**Advanced Anaesthetic Training**

Application for Advanced Training Modules and Specialist Interest Areas

Dear Victoria

As you know all ST6/7 trainees are required to undertake a period of 12 months of advanced anaesthetic training, this is in addition to either other higher training or general stage 3 training depending on the curriculum you are following. As you are now in ST5, you need to decide on areas to focus upon for your advanced training, I am therefore writing to explain what is on offer to you in the Oxford School of Anaesthesia, and to ask you to apply for your ATMs/SIAs.

There are changes to training modules on offer, locations of training and the application process so please read all the information below.

Having read this it is important that you collect as much information to inform your decisions as possible. Please read the information for each ATM/SIA on the OxDAT website, speak to trainees who have undertaken training in this area and contact the module supervisors. The module supervisors are all experts in their given areas and passionate about their work, they really do like to talk to trainees informally prior to receiving formal applications of interest. For many modules these informal chats remove the need for a more formal interview process.

If for some reason the module you would like to undertake does not appear to be on offer locally, trainees have previously undertaken OOPTs, however we are always looking to develop the training in our area so please contact me and I will do my best to see if it can be offered. Recent examples of this within our school include a perioperative module with a focus on emergent patients, and management modules that run alongside clinical work.

I am happy to talk through options on an individual basis with anyone with queries but your own Educational Supervisor and College Tutor are also good sources of advice.

After you have done this please complete the application form and return with CVs and a covering letter outlining your reasons for your choices of ATM/SIAs. The covering letter is particularly important at helping us enable you to get the training you want.

To enable OUH rota writers to send you your oncall rotas on or before 22nd June (6 weeks prior to 3rd August) I would appreciate applications for OUH based SIAs arriving by 8am on Wednesday 25th May. Earlier returns are always appreciated.

If you would like to undertake an SIA at a different hospital to the one allocated to you on your current rotation we will need more notice and request notification of intent to alter rotation to myself and Dr McDouall by Tuesday 3rd May at the latest.

We will confirm allocations with module supervisors as quickly as possible. If there are multiple people applying for the same ATMs/SIAs there may need to be interviews, but please be assured we will always try to accommodate first preferences where possible. We aim to confirm ATMs/SIAs by the latest 3 months prior to commencing them so that there is time for oncall rotas to be written in a timely fashion.

Looking forward to receiving your applications.

Best wishes

Ruth

Dr Ruth Webster

College Tutor

**FAQs**

Why are we changing our application process?

Whilst we would like to accommodate everyone in their areas of first choice, this requires a lot of coordination, and with an increase in sites where advanced training can occur this has increased.

Additionally the ability to undertake 1 x 12 month block of advanced training or 2 x 6 months blocks, or 3 x 4 months or 4 x 3 months or some other combination means that applying every 6 months is not appropriate any more.

What happens if I change my mind and want to pursue different areas of interest after commencing my year?

The previous application process had the advantage of allowing trainees to change their focus of interest during their advanced training year, which we know can happen, and we will still try to enable this if this situation occurs, however we also know many of you know exactly what you want to do, and changing the application process will enable you to feel assured that you will be able to undertake advanced training in your preferred areas.

When do I have to undertake my advanced training?

It has to be in ST6/7 (stage 3 in the 2021 curriculum), it cannot be done during ST5. It can be done at any time in this period and sometimes we may suggest moving where your training happens so we can ensure you can undertake your areas of first preference.

How long do I need in each advanced training area/ module?

You must spend 12 months undertaking advanced training. Times for different areas have been defined by the RCoA, dependent on their groups, but whether you undertake 1 x 12 month SIA, 2 x 6 months, 3 x 4 months of 4 x 3 months the overall time must be 12 months.

This alteration is one of the

I’m a dual Anaesthetic/ICM trainee how does this affect me?

If you are a dual Anaesthetic/ ICM trainees your 12 months of advanced training will remain as 12 months of stage 3 ICM.

How are SIAs different to ATMs?

In the 2010 curriculum these have been termed ATMs (Advanced Training Modules), in the new 2021 curriculum these are now called SIAs (Specialist Interest Areas). The outcome requirements are slightly different between the two curricula but you just need to follow the correct curriculum for you.