

RCPsych: Applying to Core Training Webinar

Thursday 6 November 2025 17:00 – 18:00

	Question	Answer
1	Are there any additional training spaces allocated for CT1 this year?	We will know when all regions have released their training numbers.
2	Will the MRSA exam be in February again for those applying for psychiatry?	Yes, the February sitting of the MSRA will be reserved for applicants who apply to Core Psychiatry and General Practice only
3	What is a DRN?	Dean's (or Deanery) Reference Number. You should be able to find this via TIS or by asking your deanery.
4	I am a current FY2 and have been told by my postgrad manager that we don't have a deanery reference number, is that right? thanks!	If you do have a DRN or an NTN it should be accessible via TIS, but if not, you will need to provide the details of your current foundation school in your application
5	Assuming we have offers for psychiatry as well as another specialty, does accepting a position in one specialty automatically close the application process in the other specialty?	You can only accept one offer, but if you have not received an offer for your second specialty accepting an offer won't automatically remove you from the process at that stage, it would only remove you if you accepted a second offer, at that stage in the process you will be asked which offer you wish to proceed with and your second application would be changed to accepted an offer in another specialty

6	Will it be possible to move some of the applicants who solely apply to GP and psychiatry to January MSRA window if the number of applicants is high?	If there are more applicants to just GP & Psychiatry than there are spaces in the February sitting and there are spaces remaining in the January sitting this will be the case, but only if the February capacity is oversubscribed
7	What is the "hold" option in the offers?	If you apply to more than one specialty you can hold an offer you may receive from one specialty while you are waiting to hear about the outcome from your second specialty, or you can hold an offer with upgrades to see if you are upgraded into a higher ranked post further along in the offers process. You can only hold an offer up to the published hold deadline, before the deadline you will need to decide if you wish to accept your current offer with upgrades or reject the offer
8	Are the run-through programs only available in certain regions and is there a way to find out where this is offered? Specifically, does the East of England deanery ever have spaces open for CAMHS run-through?	Live answered at 37:35 We only have the indicative numbers at the moment, but indicatively East of England haven't put any run through posts forward for this round.
9	Is there any work being done to involve CT doctors in the community, charity sector and other mental health advocacy organisations to improve access to mental health?	Live answered at 38:25 We do have a volunteering and international psychiatry special interest group and there are Co trainees I am aware of who are very enthusiastic and very involved in volunteering and international psychiatry and these are opportunities to be sought once you're in post.

		<u>Volunteering and International Psychiatry Special Interest Group (VIPSIG)</u>
10	Are there applications for a February start as well as August?	<p>Live answered at 39:47</p> <p>Not at the same time. The application process for the February round starts in July.</p>
11	With respect to the 3 references needed for our Oriel application: other than the first one needing to be from the Clinical Supervisor in our current post, can the remaining two be from any of the Consultants we worked with in our foundation training? If not, what are the requirements for the remaining two referees?	<p>Live answered at 40:10</p> <p>Yes, it can be any consultants that you've worked with during your foundation training.</p>
12	Given the massive rise in applications to psychiatry and the fact that lots of people apply to it as a backup option, is there any plan to priorities applicants who only apply to psychiatry to show real interest	<p>Live answered at 41:35</p> <p>We are looking at various methods and that is obviously a particular option, but there are no definite decisions at the moment.</p> <p>See also this statement from RCPsych: RCPsych responds to 2025 competition ratios</p>
13	Apologies if I missed this but is it possible to access previous competition ratios for each specific deanery?	<p>Live answered at 42:52</p> <p>See presentation slide at 9.02 in this recording.</p> <p>We don't have a breakdown by Deanery because the way the candidates apply, they apply to the core vacancy and that's the</p>

		application numbers that we have and that we use to work out the competition ratio.
14	can a specialty doctor be a referee or does it need to be consultant?	Live answered at 43:48 It doesn't have to be consultant, a specialist doctor is absolutely fine.
15	Am I right to say that only applying to psychiatry will not prioritise us in any way?	Live answered at 45:09 Not for this round.
16	Do psychiatry questions in MSRA weigh more than other questions?	Live answered at 44:20 They don't weigh more but if there is a tiebreaker, then there are sections on psychiatry and neurology will, which will be used as tiebreakers. And then if people tie even after that, there will be sections on empathy and communication, which will be used as a second tiebreaker.
17	Any timeline (Dates) for Feb 2027?	https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/overview-of-specialty-training/recruitment-timelines
18	as an F3 doing ad hoc locum- should this be recorded as an employment gap in the oriel application?	Live answered at 45:26

		Yes. Record it as an employment gap, but indicate in the gap the frequency of the shifts, then that's way for us to pick up the experience in your application
19	Is there a minimum timeframe that we need to work with a referee to make them eligible for our referee?	Live answered at 45:53 the form says 3 months full time equivalent.
20	If we were to resign after accepting a offer for core training before the training actually started, would we able to re-apply at a future round?	Live answered at 46:15 So, it would only count if you've actually started on day one. All we do say to candidates who asked, we do get asked that question quite a bit is to be just mindful of if you do accept the post, it is a post that somebody else could have accepted and could have taken up. And the closer we get to the start dates, it's sometimes not possible for us to fill those. So if you are not sure, we advise candidates to try and withdraw from any accepted offer as soon as possible just to give us a chance to try and re offer those posts out with the candidates.
21	is you want to apply for CAMHS run through do you apply to cure and preference CAMHS at the long listing stage?	Live answered at 47:15 just apply for the core and vacancy, there's only one vacancy that's live on our real, it's the core Psychiatry 1 and it's the preferencing stage.

		Once you get to preferences in which will be February, February time at that stage, you can then preference all core, all Cams and all LD posts if you wish or just just call and leave the run through ones out if you're not interested in those.
22	there are two questions about employment gaps on the application, one asking if there has been any gap in the last 3 years (which applies to me as i graduated med school in July 2024 and am an f2), it then asks if there have been any gaps before then. am i right in saying that as i only graduated in 2024 there are no gaps in my employment history since then (as i wouldn't have had a doctor job then)? thank you!	Live answered at 47:49 Yes, that's correct
23	Can you remind us at what stage in the application process timeline we will be able to rank our deanery preferences?	Live answered at 48:23 End of February or beginning of March. We will keep candidates updated all times during the process for Royal, so you will know exact dates closer to the time, but it will be around the end of February.
24	I didn't get the chance to see the email for career question.	careers@rcpsych.ac.uk