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

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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 <u>immediately</u> 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

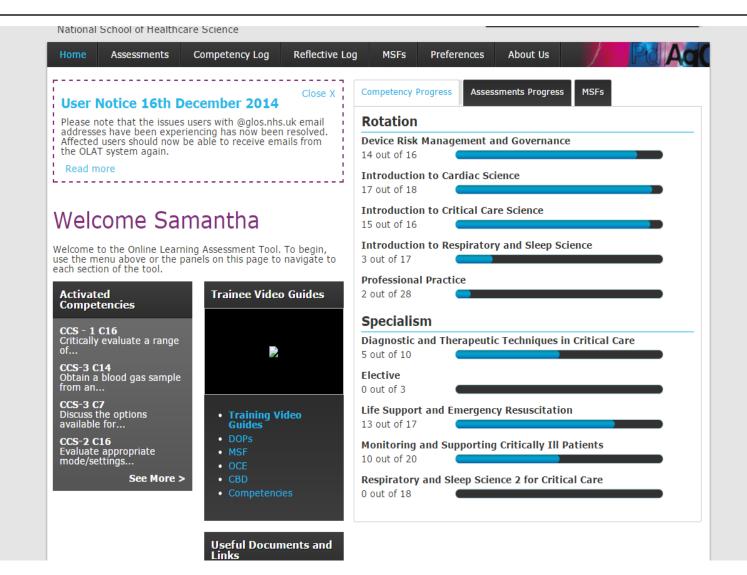
Structure of the Training Programme -MSc

- 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
- o 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



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
 - 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 <u>not</u> 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/healthcarescience/: NHS Careers Website Healthcare Science Section

www.nhscareers.nhs.uk/explore-by-career/healthcarescience/education-and-training/nhs-scientist-trainingprogramme-%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.