

To:
Medical Directors
HR Directors
Lead Healthcare Scientists

**National School of
Healthcare Science**
St Chads Court
213 Hagley Road
Birmingham
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Dear Colleague,

The National School of Healthcare Science, in collaboration with colleagues at all Scientist Training Programme (STP) and Higher Specialist Scientist Training (HSST) provider universities, would like to clarify the position for 2020/21 in relation to study time for trainees.

Preparations are under way for the start of the next academic year and there may be changes to the way teaching is delivered by the universities, at least initially. Each university will inform its own students how their programme will be delivered.

Where teaching is delivered online rather than face to face, the amount of time dedicated to study should be the same as for previous cohorts of trainees. Trainees this year will need the same number of hours released for study as they would have had for the face to face teaching.

In *addition* to this, trainees will still need 20% of their time as protected private study time throughout the programme.

It is a requirement of the programme that all trainees engage with the prescribed learning and that employers respect the trainee's supernumerary status and ensure study time is provided. At the beginning of the programme, as soon as the teaching arrangements are known, trainees and training officers should agree between them how sufficient time will be allocated for study.

Yours sincerely

Professor Berne Ferry

Head of the National School of Healthcare Science