



What would I have liked to know
before I applied for an STP
programme?

Samantha Shannon

STP Trainee (Critical Care Science)

Co-Chair of the NW Healthcare Science
Trainee Network

Samantha.Shannon@cmft.nhs.uk



Choosing your specialism

- Investigate well before choosing
 - Job role – clinical/laboratory/office based
 - Number of centres offering the service
 - Is it a specialism that is well established with Clinical Scientists
 - Visit the specialism to explore the day-day role
 - Choose a specialism that you enjoy
 - Show commitment to one specialism during application



Choosing your location

- Training differs depending on the centre
 - Training style
 - Number of trainers available
 - Other trainees & CS present
- Teaching hospital vs District general
- Visit the department
- Enquire about the location of rotations
- Be aware that when applying to large centres (e.g. CMFT) that you may be located in hospitals within close distance



Recruitment Process

- Annual recruitment (direct entry deadline 30th January)
- Applications via NWHCS website
- Must complete an online assessment immediately after submitting your application
- Think carefully about which specialism and location you select



Format of Interview

- Speed dating format!
 - Different stations (~4x 10min) assess different qualities
 - Subject knowledge
 - Knowledge of training course
 - Interview preparation
 - Patient interaction
 - H&S/leadership
 - Communication
- Location: Birmingham

Structure of the Training Programme -MSc

- Part time over 3 years
- Initial teaching period in year 1 – 6 weeks followed by exams in Jan & May/June
- Further teaching weeks (1-4 weeks) take place throughout years 2&3
- Exam/CWK balance varies dependent on specialism
- MSc project undertaken in year 2 and completed in year 3

Structure of the Training Programme

-Work-Based Training

- Online Assessment Tool (OLAT) assesses work-based tasks
- Completed throughout training programme
- Specialism split into modules with individual assessments
 - 1st year – 4 x rotations
 - 2nd and 3rd year – specialist modules
- 4 styles of assessment:-
 - Competencies
 - Direct Observation of Practical Skills (DOPS)
 - Observed Clinical Event (OCE)
 - Case based discussion (CBD)
- Must be completed to exit STP

OLAT

National School of Healthcare Science

[Home](#)

[Assessments](#)

[Competency Log](#)

[Reflective Log](#)

[MSFs](#)

[Preferences](#)

[About Us](#)

User Notice 16th December 2014

[Close X](#)

Please note that the issues users with @glos.nhs.uk email addresses have been experiencing has now been resolved. Affected users should now be able to receive emails from the OLAT system again.

[Read more](#)

Welcome Samantha

Welcome to the Online Learning Assessment Tool. To begin, use the menu above or the panels on this page to navigate to each section of the tool.

Activated Competencies

CCS - 1 C16
Critically evaluate a range of...

CCS-3 C14
Obtain a blood gas sample from an...

CCS-3 C7
Discuss the options available for...

CCS-2 C16
Evaluate appropriate mode/settings...

[See More >](#)

Trainee Video Guides



- [Training Video Guides](#)
- [DOPs](#)
- [MSF](#)
- [OCE](#)
- [CBD](#)
- [Competencies](#)

Useful Documents and Links

[Competency Progress](#)

[Assessments Progress](#)

[MSFs](#)

Rotation

Device Risk Management and Governance

14 out of 16



Introduction to Cardiac Science

17 out of 18



Introduction to Critical Care Science

15 out of 16



Introduction to Respiratory and Sleep Science

3 out of 17



Professional Practice

2 out of 28



Specialism

Diagnostic and Therapeutic Techniques in Critical Care

5 out of 10



Elective

0 out of 3



Life Support and Emergency Resuscitation

13 out of 17



Monitoring and Supporting Critically Ill Patients

10 out of 20



Respiratory and Sleep Science 2 for Critical Care

0 out of 18



Final Assessment

- Objective Structured Final Assessment (OSFA) determines whether you ‘pass’ the STP – can you practice safely as a Clinical Scientist?
- Held towards the end of year 3
- Based on curriculum completed in the work-place
- Similar ‘speed-dating’ style structure to initial interview:-
 - 12 stations (4 generic & 8 specialist)
 - Stations are 15min in duration (2min for preparation & 12min assessment)
 - Assessment may include actors to examine hypothetical situations
- Mock OSFAs will be held after completion of MSc in year 3

Registration as a Clinical Scientist

- To successfully exit the STP you will be required to complete 3 individual components:-
 1. MSc
 2. Work-based assessment (OLAT)
 3. OSFA
- Completion of all 3 with a successful outcome in the OSFA will grant you registration as a Clinical Scientist with the HCPC



Job prospects post STP

- You may be eligible to apply for employment as a Clinical Scientist (band 7)
- There may be opportunities to commence higher specialist scientific training (HSST) – 5 year training programme
- You are not automatically provided with a job at your training centre although a CS role should be available nationally

Thank you Any Questions?



www.nshcs.org: National School of Healthcare Science

www.nwhcs.nhs.uk: North West Healthcare Science Network

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/healthcare-science/: NHS Careers Website Healthcare Science Section

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/healthcare-science/education-and-training/nhs-scientist-training-programme-%28stp%29/: NHS Careers Website Scientific Training Programme Section

www.gov.uk/government/publications/extraordinary-you

Document which celebrates the careers of healthcare scientists working across the NHS. Good to find out more information about the different specialisms.