Introduction

Health Education Thames Valley is responsible for the training and education of the multi-professional workforce across the counties of Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. We are one of 13 Local Education and Training Boards (LETBs) which were established in April 2013 as sub-committees of Health Education England (HEE).

We are responsible for the management of postgraduate medical and dental education for over 2,000 trainees across over 50 specialty training programmes, working in 9 NHS trusts and 130 GP practices across the region.

We have a comprehensive range of opportunities at many levels, including an outstanding clinical academic programme, run jointly with Oxford University Clinical Academic Graduate School.

With a commitment to excellence in education, training and career development, we attract some of the highest calibre trainees. The region provides high quality supervision, cutting-edge facilities and the opportunity to train and work within leading organisations, where we create the space to be innovative and take your own ideas forward, as well as your career.

The region is in the heart of the south east, under an hour from London and with excellent transport links across the rest of the country. With bustling modern cities of culture and shopping, sporting facilities, the region also boasts areas of outstanding natural beauty and historical significance.

We are delighted that you are considering a career with Health Education Thames Valley and hope that the information provided within this booklet can be of use as you decide upon the next steps of your medical career.

Dr Michael Bannon, Postgraduate Dean

Health Education Thames Valley’s 7 strategic themes, based on their Workforce Development Strategy, are:

1. Compassion, dignity and respect
2. Integrated person centred care
3. Care closer to home
4. Sustaining and investing in our staff
5. Harnessing technology and innovation
6. Improving training quality and value
7. Organisational health

Our board currently comprises HETV executive team members, plus senior executives from member and partner organisations and has an independent chair. There are currently 21 members and membership is reviewed regularly to ensure representation and functionality.

HETV - an overview

Health Education Thames Valley covers a population of over 2 million people in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire. With 9 constituent NHS trusts/FTs, over 40,000 NHS employees and 10 commissioned universities, HETV aligns with the Thames Valley Local Area Team, the 11 clinical commissioning groups and 9 local authorities.
Living and working in the Thames Valley offers you the best quality careers and lifestyle

- High quality of life in the heart of the south east
- Under 1 hour to London and excellent transport links
- Major cities of culture, nightlife and shopping
- Rural villages and areas of outstanding beauty
- Excellent schools and support for families

Acute hospitals in the Thames Valley

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust

Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) is a world renowned centre of clinical excellence and one of the largest NHS teaching trusts in the UK.

The Trust is made up of four hospitals located in Oxford and Banbury, including the John Radcliffe Hospital. It provides a wide range of clinical services, specialist services (including cardiac, cancer, musculoskeletal and neurological rehabilitation) medical education, training and research.

www.ouh.nhs.uk

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust

Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust is one of the largest general hospital foundation trusts in the country, based in Reading.

The Trust provides acute medical and surgical services throughout Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire and specialist services such as cancer, dialysis and eye surgery to a wider population across Berkshire and its borders.

www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Milton Keynes Hospital is a medium sized district general hospital, serving Milton Keynes and surrounding areas. The Trust provides a broad range of general medical and surgical services, including a busy A&E Department that manages all medical, surgical and child health emergency admissions. In addition the Trust increasingly provides more specialist services, including cancer care, cardiology and oral surgery and premature babies born locally.

www.mkhospital.nhs.uk

Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides hospital services to a large and diverse population of more than 450,000 which includes Ascot, Bracknell, Maidenhead, Slough, South Buckinghamshire and Windsor.

The Trust provides acute services that include cardiology, maternity, stroke and emergency from two main sites in Wexham Park (Slough) and Heatherwood (Ascot). In addition, the Trust offers a range of outpatient, breast screening and diagnostic services from four other sites in east Berkshire.

www.heatherwoodandwexham.nhs.uk

Community and Mental Health Services in the Thames Valley

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust is a community focused organisation that provides physical and mental health and social care with the aim of improving the health and well-being of all patients and their families across Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Swindon, Wiltshire, Bath and North East Somerset.

www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust provides specialist mental health and community health services within Berkshire.

The Trust operates from more than 100 sites across the county including our community hospitals, Prospect Park Hospital in Reading, clinics and GP Practices.

We also provide health care and therapy to people in their own homes.

www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust – Milton Keynes

Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust is one of the largest trusts in the UK, caring for people with a wide range of physical and mental health needs. It provides community care and wider services to the Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire area.

The Trust provides a wide range of services to treat people with a variety of health needs. In broad terms, these include common physical health problems, long-term conditions, mental health, learning disabilities, eating disorders, addictions and sexual health.

www.cenwl.nhs.uk

Combined services in the Thames Valley

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust brings together acute and community services – delivering them where and when patients will most benefit.

Care is delivered in a range of ways; from community health services provided in people’s homes or from local bases throughout the community, to hospitals at Stoke Mandeville, Wycombe and Amersham. Stoke Mandeville Hospital hosts the award-winning spinal unit.

www.buckhealthcare.nhs.uk

Introduction to School

The Oxford Foundation School (OFS), part of Health Education Thames Valley, was established in 2005 to deliver high quality integrated two year training programmes to prepare medical graduates to enter specialty training in the NHS. The Oxford Foundation Programme enables medical graduates to consolidate, develop and demonstrate the Foundation Programme Curriculum outcomes, and marry their aspirations and abilities with service need.

Training opportunities within the School

The OFS consists of circa 500 trainees in F1 and F2, in the three acute and two foundation trusts within Oxfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes and the Oxford and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Trust, Oxfordshire PCT (Public Health) and placements in General Practice across the three counties with some placements in surrounding counties. Most of the programmes are for two years, offering an integrated programme with experience in a range of acute and non-acute specialties.

Many foundation doctors spend part of their training in a community setting including general practice, psychiatry, community paediatrics, palliative care, community genitrics, rheumatology rehabilitation, public health and geriatrician medicine.

Facts about the School

Working in partnership with the University of Oxford and NHS Trusts the OFS also offers 24, two year integrated foundation placements to enable foundation doctors to develop research skills and explore academia as a career.

The rotations are designed to ensure that all academic trainees achieve the core competencies of foundation training as well as completing an academic curriculum.

We are able to offer our trainees a variety of high-quality placements across a strong field of Trusts and hospitals.

- Approximately two thirds of our trainees will work in both a teaching and DGH setting.
- It is not necessary to enter an academic programme to pursue academic projects and to develop links with our local university.
- Almost all our posts are for two years and trainees will know in advance the placements and Trusts they will work in.
- We have tried to introduce a range of specialties into foundation so that new graduates can experience placements that have not in the past been part of an early training programme.
- The geography is varied with a mix of affluent and less affluent areas and a range of ethnically diverse populations.
- We benefit from high quality general practice placements with GP colleagues who are excellent clinicians and teachers.

The Oxford Foundation School has been consistently in the top 10 most oversubscribed schools across the country for the last five years. We are dedicated to supporting high standards of patient care, whilst ensuring high quality training for our foundation doctors.

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

Director of School: Dr Anne Edwards

Programme Manager: Mrs Ann Heath

www.oxfordfoundation.nhs.uk

www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk
Introduction to the School

Oxford School of Emergency Medicine (OSEM) is a dynamic, close-knit school. The ACCS programme consists of 48 trainees (16 each in CT1, CT2 and CT3/CT2b). We are a small but active school with many opportunities for trainees to get involved in educational and other activities. ACCS have their own Regional Training Days (five times a year), together with a separate induction half-day, with CT3 trainees attending ST4-6 training days twice monthly.

Training Opportunities within the School

In addition to the regional training programmes, all the hospital sites and specialties run their own in-house training. There is an annual supra-regional conference in autumn, organised by the trainees. We have strong links with the Schools of Anaesthetics, ICM, Medicine and Paediatrics. The School has close links with pre-hospital organisations.

Facts about the ACCS programme

Specialist trainees rotate through between one to three hospitals, out of five hospital sites: Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (John Radcliffe Hospital), Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Wexham Park Hospital (Slough), Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (Aylesbury) and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (Reading). There is a good history of success at MCEM for Oxford trainees. OSEM takes its educational and pastoral roles seriously, and trainees 'feel part of the family'.

Flexible training is actively encouraged within Health Education Thames Valley and we have several flexible trainees in Emergency Medicine. There is a biannual Less-Than-Full-Time training (LTFTT) forum to assist Less-Than-Full-Time trainees.

Do you want to live and work in a geographically small deanery where it would be possible to commute to all sites from a single central base? The Thames Valley offers this as well as a diverse range of living environments from dynamic cities such as Oxford, Reading and Milton Keynes through to unspoilt rural villages in Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Transport links to London are excellent throughout the whole Thames Valley region.

Introduction to School

Oxford School of Emergency Medicine consists of 62 trainees (27 in core training and 35 in higher training). We are a small but active school with many opportunities for trainees to get involved in educational and managerial activities. There is an excellent fortnightly regional ST4-6 training programme covering the FCEM curriculum over a two-year period. ACCS and CT3 trainees have their own Regional Training Days, with CT3 trainees joining with ST4-6 training days.

Training Opportunities within the School

In addition to the regional training programmes, all the hospital sites run their own in-house training. Out of Programme Experiences (OOPES) are actively encouraged. Many trainees have chosen to undertake OOPES in ITU/Anaesthetics, pre-hospital care and Paediatrics to achieve dual accreditation. We have strong links with the Schools of Anaesthetics, Medicine and Paediatrics. The School also has close links with pre-hospital organisations.

Facts about the School

Specialist Trainees rotate through five hospital sites: Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (John Radcliffe Hospital), Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Wexham Park Hospital (Slough), Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (Aylesbury) and Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (Reading). The FCEM pass rate for Oxford trainees is well above the national average. OSEM takes its educational and pastoral roles seriously, and trainees ‘feel part of the family’.

Flexible training is actively encouraged within Health Education Thames Valley and we have several flexible trainees in Emergency Medicine. There is a biannual Less-Than-Full-Time training (LTFTT) forum to assist Less-Than-Full-Time trainees.

Do you want to live and work in a geographically small deanery where it would be possible to commute to all sites from a single central base? The Thames Valley offers this as well as a diverse range of living environments from dynamic cities such as Oxford, Reading and Milton Keynes through to unspoilt rural Buckinghamshire villages. Transport links to London are excellent throughout the whole area.
Introduction to School

The Oxford School of Anaesthetics provides comprehensive training in Anaesthetics, Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) and an extensive range of the subspecialties of anaesthetics. 132 trainees are trained in the Trusts associated with the School: Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Reading), Milton Keynes NHS Foundation Trust, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (Stoke Mandeville and Wycombe), Heatherwood & Wexham Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Slough). Training at CT1-2 and ST4-5 training occurs in the District General Hospitals. ST3, 6 and 7 placements are in the Oxford University hospitals.

Training Opportunities within the School:

Comprehensive training and educational support aimed at both the primary and final FRCA is provided. A very successful programme leading to dual CCT in ICM and Anaesthetics is subject to highly competitive entry. Subspecialty experience as Advanced Training Modules are available in cardiac, neuro-anesthesia, paediatrics (including PICU), pain, obstetric. Regional and vascular anaesthesia are available on a competitive basis to trainees in their later years. There is a highly active Difficult Airway Group in the region, resulting in excellent opportunities for advanced airway skills training. We support (where possible) trainees in applying for OOPT abroad, and in 2011 introduced Dedicated Senior Trainee Training days (monthly) for ST5-7 trainees particularly.

Facts about the School:

Trainees in the Oxford School have an enviable success rate at Primary and Final FRCA, comfortably exceeding the national average, and consistently in the top 5 deaneries. The combination of highly motivated College Tutors and Educational Supervisors, a very active School Board, and Trusts which have a strong training ethos results in high levels of trainee satisfaction, as evidenced by our annual surveys. Training programmes and rotations are notified to successful applicants soon after appointment, enabling trainees to plan ahead.

Academic: The Oxford School of Anaesthetics has close links with the Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics, University of Oxford. Opportunities exist for OOPR leading to advanced degrees (MD, DPhil) for interested senior trainees.

Less than full time training: Actively catered for, with excellent success record. Information available from Dr Anne Gregg, anne.gregg@royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Anaesthetics Trainee Committee: Representatives from all Trusts within Health Education Thames Valley. Recently formed and highly active group of dedicated trainees.
Introduction to School
The Health Education Thames Valley School of Postgraduate Medical Specialties is one of the smaller Schools of Medicine in the UK. As such it offers excellent support for trainees, resulting (for CMT trainees) in very high PACES pass rates and (for specialty trainees) high publication and MD or PhD completion rates.

Training Opportunities within the School:
24 medical specialities are represented in the School of Postgraduate Medical Specialties (apart from the Core Medical Training years)

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<td>Infectious Diseases and Microbiology</td>
<td>Sports &amp; Exercise</td>
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<td>Haematology</td>
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Facts about the School
All our specialties offer at least part of their training in the Oxford University Hospitals, although neither the specialties nor Health Education Thames Valley can guarantee that an individual trainee will definitely rotate through the Oxford University Hospitals or through any other hospital.

Training in all the major acute internal medicine specialties rotates between the Acute and Foundation Trusts in HETV, and the Oxford University Hospitals. The Trust Hospitals include the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Reading), Wexham Park Hospital (Slough), Stoke Mandeville (Aylesbury), Wycombe General (High Wycombe) as part of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and also in the District General Hospital environment (of the Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; Wexham Park and Heatherwood Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust; and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust - Wycombe Hospital, and Stoke Mandeville Hospital). The development of future collaborations and research opportunities with the University of Oxford becomes a real possibility.

Trainees are encouraged to learn and develop skills in putting into practice quality improvement projects and will be given the training to enable embedding these new skills to take on further in their future.

Facts about CMT
96% of trainees who commenced their CMT training with us in 2011 and 2012 achieved PACES by the completion of their training before leaving to take up higher specialty training posts. Over 90% of trainees have ST3 posts for next year. 93% of CMT trainees completed MRCP part 1 and 84% completed part 2 by the end of year 1. CMT has very strong MRCP UK teaching programmes within each Trust. Each hospital has something different to offer; the DGH environment enables development of increasing responsibility over the two-year training programme. The tertiary centre enables learning with a scientific rigour.

All the rotations offered within the Thames Valley provide a broad experience on which to base your future specialist career. Some rotations are only within ORH, some only within a District General Hospital, and some rotating between the two environments

The trainees’ needs are very much at the forefront of our training programme. The trainees are supported through their two-year training programme by their educational supervisor, an RCP college tutor in each hospital, and by the Training Programme Director.

The trainees are also given the ‘Hitchhiker’s guide’ on entry to the programme to give further practical support and advice on their CMT training programme. One trainee has described this as…”a great resource….it magically guesses your next question, and hey presto the answer is on the next page……ensures trainees have all the necessary information as they embark on CMT training….invaluable”.

Health Education Thames Valley welcomes applications from enthusiastic and dynamic trainees with a thirst for knowledge and wanting to ensure delivery of the safest, highest quality of care to patients and their families.
Introduction to School

The Oxford School of Psychiatry provides Core and Advanced Training Programmes. The Advanced Training Programmes cover all College specialties including Child & Adolescent, Forensic General Adult, Older Adult, Learning Disability and Psychotherapy programmes. In addition to five provider Trusts in Health Education Thames Valley, the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Oxford is a provider of academic training (ACF and ACL posts). The School has close links with the University’s Clinical Academic Graduate School. Trainees are encouraged to participate fully in the School’s activities including School Board representation. The School promotes equality and diversity in addition to including less than full time training opportunities.

Training Opportunities within the School

For information on training opportunities offered by the School, please see the School’s Website www.oxpsych.com. This provides details of the Training Programme Directors if you wish to make further inquiries. Application for posts is via National Recruitment rounds mainly. There are also opportunities for LAT posts.

Facts about the School

The provider Trusts are: Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust; Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust; Oxfordshire Learning Disabilities NHS Trust and Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust (previously Ridgeway Partnership) and West London Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (forensic posts at Broadmoor). There are a number of posts in the Oxford area, with access to some of the wonderful local scenery and other local amenities.

Highlights of the School include access to psychotherapy training opportunities, CASC courses, some funding for MRCPsych course (depending on Trust) and high consultant appointment rates post CCT.

You can expect to undertake several posts in the Oxford area as well as rotating to other Trusts within Health Education Thames Valley. There are excellent transport links to surrounding regions. The School has supported other educational activities through out of programme experience, including School Board representation. The School promotes equality and diversity in addition to including less than full time training opportunities.

Facts about the School

There are five trusts participating in the Core Training programme in addition to the University Department of Psychiatry. The School encourages high trainee participation with a trainee lead for each year on the Core Training Committee and a Core Trainee on the School Board. The pass rate for CASC (Clinical Assessment of Skills Competencies) has been well above the national average for Core Trainees, with excellent opportunities for progression to advanced training programmes locally in addition.

Several trainees have successfully obtained out of programme experiences to the Department of Health, BMJ editorial Board and overseas projects.

For information on training opportunities offered by the School, please see the School’s Website www.oxpsych.com. This provides details of the Training Programme Directors if you wish to make further inquiries. Application for posts is via National Recruitment rounds mainly. There are also opportunities for LAT posts.

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Introduction to School

The School of Surgery in Health Education Thames Valley is responsible for overseeing the postgraduate training and education of surgical trainees from CT1 (Core Training) to CCT (the Certificate of Completion of Training). Currently the school is divided into two main faculties: The Core Training Programme and the Specialist Training Programme. The Thames Valley region encompasses the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. The major hospital sites where surgical training is undertaken are:

1. In Oxfordshire, the Oxford University Hospitals Trust: the John Radcliffe, the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and the Churchill in Oxford; and the Horton Hospital in Banbury.
2. In Berkshire, the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading; Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals in Ascot and Slough.
3. In Buckinghamshire, the Buckinghamshire Healthcare hospitals in High Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury; and Milton Keynes General Hospital in Milton Keynes.

Training Opportunities within the School

The core training programme consists of approximately 36 trainees who are following programmes in surgery in general, equipping them to apply for Specialist Training in their chosen field, or if that is not possible to be guided to another satisfying career pathway, and 12 Academic Clinical Fellows (ACFs). The school offers training in all the nine SAC recognised surgical specialties, some entirely within Health Education Thames Valley (General Surgery, Trauma and Orthopaedics, Urology and Neurosurgery). The other specialties, namely Cardiothoracic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Otolaryngology, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Paediatric Surgery all rotate with neighbouring organisations.

Facts about the School

The school’s strong foundation is based upon the belief that all trainees can achieve surgical excellence & unrivalled patient care by having a group of individuals with diverse goals and an enthusiastic temperament, who are encouraged and nurtured to fulfill all compulsory facets of the surgical curriculum whilst developing skills in research, leadership and education. Trainees are recruited from all over the world and are chosen entirely on merit based upon wide ranging criteria and surgical potential. A recent survey of current trainees showed that most trainees have multiple academic publications as well as a wide range of participation in high level extra-curricular activities including international representation in sport & music.

We have a strong tradition of nurturing bright and capable surgical trainees. We offer all core trainees an opportunity to teach anatomy to undergraduates, and in return offer them relevant basic science teaching. We have regular Core Training teaching sessions leading to the MRCS and beyond. We have many trainees taking advantage of being associated with a premier research university in order to engage in research, frequently for a DPhil, the Oxford PhD.

The pass rates for the exit exams are consistently high. Our aim is that trainees should be encouraged and inspired to develop their skills in all areas of surgical expertise in a variety of ways.

Training Opportunities within the School

Core Training in Surgery is conducted under the auspices of the School of Surgery. There are 18 Core Trainees recruited each year, together with up to 3 Academic Trainees. Health Education Thames Valley encompasses the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. The major hospital sites where surgical training is undertaken are:

1. In Oxfordshire, the Oxford University Hospitals Trust: the John Radcliffe and the Churchill in Oxford; the Horton Hospital in Banbury; and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford.
2. In Berkshire, the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading; Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals in Ascot and Slough.
3. In Buckinghamshire, the Buckinghamshire Hospitals in High Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville; and Milton Keynes General Hospital in Milton Keynes.

Facts about the School

The school’s core belief is that by recruiting individuals with diverse goals and an enthusiastic temperament our trainees can achieve surgical excellence & offer unrivalled patient care. They are encouraged and nurtured to fulfill all the compulsory facets of the surgical curriculum whilst developing skills in research, leadership and education. Trainees are recruited from all over the world and are chosen entirely on merit based upon wide ranging criteria and surgical potential. A recent survey of current trainees showed that most trainees have multiple academic publications as well as a wide range of participation in high level extra-curricular activities including international representation in sport & music.

Training Opportunities within the School

The Core Training Programme consists of 36 trainees in years 1 and 2 who are following programmes in surgery in general, and 12 Academic Clinical Fellows (ACFs). This equips them to apply for Specialist Training in their chosen field, or if that is not possible, to be guided to another satisfying career pathway. The majority reach their goal at the end of two years, but there is scope for trainees to undertake a third year if necessary, to enable them to fulfill particular specialty requirements. Not everyone passes their MRCS at the first attempt, but everyone has by the end of their Core Training Programme an opportunity for all Core Trainees to participate in the Undergraduate Anatomical Teaching Programme and in return get the basic science teaching they need for their MRCS. We are initiating a Teacher’s Development Programme for trainees in the next academic year.

There are regular Core Training teaching sessions leading to the MRCS and beyond. We have many trainees taking advantage of being associated with a premier research university in order to engage in research, frequently for a DPhil, the Oxford PhD.
Introduction to School

The Oxford School of General Practice aims to provide the highest standard of specialty training for doctors who wish to pursue a career in general practice, and to give the best start in a general practice career. The School of General Practice has an annual intake of 110 trainees and has six training schemes covering the Chilterns and Cotswolds – Bucks, Banbury, Milton Keynes, Oxford, Reading & Newbury and Windsor (Wexham Park). There are a range of training practices that serve both very rural areas and inner cities. It is a popular place to train, not only because of the high standard of training practices, but also the easy access to all other parts of the country. Whether you prefer to work and live in the countryside or in the city, both options are available in Health Education Thames Valley.

Training Opportunities within the School

The School of General Practice currently offers Academic ST1 places. These posts are based in our Oxford Training Scheme and are for four years. We also offer opportunities for trainees to enter academic training at ST3 and remain based in their existing training scheme. All of our training schemes offer a wide variety of hospital specialties as well as 18 months in approved training practices.

Each Training Scheme is run by highly skilled and enthusiastic Programme Directors based at the Postgraduate Centres. The Programme Directors co-ordinate the rotations for their own GP Trainees as well as organising a varied, interesting and helpful programme of events during each year of training.

Facts about the School

The purpose of the School of General Practice is the training and development of a general practice workforce fit for the future, and the promotion of generalism and the role of primary care in the local NHS. Training in Health Education Thames Valley is very popular and we have a very high rate of satisfactory completion of training with trainees gaining their MRCP.

The hospital posts are mainly undertaken in Stoke Mandeville, Wycombe General, The Horton, Milton Keynes Hospital, John Radcliffe, Churchill Hospital, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Royal Berkshire and Wexham Park. Trainees usually remain in the Training Scheme area for their 3 year training programme.

Our School of General Practice has very close links with the Royal College of General Practitioners, with several of our educators also having roles within the College.

We currently have 202 approved GP Trainees across Health Education Thames Valley in 12 approved practices.

Since August 2007, General Practice has been using e-Portfolio for recording all training and progression; this is now fully embedded within the training programme and seen as a very useful tool by trainees and educators. An Induction Day is held for all newly appointed ST1 GP Trainees in September each year.

We are proud of the major contribution Health Education Thames Valley has made to GP Specialty Training in the United Kingdom, and that we continue to offer excellent training and career opportunities in the Thames Valley area. Whether you are looking at training opportunities as a GP Trainee, or looking for continuing professional development as a GP or GP educator, further information and useful links can be found on our website www.oxforddeanery.nhs.uk
Introduction to School

The training for Obstetrics and Gynaecology is a seven year run through programme based at five hospitals in the Thames Valley – Oxford University Hospitals, Royal Berkshire Hospital (Reading), Milton Keynes General Hospital, Buckinghamshire Healthcare (Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury and Wycombe General Hospital, High Wycombe) and Wexham Park Hospital, Slough.

Trainees rotate between all units. We have approximately 80 trainees, currently with an intake of eight trainees per year at ST1. The Head of School is Rebecca Black, Based at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

The programme in Oxford offers excellent teaching at all levels and has six subspecialty trainees. There is an active academic clinical fellowship programme with research opportunities in the University of Oxford.

Training Opportunities within the School

There is a well structured teaching system for ST1-5 and sufficient training opportunities to cover all the curriculum. All trainees have access to simulation training. ST3-5s have a protected weekly Friday afternoon teaching session and the teaching is highly rated by the trainees. ST6/7 interview for ATSM programmes and training in minimal access surgery is available. There are SSTs in reproductive medicine, fetomaternal medicine, oncology and urogynaecology – all based in Oxford.

Facts about the School

Trainees are based at five of the Trusts in the Thames Valley, and also do some day time sessions at the Horton Hospital, Banbury. Attachments are for one year at a time. Four trusts have delivery rates over 5,000. There is excellent consultant presence on labour ward to support training with numerous consultants trained in educational and clinical supervision. There is good support for those wishing to spend time out of programme.

Trusts have welcomed overseas doctors on the MTI scheme.

School of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Head of School: Mrs Rebecca Black

School of Radiology

Head of School: Dr Jane Phillips-Hughes

Introduction to School

There are 38 trainees in the Oxford radiology training scheme; this is the sole training scheme in the School of Radiology. The training is based mainly in the central Oxford hospitals (the John Radcliffe, the Churchill and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre) with strong support from district general hospitals in Banbury, Milton Keynes, Aylesbury, Reading and Slough.

Oxford is the ideal place for radiology training. It combines the academic and clinical excellence of the University Clinical and Preclinical schools with internationally and nationally recognised clinical specialities both in Oxford and in the Thames Valley region.

Training Opportunities within the School

The training scheme offers the full range of clinical radiological training with particular training opportunities in neuroradiology, musculoskeletal, gastro-intestinal and vascular and interventional radiology.

The Training Programme Director co-ordinates the rotations of trainees, and the availability of training courses locally and nationally. There is a well embedded cadre of clinical supervisors for day to day training, and educational supervisors to oversee training on an annual basis.

Facts about the School

Radiology is a very popular specialty and Oxford is highly favoured in national applications. The trainees regularly report very high levels of satisfaction in surveys and the success in examinations is high too; the pass rate for Part 1 is 96%, for the modules in FRCR 2A is 82% and in Part 2B is 100% (72% pass at the first attempt).

After CCT trainees have been very successful in gaining excellent posts, either as consultants in teaching departments or District General Hospitals, or in fellowships abroad.

The training in radiology integrates active teaching from a wide range of committed trainers, a broad clinical case mix and academic opportunities amplified by an active ACF programme.

The programme is very supportive of trainees wishing to undergo less than full time training and currently has 3 LTFT trainees. Where appropriate out of programme research and experience is also supported, although the latter is rarely required given the range of experience available within Health Education Thames Valley.

It is often possible to arrange visits around the department guided by current trainees. These can be co-ordinated by the Head of School or TPD.
Introduction to the School

The School of Paediatrics provides high-quality training to around 120 trainees in 98 posts in the Trusts associated with the School; Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire (Stoke Mandeville and High Wycombe), Wexham Park (Slough) and Royal Berkshire (Reading) and at the Oxford Children’s Hospital and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in Oxford. Trainees are placed at ST1 in the District General Hospitals, before then moving into Oxford for ST2 and a combination at ST3. At level 2 (ST4-5), posts are a combination of general paediatrics, neonatology and community paediatrics, largely in the DGHs. At level 3, we offer the opportunity to specialise in a wide variety of specialty posts (see below), including working in the Paediatric and Neonatal intensive care units at the Oxford Children’s Hospital. Training is run-through and the majority of trainees obtain consultant posts after ST8, many within the region.

Training Opportunities within the School

Training at level 1 is largely carried out at the local hospital and follows the MRCPCH Mastercourse. In addition the School provides several central training modules including communication skills, neonatal skills, research ethics and bereavement and Breaking Bad News courses. A Trainee Committee has recently started to develop more events such as presentation afternoons and a Careers Evening.

The training programme at ST4-8 of monthly training days is run by an enthusiastic and committed Trainee Committee, so there is ample opportunity to get involved in running the programme.

Sub-specialty training is provided in neurology, neurodisability, community paediatrics, endocrinology and diabetes, haematology/oncology, gastroenterology, neonatology, respiratory medicine, and many of these posts can be taken through the national grid with training to tertiary level.

Academic training is also very important to the School and we have posts at ACL and ACE.

We are keen to support doctors who wish to take time out of programme for further experience or training.

Facts about the School

The School of Paediatrics is able to call upon a large number of inspirational trainers as identified in trainee surveys. There is excellent supervision and one-to-one training, with a high degree of trainee satisfaction. Pass rates in the MRCPCH examination are much higher than the national average.

We carry out our own annual survey of training, which feeds into improvements and we have trainee representation on the School Board and Executive committees.

Our excellent website should be consulted if you wish to find out about all the opportunities and highlights of the programme in more detail.

We look after a high number of Less Than Full-Time Trainees and are very flexible about slot-share posts at the junior training stage, but also still under certain circumstances are able to provide supernumerary posts at higher specialty level.

We provide two International Training Posts which will open up some training opportunities for overseas doctors.

School of Paediatrics

Head of School: Dr Peter Sebire

School of Histopathology

Head of School: Dr Sanjiv Manek

Introduction to School

Histopathology is a very popular school because the training is well balanced between DGH departments and experience at the teaching hospital in Oxford.

The ST1s are based in the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust (Wycombe Hospital) but have two separate week long intense attachments in Oxford in addition to the block teaching weeks which are shared with two other schools. The ST3-6 trainees rotate through Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Wexham Park (Slough), Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (Reading) and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. The emphasis is on ‘learning on the job’ with complementary teaching in Oxford.

Training Opportunities within the School

The ST1s attend block teaching weeks on three occasions and these are designed to provide the theoretical background to the ‘learning on the job’. Subspecialty training in liver pathology and neuropathology is also provided as separate attachments in Oxford.

The ST2-6s learn on the job at each of the sites. Close supervision is given to each trainee who has a dedicated ES to liaise with. There are monthly whole day teaching sessions on specialty teaching. These take place in Oxford. In addition, there are dedicated teaching sessions in place at each training site.

Facts about the School

By the end of the 1st year, the trainees are well-equipped to not only pass the Year 1 assessment but also to embark on further training at the level of ST2 and beyond. The training in the Buckinghamshire hospitals provides a good foundation for safe practice in Histopathology. Each trainee is supervised by a particular Educational Supervisor but all Consultants in any one department are also effectively trainers. This close supervision is also provided in Oxford and there is an annual record of training kept and inspected which is done online via the RCPPath.

School of Histopathology

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Dr Sanjiv Manek

Recruitment & Assessment Officer: Jennifer Evans

Mrs Mairi Hills

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Training Programme Director:

Mrs Mairi Hills

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Jennifer Evans

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School of Paediatrics

Head of School: Dr Sanjiv Manek

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Recruitment & Assessment Officer: Jennifer Evans

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School of Paediatrics website

www.mychox.net/oxpaeds

School of Histopathology website

www.mychox.net/hp

Head of School: Dr Peter Sebire

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TPD ST1-3

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Dr Amit Gupta

TPD ST4 and above

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Mrs Jennifer Evans

mairi.hills@thamesvalley.hee.nhs.uk

School of Paediatrics website

www.mychox.net/oxpaeds

School of Histopathology website

www.mychox.net/hp
Introduction to School
The aim of the Oxford School of Public Health is to recruit and train doctors and those from disciplines other than medicine to enable them to acquire the knowledge, skills and experience required to be effective public health specialists. The principles which underpin the maintenance of high quality Public Health Training across Health Education Thames Valley include:

- explicit region-wide standards for training are adopted and reviewed annually;
- the training provided in all training locations is appraised periodically;
- the progress of all trainees is reviewed in a systematic and constructive manner annually;
- trainees are provided with appropriate support and continuing education.

Training Opportunities within the School
All trainees will be allocated a service trainer and an academic supervisor at the start of their training programme.
1. Service Trainers will normally be a consultant in the department in which the trainee is working at the time.
2. Academic Supervisors: The Programme Director will allocate an academic supervisor (the trainee will usually keep their academic supervisor for the duration of training).

Facts about the School
Training in Public Health is presently available in service Public Health departments (which include Local Authorities, Public Health England etc) Thames Valley Public Health England Centre (TVPHEC formerly Health Protection Unit) and public health academic departments at the University of Oxford. Those appointed will be expected to move training locations during their training, with a typical programme lasting five years full time. Public Health training is competency-based, with trainees required to demonstrate the acquisition of a range of public health skills and knowledge. Training will take place within the host organisation and usually through attending the MSc in Global Health Sciences at Oxford University. Presently there are 28 Specialty trainees including 5 Global Health Sciences at Oxford University.

Why Oxford School of Public Health?
1. A structured programme that includes training time in academic and health protection sub-specialties and appropriate rotation to suit career choice in the last two years of training.
2. The opportunity to undertake the prestigious Masters in Global Health at Oxford University.
3. The opportunity to train in internationally renowned academic units at Oxford University.
4. Excellent exam results and the opportunity to act up as consultant in a targeted placement to ensure appropriate consultant experience and facilitate successful consultant applications at the end of training.
5. A wide range of training opportunities including placements at the Centre for Radiation, Chemicals and Environmental Hazards and international placements. Approximately 80% of trainees who take the Part A and Part B are successful.

All trainees who completed their training between 2006 and 2010 obtained consultant jobs, the majority within the Thames Valley. Approximately 7 F1 trainees per year. There are also 80% of trainees who take the Part A and Part B are successful.

Oxford University Clinical Academic Graduate School (OUCAGS) was founded in partnership with the Oxford Deanery and NHS Education South England (NESC), and continues as a partnership between the University, Health Education England, and the Local Education and Training Board (LETB), with strong links to the Oxford NIHR Biomedical Research Centre.

OUCAGS provides seminars, an accredited programme of research training, offers overseas academic and clinical placements, and assists in identifying funding opportunities. We also support development of clinical competencies by close liaison with clinical supervisors to ensure our academic doctors achieve at a consistently high levels, delivering the greatest benefit to their patients.

We can provide a range of resources and support services to clinical academics, including:
- Integrated academic and clinical training support
- Access to University resources
- Access to seminars
- Funding for research projects
- Networking opportunities
- Support and information on funding opportunities and applications

Academic Foundation Programme
The aim of the academic foundation programme is to combine clinical training with the opportunity to develop skills and knowledge in research. Academic Foundation Doctors at Oxford are supported in identifying suitable projects for their protected research time, and encouraged to make the most of the programme as an opportunity to begin to establish themselves as a medical researcher, educator or leader.

Academic Clinical Fellowships
The primary purpose of an ACF is to provide a clinical and academic training environment for doctors in the early stages of specialty training to prepare an application for a Training fellowship leading to a PhD (or equivalent) or if applicable a postdoctoral fellowship. In addition to funding for overseas academic placements, research projects, and travel to support research related activities, OUCAGS offers all ACFs free access to a taught, accredited research training programme.
Health Education Thames Valley is excited to offer for the first time this innovative two-year training programme which gives trainees the opportunity to undertake six-month posts in the following specialties:

- General Practice
- Paediatrics
- Medicine
- Psychiatry

Following the successful completion of the two-year programme, trainees will then move directly into the second year of training in one of the above Broad Based Training specialties. The progression route for Broad Based Training is as follows:

Details about the exact locations of these training programmes in Health Education Thames Valley will be available on the recruitment pages of our website www.oxforddeanery.nhs.uk.

Further information about Broad Based Training can be found at the following locations:

Health Education North West: https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/broad-based-training-bbt-programme

GMC website: http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/14310.asp


For all enquiries about the Health Education Thames Valley programme, please contact recruitment@thamesvalley.hee.nhs.uk

**New for 2015: Broad Based Training**

**Order of posts within Broad Based Training may vary.**

Details about the exact locations of these training programmes in Health Education Thames Valley will be available on the recruitment pages of our website www.oxforddeanery.nhs.uk.

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GMC website: http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/14310.asp


For all enquiries about the Health Education Thames Valley programme, please contact recruitment@thamesvalley.hee.nhs.uk

**Introduction**

Health Education Thames Valley aims to promote opportunities for Less-Than-Full-Time (LTFT) training for those that are eligible. The main eligibility criteria are the care of dependents (including children), and on grounds of personal ill health. In exceptional circumstances trainees may be able to train LTFT if they have specific and exceptional opportunities outside medicine e.g. sporting opportunities at a national level.

**LTFT training may be undertaken in one of three ways:**

i) A slot share, where two trainees share one full time post, and manage the out-of-hours between them. Slot-sharing is distinct from job-sharing as it does not restrict the postholders to work 50% of a full-time post. This option tends to provide the most effective means of meeting the trainee's educational needs.

ii) Reduced sessions in a full-time post, where a trainee occupies an established full-time post but works reduced hours.

ii) Supernumerary placements

It is recognised that training in a mainstream post offers preferable training opportunities to being supernumerary, but in some circumstances supernumerary posts are created.

There is not usually a long waiting list and so far trainees have been placed in LTFT posts within reasonable time.

**Training Opportunities**

LTFT trainees have the same opportunities in the training programmes as their full time peers and this is overseen by the Training Programme Director and Head of School. They have Study Leave and on-call responsibilities on a pro rata basis. They have an annual ARCP and are expected to achieve their competencies on a pro-rata basis. There are the same opportunities for Out of Programme experience and research.

There are LTFT trainees in all specialties in Health Education Thames Valley.

There is an informal networking and information sharing forum twice a year, and a closed forum on www.Doctors.net

**Key Contact Details**

Associate Dean for Less Than Full Time Training:
Dr Rebecca Mather
rebecca.mather@thamesvalley.hee.nhs.uk

Administrator:
Ms Jan Harris
jan.harris@thamesvalley.hee.nhs.uk

Trainee Representative:
Dr Georgina Ashfield
g.ashfield@doctors.org.uk

Website:
www.oxforddeanery.nhs.uk
Introduction to the Unit

The PSU is dedicated to helping doctors across the Thames Valley fulfil their work potential. The Unit consists of the Director, an Associate Director, a Careers Lead, a Support Manager and a team of coaches/mentors. These include GPs, consultants and specialists in culture and communication. We offer:

- Career decision-making and specialty application/ interview preparation workshops in Foundation Yrs 1 and 2
- One-to-one confidential career dilemma support for trainees at all levels
- Help for when a trainee or established doctor hits a rough patch at work and would benefit from coaching/ mentoring to get back on track.

Facts about the Unit

Formed in 2004, the PSU has worked with hundreds of trainees, consultants and GPs from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes and Oxfordshire on the management of their career. The clinician is assigned a PSU coach/mentor who works in partnership with them in an empathic way that fully respects and harnesses the individual’s wishes and strengths. A coach/mentor may offer the Myers Briggs Personality Type Indicator (MBTI) if this seems appropriate. Taking the MBTI inventory and receiving feedback helps identify an individual’s unique gifts. The information enhances your understanding of yourself, your motivations, your natural strengths and your potential.

Accessing the PSU

Any doctor can refer themselves and receive a completely confidential service or they may be referred by their Training Programme Director or line manager for performance support. Details of the PSU are available on the website www.oxforddeanerycdu.org.uk along with referral forms and a number of useful career resources.

Trainee Feedback about the PSU:

“It was a very professional service and unlike any other guidance I have received…I am certain there are many others who could benefit from your advice.”

“Very helpful to talk through career options with an independent advisor, which is difficult to achieve in one’s own specialty, and also pause for thought…to reflect on what it is exactly we enjoy (or don’t enjoy) about our chosen field. I actually found the experience reaffirmed why I had chosen my specialty and encouraged me to continue training in this field.”

“My PSU advisor supported me through a changing landscape: we first met before applications and I approached her while I was experiencing a stressful team dynamic. By the time our last scheduled meeting came, I’d been unsuccessful at my most recent application, but I’d been looking at other options and at how to improve my future applications. It was beneficial to have the same individual as an advisor throughout the six month period and I felt well-supported.”

Introduction to School

Our goal is to facilitate the continuing medical education and professional development of nearly 500 Staff and Associate Grade (SASG) Doctors and Dentists in the way most appropriate to their individual needs and aspirations. Dr Peter Khin Tun has overall responsibility for the delivery of career and professional support for the these SASGs (including Associate Specialists, Staff Grades, Clinical Assistants, Hospital Practitioners and Specialty Doctors) working across all specialties in the 12 Trusts within Health Education Thames Valley. Funding, on a basis proportional to the number of SASGs in each Trust, has been devolved to seven SAS Tutors, who work in the major Trusts in Health Education Thames Valley, supported by their own small sub-committees to assist with day-to-day decision-making, and dealing with applications for funding from SAS doctors. The SAS Tutor is the first contact point for SASGs seeking professional and career development support.

Training Opportunities within the School

Some senior SASGs will themselves develop the skills to become appraisers or educational supervisors and so contribute significantly to the educational process. We also offer strong encouragement to SAS doctors to become involved at an appropriate level with management issues, and to gain the appropriate training and skills for this by attending courses, some of which are offered within HETV. A number of educational courses have already been held and more are planned, both at postgraduate education level, and in individual Trusts, aimed specifically at the needs of SAS doctors. The first SAS Doctors’ Development Day, in September 2009, was themed on Appraisals, Portfolios and Revalidation. Subsequent Development Days have focused on gaining the CESR via Article 14, and credentialing for SAS doctors, Leadership, Management and Team-working and mentoring. Other courses already held include:

- Mentoring Skills Workshops
- Career Progression Workshops
- Effective Appraisal Workshops
- Human Factors Awareness Training Courses
- SAS Doctors Convention

We provide support to those doctors wishing to obtain the Certificate of Equivalence of Specialist Registration (CESR) or Certificate of Equivalence of General Practice Registration (CEGPR) via the Article 14 or Article 11 routes respectively.

Facts about the School

Health Education Thames Valley has gained a national reputation for its support programme for SAS Doctors and Dentists. The system in place is well-organised and transparent. In this region we also have a strong tradition of providing practical pastoral care and support through a variety of mentoring schemes, as well as career guidance and help for ‘doctors in difficulty’, which can be accessed by SAS doctors through Professional Support Unit (PSU) – see below for website details.

All meetings and courses are detailed in a “What’s On” information sheet which is sent out regularly. Our other means of communication is the OXSAS Newsletter. A National Directory of Courses relevant to SAS Doctors and Dentists is available from HETV.
Health Education Thames Valley

We are the Local Education and Training Board for Thames Valley covering Milton Keynes, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

Our vision is to ensure the delivery of effective workforce planning and excellent education and training to develop a highly capable, flexible and motivated workforce that delivers improvements in health for the population of Thames Valley.

Contact us

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