

The STP: What you are letting yourselves in for...

Sam Thorn & Kent Cannon

Pre-Application:

- ▶ Research your specialism
 - Speak to current STPs
 - Arrange a shadowing placement/work experience in a few specialisms
 - Understanding the day to day role that will be expected of you
 - Choose something you love, it's a big commitment

Pre-Application:

- ▶ Choosing your location
 - Which centres offer your chosen specialism
 - How many places are available at these centres
 - ▶ Tertiary hospital vs. District general
 - ▶ Enquire about the location of rotations
 - May require travel to other centres for rotations
 - ▶ Visit you chosen department

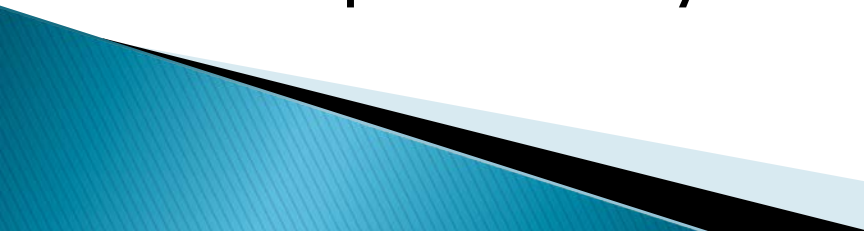
Application process:

- ▶ Give yourself enough time to complete the form – Two statements from references required
- ▶ 5 short answer questions (200 words)
- ▶ Online logic and numerical aptitude test
 - Use the practice questions
- ▶ Interview – 4 x 10 min stations.
 - One is on subject knowledge

Structure of the programme:

- ▶ 3 year programme split into 3 parts:
 - The MSc
 - Online learning assessment tool (OLAT) involving case based discussions (CBD) , direct observation of practical skills (DOPS), observed clinical events (OCE)
 - The practical/experience (the job)
- ▶ Final exam – Objective Structured Final Assessment (OSFA)
 - Determines whether you ‘pass’ the STP – can you practice safely as a Clinical Scientist?
- ▶ Elective placement

The MSc:

- ▶ Part time over 3 years
 - ▶ Initial teaching period in year 1 – 6 weeks followed by case studies and 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
- 

OLAT – Your new best friend:

[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 >](#)





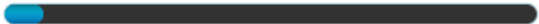
Trainee Video Guides








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

[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 

OLAT:

- ▶ 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 – Essays/ evidence
 - Direct Observation of Practical Skills (DOPS)
 - Observed Clinical Event (OCE)
 - Case based discussion (CBD)
- Takes time to grasp what is expected of you
 - Each work based assessor is different
 - There is a guideline document for first year competencies on OLAT
- **Must be completed to exit STP**

Elective Placement:

- ▶ The aim of the elective period is to facilitate a wider experience of healthcare in a cultural and/or clinical setting that is different from the usual training
- ▶ Allows opportunity to visit a different healthcare setting anywhere
- ▶ Explore in depth areas of particular interest to you
- ▶ Experience unfamiliar scientific, social, economic or cultural areas
- ▶ <https://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/news/itemlist/category/27-elective-rotation>

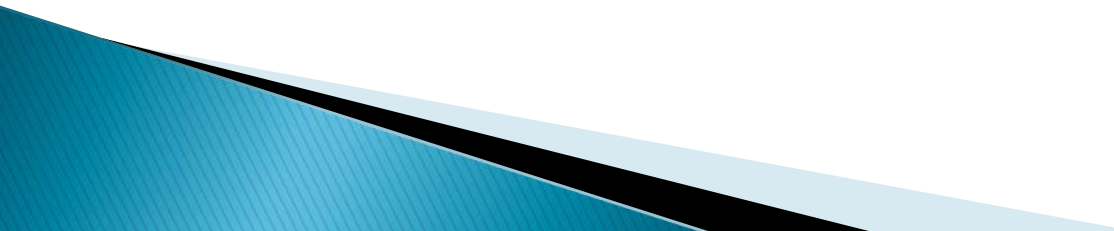
A Standard Week for a Trainee Clinical Scientist:

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
1 day in your own specialism/department	4 days in your own specialism/department	4 days in your own specialism/department
3 days in your rotation	1 day of study	1 day of study
1 day of study + assignments, competencies & extra reading	+ start of project + assignments, competencies & extra reading + organising elective	+ project + assignments, competencies & extra reading + OSFA

STP Starting Tips:

- ▶ Contact and organise placements on arrival to your workplace.
 - 1st year has 3 x rotations
 - Aim to have all rotations completed before your final exam
- ▶ Start competencies as soon as possible
 - Sept to Jan a quiet period
- ▶ Meet with training officer to discuss what is expected of your competencies on OLAT.

Final points:

- ▶ It can often feel overwhelming at the start. So keep organised!
 - ▶ Use other STPs experience. If you are the only one in your department, contact others from elsewhere. We have all been there.
 - ▶ Balancing the worked based aspect and the masters can be difficult at times. It could be a lot different to the way you have studied before. (No mornings spent watching Jeremy kyle)
 - ▶ As an STP you have the opportunity to see all aspects of healthcare pathways, makes the most of it!
- 

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.
- ▶ kent.cannon@ushm.nhs.uk
- ▶ samantha.thorn@uhsm.nhs.uk