take place and the procedure to be followed (please read it carefully):

Timescales and deadlines:

1. From 1st October 2012 all relevant LAT³ posts of 3 months or more will count towards training where satisfactory progress is confirmed through award of an ARCP 1 (or 7.1) unless otherwise notified by the Training Programme Director (TPD) and/or the host Local Education and Training Board (LETB)/Deanery;
2. For trainees currently in a numbered training post, who were previously in a LAT post that has not yet been accredited, the JCST advises them to have it accredited as soon as possible before the end of their first year in the training programme or at their first ARCP. After that if they have not applied for the LAT to be taken into account and are past the first year/ARCP in a specialty training programme, the JCST will not normally grant accreditation;
3. The JCST will usually and automatically accredit a maximum of 12 months of LAT towards a numbered training programme subject to the caveat in Point 4 below;

¹This guidance applies to all trainees who enter a numbered specialty training programme on or after 1 October 2012.

²Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration via a Combined Programme.

³JCST will assess LATs based on appointment level and requirements for entry to ST3 and above. All trainees must meet the essential criteria in the person specifications in order to be appointed to a numbered training programme.

4. Trainees will be given the opportunity to opt out of this automatic accreditation of LAT by informing the JCST as soon as possible and within their first year in the numbered training post or at their first ARCP (see no.5). The JCST will require written support from the Training Programme Director explaining the reasons why the LAT should not be taken into account;
5. Once a LAT post is accredited by the JCST, it may not be withdrawn or retracted after the first year/ARCP in the training programme has been completed.

Duration of LAT and application (if applicable):

1. For any 12 months of LAT, an ARCP Outcome 7.1 or 1⁴ from the host LETB/Deanery must be completed online in ISCP (or in exceptional circumstances submitted to the JCST office), in order to demonstrate progression against the curriculum;
2. For any LAT post of less than 12 months duration, which has not coincided with an ARCP in the host LETB/Deanery, an educational supervisor report confirming satisfactory progress must be completed online in ISCP (or submitted to the office) – this is to allow the SAC to review competences achieved;
3. For accreditation of a LAT post of more than 12 months duration an application will need to be submitted to the JCST. **We will expect the application to include details of all LAT posts, to allow the JCST/SACs to see evidence of progression against the curricular requirements (for example 12 months at ST3 and another 12 months at ST4 level). Further we expect that the application be submitted within the first year in training or before the first ARCP panel in the training programme.** The list of documents required for a request for accreditation of more than 12 months of LAT can be found here:
<http://www.jcst.org/uk-trainees/str-trainees/counting-previous-training>
4. The JCST/SACs will not normally accredit more than 24 months of LAT posts. However, SACs may consider applications for more than that on a case by case basis. For such cases there will need to be evidence of:
 - a) satisfactory progression at different levels in approved LAT posts
 - b) support from the Postgraduate Dean or Head of School
 - c) further input and support from the Training Programme Director (TPD)

In accordance with the Gold Guide, there are no limits on the number of LATs doctors are allowed to undertake, however, a training programme made entirely of LATs will not result in the award of a CCT or CESR (CP). A doctor would have to be appointed to a numbered training programme⁵ in order to be eligible for the award of a certificate. A doctor may, however, submit a full CESR application in such circumstances.

⁴In exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of the trainee's current TPD, we may accept an ARCP outcome 2 or 5 – please note that there needs to be written evidence that there was satisfactory progression.

⁵Although there is no minimum time that you must have spent in a Specialty Training programme, following entry you must have had a minimum of two ARCPs one of which must be the final ARCP (as per guidance published by the GMC).