


The STP: Overview of the Scientist Training Programme and the STP Journey

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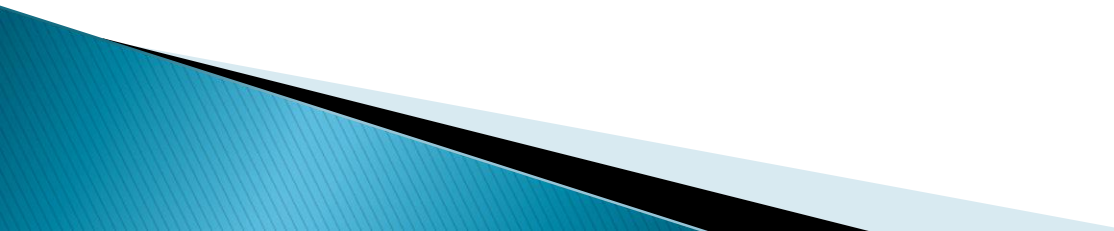
North West Healthcare Science Trainee Network Board



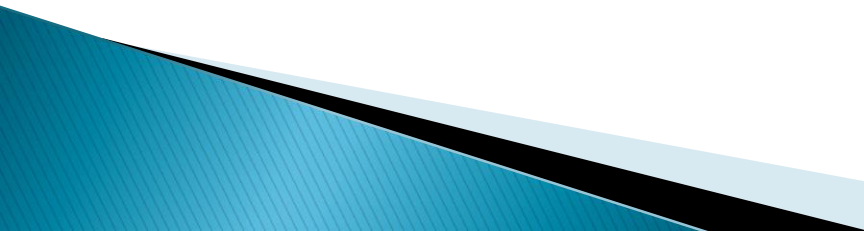
Pre-application

- 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.
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Pre-application

- Choosing your location.
 - How many places are available at these centres.
 - Tertiary hospital vs. District general – enquire about the location of rotations, some may require travel to other centres for rotations.
 - Visit your chosen department.
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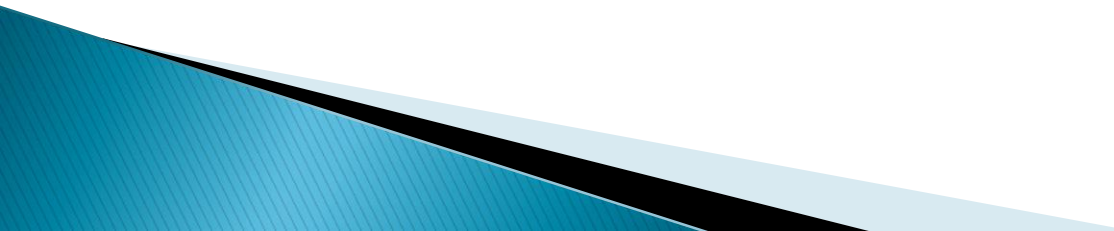
Application process

- Give yourself enough time to complete the form
 - Two referees are required.
 - 4 short answer questions (~250 words).
 - Online logic and numerical aptitude test – use the practice questions.
 - Interview – 4 x 10 min stations. One station will be subject knowledge.
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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.
 - ▶ Teaching component varies – usually about 4–5 weeks at university per year.
 - ▶ Exam/coursework balance varies dependent on specialism.
 - ▶ MSc project undertaken in year 2 and completed in year 3.
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OLAT – work based learning

Online Learning and Assessment Tool

National School of Healthcare Science

(pending)

Home Assessments Competency Log Reflective Log MSFs Preferences About Us

Welcome Helen

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

PP1-C-9
Comply with relevant guidance and laws...

Trainee Video Guides

- Training Video Guides
- DOPs
- MSF
- OCE
- CBD
- Competencies

Useful Documents and Links

Generic

- STP Trainee Handbook 2017
- Trainee User Guide
- Training Officer and Supervisor User Guide
- Reviewer User Guide
- Assessor User Guide
- Rater User Guide
- Multi Source Feedback Guide
- DOPS Assessment Questions and Rating Criteria
- STP Number of Assessments 2012 and 2013 trainees.pdf
- STP Number of Assessments: 2014

Competency Progress

Rotation

- Clinical Biochemistry – Investigation of Major Organ Function**
10 out of 10 ✓
- Genetics and Molecular Science**
12 out of 12 ✓
- Genetics, Genomics and Molecular Science**
0 out of 11
- Haematology and Transfusion Science**
12 out of 12 ✓
- Immunity and the Principles and Practice of Clinical Immunology**
8 out of 8 ✓
- Professional Practice**
23 out of 28

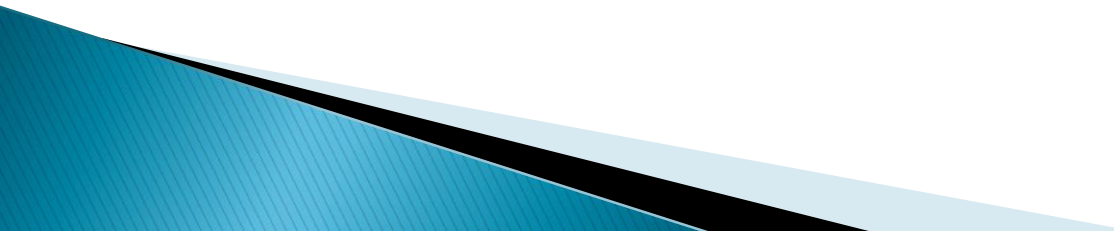
Specialism

- Clinical Disorders of the Major Organs and Cancer**
10 out of 10 ✓
- Drug Investigation**
3 out of 9
- Elective**
0 out of 3
- Endocrinology and Diabetes**
11 out of 11 ✓
- Nutrition**
2 out of 8
- Pregnancy, Neonatology and Paediatric Clinical Biochemistry**
9 out of 10

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.
 - There is a guideline document for first year competencies on OLAT
- **Must be completed to exit STP**

Collect everything!

- ▶ Keep records of all training courses and conferences you attend.
 - ▶ Collect case studies.
 - ▶ Write reflective cases.
 - ▶ Take pictures, collect evidence and policies.
 - ▶ All of this will help when writing OLATs, university case studies and CBD.
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A Standard Week for a Trainee Clinical Scientist:

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
Complete all rotations and competencies associated with them	4 days in your own specialism/department	4 days in your own specialism/department
1 day of study	1 day of study	1 day of study
MSc assignments and exams	MSc assignments and exams	MSc assignments and exams
	Start project	Complete project
	Continue competencies	Finish competencies
	Elective (2 nd /3 rd year)	OSFA

What have I been involved with during my training?

Observing clinics, MDT meetings, surgical radiology investigations of adrenal tumours and shadowing duty biochemist.

Setting up and validating new assays.

Quality improvement/audit projects.

Presenting projects/audits conferences.



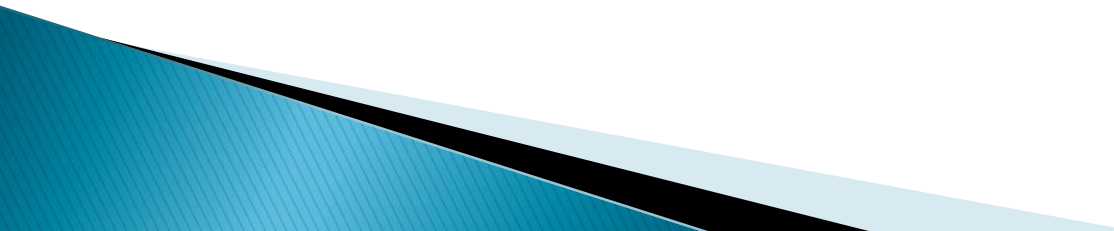
Elective Placement:

- ▶ 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>

STP Starting Tips:

- ▶ Contact and organise placements on arrival to your workplace.
 - 1st year has 3/4 x rotations
- ▶ Start competencies as soon as possible
 - Requirement to have all competencies completed to gain HCPC registration to qualify as a clinical scientist.
- ▶ 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!
 - ▶ Ask other STPs for advice.
 - ▶ Keep on top of DOPs CBDs, OCEs & MSFs throughout all rotations
 - ▶ Think of alternative interesting ways to complete competencies – photos/videos.
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Good luck!

- ▶ As an STP you have the opportunity to see many aspects of healthcare science, make the most of it!

Thank you, any questions?

- ▶ www.nshcs.org: National School of Healthcare Science
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- ▶ www.nwhcs.nhs.uk: North West Healthcare Science Network
- ▶ 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.