

## The JCST Trainee Survey

### Frequently Asked Questions

**1. How often should I complete the survey?**

This depends on how many placements you undertake in the training year: trainees in 4-month placements should complete three surveys per year; trainees in 6-month placements should complete two surveys per year; trainees in 12-month placements only need to complete one survey per year.

**2. When should I complete the survey?**

Please complete the survey towards the end of each placement to ensure that you can comment on your experience as a whole. We recommend that you complete the survey for your final placement of the training year two weeks before your ARCP.

**3. How do I access the survey?**

The survey can be accessed via ISCP: log into your ISCP account and go to Dashboard/Training History. There is a link to the survey to the right of the details of your current placement.

**4. How long does the survey take to complete?**

The generic survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete.

There are additional questions for:

- Cardiothoracic Surgery trainees;
- Core Surgical Training trainees in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery placements;
- General Surgery trainees;
- Trainees participating in the Improving Surgical Training (IST) pilot;
- Neurosurgery trainees;
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery trainees;
- Otolaryngology trainees;
- Paediatric Surgery trainees;
- Plastic Surgery trainees;
- Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery trainees;
- Urology trainees;
- Vascular Surgery trainees;
- Less than full time trainees;
- Academic trainees (ACFs and ACLs),

These additional questions will take extra time to complete, but this should be no longer than 15 minutes. **Please do not answer any of the additional questions listed above unless you fall into the appropriate category.**

**5. Do I have to answer the survey?**

We are very grateful to you for taking the time to complete the survey – your feedback is vital in helping us to assess the quality of training.

Please remember that it is a Gold Guide requirement that trainees take part in systems of quality management and quality improvement of their clinical work and training. Therefore, if you are an StR, core trainee, LAT, ACF, ACL, or are on OOPT, we ask you to complete a survey for each placement you undertake during the training year.

When you complete a survey outcome, a notification is recorded in your ISCP portfolio. Please familiarise yourself with any requirements that your Deanery/LETB may have for the completion of relevant trainee surveys prior to your ARCP.

If you are an Irish trainee, an SpR, are on OOPE or OOPR or you are not currently in a recognised training placement, there is no need for you to complete the survey.

**6. Who developed the survey questions?**

The survey was developed by the JCST, in conjunction with the Schools of Surgery, to try and limit the number of surveys that surgical trainees are asked to complete. We review the survey on an annual basis and are always pleased to receive feedback and suggestions for improvement.

**7. What are my answers used for?**

The answers you provide to the survey questions are used to measure the achievement of the [JCST quality indicators](#) and to assess the overall quality of the training placement. The aim is to identify good and poor quality training placements so further action can be taken if required.

**8. Who can see my answers?**

TPDs, Heads of School, SAC Chairs, SAC QA Leads and SAC Liaison Members can access your survey answers. The JCST has also granted access to specific Deanery/LETB administrators, who have been nominated by their Head of School, so they can run the survey reports for the purposes of quality management of their local training programmes.

**9. Is the survey anonymous?**

The Head of School and nominated Deanery/LETB administrators in your training region and the SAC Chair and SAC QA Lead for your specialty can access all of the responses you provide. However, your name does not appear on the report and your confidentiality will be protected as far as possible. Your placement unit/hospital, placement specialty and clinical supervisor(s) are used for the purposes of identification.

If you have any queries about the trainee survey, please contact the Quality Team on [qa@jcst.org](mailto:qa@jcst.org).

**THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY – YOUR RESPONSES ARE IMPORTANT TO US.**