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An introduction to the Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST)

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www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk



HSST is a part-time doctoral level academic programme with work-based learning over 5 years.





University

Professional Doctoral degree programme equivalent in status and challenge to a PhD

Employer

Workplace based training:

- Practical training and assessment.
- Contract of employment.

- Professional Doctorates have been around in the UK since the early 1990's with the aim of finding novel approaches to integrating professional and academic knowledge.
- Professional doctorate degrees are equivalent in status and challenge (Level 8) to a PhD, the holder achieves the title "doctor", but, unlike a PhD, students undertaking a professional doctorate are expected to:

 ".... make a contribution to *both theory and practice* in their field, and to develop professional practice by making a contribution to (professional) knowledge." rather than furthering academic pursuits and are therefore more appropriate for those pursuing professional rather than academic careers.

A collaborative approach

The delivery of the programme is a collaborative approach between the NSHCS, the MAHSE consortium and professional body RCPath.







The Royal College of Pathologists Pathology: the science behind the cure





The University of Manchester Alliance Manchester Business School



The University of Manchester

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The bespoke nature of HSST

- The standard of education and training have been drafted and based on the Academy of Health Care Science's Good Scientific Practice (GSP).
- The School uses an <u>Annual Review of Progression</u> to consolidate the evidence each trainee collects to demonstrate their competence to progress. The ARP maps to the Academy's Higher Specialist Scientists Standards of Proficiency
- A flexible programme adaptable and responsive to the individuals pathway through HSST (while still being mindful of good assessment practice and curriculum alignment)
- Negotiable.
- Self directed and independent learning.
- Experiential and reflective.
- Innovative and engaged with stakeholders and community.
- Present convincing and sufficient evidence of clinical scientific competence at this level.

Unlike the STP...

There are:

- No specified competencies
- No required numbers or types of work place based assessments
- No rotations

So what is there?

- The standard of education and training has been drafted and based on the Academy of Health Care Science's Good Scientific Practice (GSP).
- Expected to consistently demonstrate the attitudes and behaviours necessary for the role of a consultant clinical scientist.

KEY Components of HSST

- Mastery of higher scientific knowledge
- Mastery of higher clinical/scientific competence
- Personal and professional development including leadership, management, teaching, values, and attitudes and behaviours appropriate for higher professional practice.
- A requirement for a contribution to innovation or improvement through service delivery, patient safety, care, public communication/outreach and quality management.

Components of the professional doctorate



MAHSE partner universities will accept a pass in the FRCPath Part 1 examination in a relevant specialty in place of Section B.

Fellowship of The Royal College of Pathologists will accept the research component in Section C in a relevant specialty as the written option for the FRCPath Part 2.

- The programme content varies in that it requires that each trainee follows a bespoke training plan agreed and planned in advance with their local workplace supervisor and recorded in an e-portfolio. TRAINING PLAN
- It requires evidence of workplace learning outcomes appropriate to the Higher Specialist Scientists Standards of Proficiency and referenced to the specialty curriculum.

Bespoke nature of the programme means that the path through the HSST programme can be confusing.

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Life Sciences

Mandatory

Optional

FRCPath

PostGradDip DClinSci

Innovation

Workplace Learning



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Physical and Physiological Sciences

Mandatory

DClinSci (all Sections unless exempt from research project due to a relevant PhD)

Workplace Learning



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@NSHCS

Innovation in Clinical Science Project

- HSST designed to help you develop as a leader and innovator in healthcare science.
- Need to show evidence of ability to conceive, plan and critically evaluate an idea for innovation.
- Evidence will make valid contribution to your completion of HSST learning outcomes.



Workplace Evidence

- Regular development and review of a training plan.
- E-portfolio demonstrating the appropriate application of specialty knowledge and skills through the quality and types of evidence and appropriately mapped to the domains of the AHCS Standards of Proficiency for Higher Specialist Scientists and referenced to the learning outcomes of the specialist curriculum.
- Innovation Project.
- IAPS (Physical and Physiological Sciences only).
- Annual Review of Progression.
- A Final Sign Off by Workplace Supervisor.

Professional Evidence

- Royal College of Pathologists (by examination)
- CEng (Clinical Biomedical Engineering only)

Academic Evidence

- DClinSci or Postgrad Diploma
- A relevant PhD (as C2 exemption criteria)



The Curriculum Library

Module information includes:

- Module objective.
- Knowledge and understanding that the trainee will need to demonstrate.
- Required technical and clinical skills.



https://curriculum.nshcs.org.uk

Final thoughts

- HSST bespoke training at highest level learning and assessment cannot be prescriptive.
- No fixed guidance on 'what' or 'how much.'
- Trainee is responsible for gathering and recording evidence of their progress towards readiness to practice at level of CCS
- Be innovative and creative in development of learning plans and gathering evidence of competency
- Be efficient don't duplicate efforts (make use of naturally occurring evidence and evidence for DClinSci or RCPath.
- HSST is not pass or fail evidence is either convincing or not yet convincing