

## RCPsych: Applying to Core Training Webinar

Thursday 7 November 2024 17:00 – 18:00

	Question	Answer
1	What MSRA score should I aim for to get into Psychiatry training? How can I make a stronger application?	Applicants must score a minimum of 186 (raw score) in both MSRA papers. It's not possible to predict what score is required for an offer as it will depend on the quantity of other applicants, and your performance/rank in comparison with others.
2	Please could you give an overview of the academic psych interviews and how to prepare for them?	The ACF recruitment processes are managed separately and locally rather than part of the national recruitment process for clinical training. Information about the ACF process can be found on the NIHR website and in the specific ACF vacancies. You can find out more information here: <u>Academic recruitment pathways   Medical</u> <u>Hub</u>
3	If you want to apply to a 6-year run through programme, e.g. CAMHS- how do you apply for that?	The STI (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Psychiatry of Learning Disability) run through programmes are included in the same application for CTI Core Psychiatry. Further along in the recruitment process applicants will have the opportunity to rank all available CTI and STI posts. There is not a separate recruitment process for these posts.
4	Is there any likelihood of a move to portfolio/interview - to prove commitment to specialty etc - in future years, given the huge surge in competition ratio?	Live answered (38:45) - There is no plan to add a portfolio or interview element to the assessment process. The MSRA has shown to be an effective indicator for success in the training programme over the last 9 years, and there was a strong correlation between MSRA scores and interview scores when we held in person interviews. There is still a very good correlation between MSRA scores and ARCP outcomes, and it is not felt that adding a portfolio or other element to the assessment process would be of benefit.
5	What MSRA score do those who wish to secure an Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) need to secure?	Applicants must be considered eligible in the clinical recruitment process in order to be 'benchmarked' for the Academic recruitment



		process. To be eligible, applicants must achieve the minimum required score - this is 186 (raw score) in each MSRA paper.
6	Do we have any idea if speciality interest will be added as part of the recruitment process? we have seen recently that the current recruitment process is not very reflective of applicant commitment to the speciality, more like, a way to get into the NHS as getting into non training jobs is getting harder , any comment re this ?	Answered live at 44:00 - There is no plan to add a portfolio or interview element to the assessment process. The MSRA has shown to be an effective indicator for success in the training programme over the last 9 years, and there was a strong correlation between MSRA scores and interview scores when we held in person interviews. There is still a very good correlation between MSRA scores and ARCP outcomes, and it is not felt that adding a portfolio or other element to the assessment process would be of benefit.
7	Do you have any data on what the minimum MSRA scores were for an offer in each area from recent application cycles?	This information would not be helpful as there are so many factors to consider e.g. the personal preferences and decisions of applicants, competition for posts in specific areas, the number of specialties applicants apply for, the volume of applicants. We advise applicants to only rank posts that they realistically would be willing to accept - we cannot predict how likely it is that they would receive an offer.
8	Is it acceptable to apply to CT1 without current full license to practice with the GMC (for doctors working abroad), as long as you are eligible to obtain one by the start date of a CT1 post?	Yes, this is acceptable. Any offer made would be conditional upon the applicant reinstating/securing Full GMC registration by the post start date.
9	I took the September MSRA. I scored 506. If I apply now for the January MSRA, does that automatically close my currently pending applications in GP & psych? Or will I still receive an offer if and when one becomes available?	The two rounds of recruitment are not linked. Please be assured that submitting an application for the August 2025 intake will have no impact on your live application for the February 2025 intake.
10	If we were at medical school prior to foundation years should we include work undertaken part time as a medical student if it is relevant? Ie healthcare assistant/medical assistant?	Live answered (50:30) No, we don't need to know that. We just need to know about your clinical time so your FY1 and FY2 posts and then any posts that you've undertaken since then. Although, healthcare assistants etc are really important to your experience and knowledge base etc but specifically we're looking for time in clinic.



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11	Is it the same application for jobs starting August 2025 and February 2026, or is there a separate application process for February 2026?	Posts in the current round of recruitment have an August 2025 start date. There will be a separate round of recruitment - advertised in July 2025 - for the February 2026 round of recruitment. You would need to submit a new application.
12	In order to book MSRA we need to be invited; how do we get invited to book it? Is it through Oriel, through RCPsych or Foundation Programme? Any ideas on dates for MSRA?	Following the longlisting period, eligible applicants will be invited to arrange their MSRA slot. It is not possible to do this ahead of time. The invitation will be shared via the Oriel system. MSRA dates have not yet been confirmed but will take place in early 2025. Information about this can be found on the following link: https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/news/2025- msra-sitting
13	Is MSRA required for STI training application?	Yes. Applicants will be assessed according to their performance in the MSRA only.
14	Where would we manage to obtain a certificate for the extra time as this was something given at university, however I no longer have access to university emails	Live answered (51:15) if it's something on your medical record that a GP could write about and could confirm again then they would accept a letter from a GP saying that require x amount of additional time. You may also be able to get in touch with the student support team at the university who may also have access to your records and see that you were granted e.g. 25% extra time for a specific reason for your exams and then a letter from them would also be sufficient. We are quite flexible with what we'll accept as long as it says exactly what is needed because we don't want to give less than what you need to sit the exam.
15	I CCT'ed in GP in 2020. Do I need to prove my foundation competencies? I completed FY1/FY2 2012 - 2014. Or does my RCGP qualification count, am I OK to apply for psych training?	You would be welcome to apply for the Core Psychiatry training programme. Applicants in your situation would be required to submit the CREST to demonstrate how you have met and maintained the required competences. This is required at the time of application.



16	If you don't have a driving license yet but are learning how to drive, will that count against you in the application? Thank you	No, this will not impact your application. Driving Licenses are mentioned to ensure that applicants are aware that the ability to travel to/between sites is their responsibility.
17	Why has the competition ratio increased from 2:1 to 9.45:1 in just 4 years?	MDRS do not have published data regarding this, although part of the increase in application numbers will be due to the expansion of Foundation places that took place a few years ago.
18	If you are currently in a different speciality training programme do you need to have any forms signed by your current specialty?	No this is not a requirement if you are currently in a training programme. Applicants who have already resigned from a training programme are required to submit a 'Support for Reapplication' form.
19	Do we get a certificate of attendance for this webinar?	We will be emailing all attendees after this event to confirm attendance and share relevant links and information.
20	If I have full registration, do I need a valid license to practice when applying or only when work begins? I was told I only need it for the job.	Applicants must be 'eligible' for full registration and LTP at the time of application. Any offer made would be conditional upon you securing Full GMC registration with a LTP by the post start date.
21	What is the FPCC? Does a ARCP outcome from Horus count?	The FPCC is the 'Foundation Programme Certificate of Completion' - this should be generated on your Horus account after the TPD/HOS has signed the document. We would recommend contacting your foundation programme contacts to obtain this.
22	Is there any transference of competencies from psychiatry in another college e.g RANZCP	Live answered (52:45) If you've previously undertaken training in a few specialties specifically e.g. GP, IMT, paediatrics, public health. You can use the experience and knowledge that you've gained in those training programmes under the accreditation of transferable competencies. It is advised to speak to your TPD or head of school



		once you get into post and then they can then decide how much your training post can be reduced by based on those competencies.
23	I heard that invitations for MSRA are limited for NI this year as there are not enough exam centres available. Is this true?	You can find the answer here: <u>NIMDTA Recruitment Page</u> or also the CT recruitment page <u>Overview of Core Psychiatry Training   Medical</u> <u>Hub</u> . You can also contact: <u>Psychiatry.nimdta@hscni.net</u>
24	Are there any plans to bring back interviews in future years? It seems a bit concerning to appoint people to a very person-centric specialty without an interview solely based on an anonymous MCQ exam.	Live answered (39:10) There are good stats to show that the people who do well in the MSRA, generally do well in core psychiatry training, and that there's a really good correlation between the two. So, we do feel that it is a suitable assessment technique. We also find that there is good correlation between the exam scores and the interview scores. So, the plan is to continue using the MSRA in the future.
25	Could you please confirm that there will be no interview for August 2025 CT1 Psychiatry?	That is correct - there will not be interviews for the August 2025 intake. Applicants will be assessed by the MSRA only.
26	Do you do the MSRA exam after applying via oriel or before	After the application window has closed, we will invite all eligible candidates to arrange their MSRA slot. it is not possible to sit the MSRA ahead of this time.
27	How will the extra preparation time for February MSRA sitters be taken into account with scoring?	Live answered (41:20) - The nature of the MSRA means that there is no advantage to siting the assessment later in the month. If you require further details, you can contact the MSRA team directly.
28	So, we can't choose whether we sit MSRA in Jan or Feb, but we can choose which date in either month we get allocated?	That's correct - you will receive an invitation to book your own slot within the set MSRA window. You will be able to select a location/day/time that is convenient for yourself.



29	where can I find my DRN number?	We would recommend contacting your foundation school for this information.
30	What's the ratio of 'real' applicants to spaces (I.e. is there any way for you to know how many of the applicants are just backups and so unlikely to count towards a meaningful competition ratio)?	Live answered (43:15) No, we don't have any evidence, or we can't assess that information because if we ask people if they actually want to go for a core psychiatry post, they will probably say yes even if it is a backup.
31	When are the application dates for the August 2025 MSRA?	The application window for Core Psychiatry is currently open and will close on Thursday 21st November 2024 at 4pm (UK Time)
32	Will the scores from the January/February MSRA round be carried over to the August MSRA round?	Unfortunately, it is not possible to confirm this information currently.
33	Do foundation doctors have a NTN/DRN? And if so, where can I find it?	Foundation Doctors have a DRN - we would recommend contacting your Foundation school directly for this information.
34	How do you apply for academic core psychiatry training? (In London)	Live answered (45:20) The academic process is the same nationally. Unfortunately, the academic recruitment has now closed for the first round in this year. You would need to apply for academic training and then you have to apply for clinical benchmarking. You would be longlisted and then shortlisted and then hopefully interviewed for an academic post. Whilst you're doing that you would also have to undergo clinical benchmarking for core psychiatry which would be the MSRA. I would contact the London recruitment if you're London based or your local recruitment team and ask them any questions.
35	There is an Interview process in Northern Ireland!	There isn't an interview process for Core Training in Northern Ireland this year, as we aren't able to run a local recruitment process for August 2025.



36	Only joining now, will the recording be shared after this session?	Yes, the recording of this webinar will be available on our webiste along with the questions asked in the Q&A box. https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/become-a-psychiatrist/foundation- drs/applying-for-core-and-higher-training-webinars
37	If we receive an offer for core psych training post and decline it does that limit us applying in the future?	This would have no impact on future applications but would remove you from the specific round of recruitment you had applied to. We would advise applicants to only rank posts that they realistically would be willing to accept.
38	Is it possible to start psych training in Australia and continue the rest of it in the UK?	Some of the experience in Australia can count, as a lot of what you need there is similar, and training time there can count for exam eligibility here.
39	Have interviews been removed for Northern Ireland this year? There were interviews for this last year.	There isn't an interview process for Core Training in Northern Ireland this year, as we aren't able to run a local recruitment process for August 2025.
40	Sorry I missed this is there to be expected to be more training places released this year in London and KSS?	We do not expect there to be further posts for the February 2025 intake but, if added, posts will be allocated according to MSRA performance/ranking.
41	Is there any published research around the MSRA and attainment gaps that you are aware of? Is the MSRA known to have/not have attainment gaps for disabled or BME applicants?	Live answered (47:50) – the data has been requested for this, but it hasn't been sent yet.
42	I meant for the next round of MSRA in 2025	The February 2026 round of recruitment will be advertised in July 2025 - applicants are likely to sit the MSRA in September 2025.



43	Can you please tell what question banks you used and how you prepared for MSRA especially SJT.	There are many different question banks available eg pass medicine, pass test etc, and I wouldn't be able to endorse one over another. The range of questions asked in the MSRA are broad across all specialties. For the SJT part, the GMC guidelines are really important to become familiar with.
44	I've heard there are less posts for the Feb recruitment round - is this correct? Does that put Feb applicants in a serious disadvantage? Thank you!	The February intake traditionally has fewer vacancy numbers compared to the August intake - this is because the round is 'out of sync' to most training programmes. The majority of training programmes do not offer a February intake.
45	If there is a gap of employment of less than one year after FY and not doing any clinical work i.e. travelling, would that impact eligibility? I do have FPCC.	This will have no impact on the application if the FPCC is still considered 'valid'. The FPCC can be used if you completed foundation training within 3.5 years of the post start date you are applying for. Beyond this, you would be required to submit a CREST.
46	I have resubmitted my CREST form through ORIEL after rejection initially. Its saying 'pending' for almost a week. Do I need to email to inform that I have resubmitted or just wait for now?	We are dealing with an overwhelming number of applications currently, so it is expected that the 'second submissions' will be reviewed after the application closing date.
47	Can we get this recording after this?	Yes, the recording of this webinar will be available on our website along with the questions asked in the Q&A box. https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/become-a-psychiatrist/foundation- drs/applying-for-core-and-higher-training-webinars
47	Would it be similar recruitment process for Round 2 (Feb 2026) where it would only depend on MSRA and no interviews? Thank you :)	Yes, we do not expect there to be any changes to the recruitment process for the February 2026 round of recruitment.



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48	I have worked for the last 1.5 years as a locum doctor doing bank shifts at the same trust 1-2 times a week in A&E for the whole time. Is it correct that I have to put this as a 'career gap' in the application? How much detail is expected in the explanation for career gap you are asked to provide?	Live answered (49:15). You can add a locum shift and locum doctor as an actual post, or you can add it as a career gap and say that you're working locum shifts. It depends if you're working through a locum agency or directly through the hospital for who you'd list as your employer. It depends on your exact circumstances but I would just add it and say you were a locum for that time period.
49	With regards to the increase in competition ratio, is there any relevance to it increasing following stopping interviews over COVID?	It's not possible to say. The MSRA has been used for 9+ years and - prior to the pandemic - it was used as a 'bypass' and the highest scoring applicants bypassed the interviews.
50	As someone from outside UK does a 2-year gap from clinical work affect my chances to compete	Live answered (53:55) No, as long as you've got evidence of your foundation competencies e.g. a crest form if you're outside of the UK and not done foundation training with the UK. As long as you have evidence that you have shown those foundation competencies within a complete 3 month period within the last 3.5 years then that would be acceptable. Therefore, you will need to be in that post for 3 months continuously from February 2022. Therefore, a two-year gap is not a problem.
51	So, to confirm, there is no interview for Northern Ireland?	Not for August 2025 recruitment specifically, no.
52	Do run through applications also have no interview	That's correct - the recruitment process for both CT1+ST1 posts does not include interviews. Posts are allocated according to MSRA performance only.
53	What are the run through programmes available for August 2025 entry? CAMHS? LD? Thank you!	Yes, run-through programmes can either be in STI Child and Adolescent Psychiatry or Learning Disability. You would submit a single application to 'Core Psychiatry' and later in the process would have the option of ranking all available CTI/STI posts.



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54	how can we show some of the person specific criteria e.g. Desirable selection criteria, since there isn't a white space section in the application?	Live answered (54:55) We do use the MSRA for the whole recruitment process, therefore we will only use the MSRA score specifically there.
55	I previously held a NTN in another specialty following accepting an offer. I didn't ever start this training programme as I deferred due to maternity leave and then withdrew before starting for geographical reasons. Do I need to get the form for 'reapplication to a specialty' signed or is this just for people who are reapplying to Psychiatry for a second time? Sorry it's just not clear on Oriel.	Apologies for any confusion. As you did not start the training programme this will not be required.
56	Am I able to clarify, the MSRA (Jan or feb) window will be confirmed once applications are submitted I.e. by the end of November and booking will open in December?	That's correct yes. Details will be confirmed once the final application numbers are known. Further information can be found on the following link: https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training- recruitment/news/2025-msra-sitting
57	Great to see high uptake of posts / is there currently any data on number of those dropping out after CT1?	Live answered 55:23 – As a recruitment team, we don't collect this data
58	If I have been working as a staff grade in psychiatry for >1year, would it be possible to demonstrate my competencies of Core training and reduce the total training time?	Training is now competency based, not time based. Time as a SAS doctor will likely count for CASC eligibility (though if a locum only 8 months of it). However, there are quite a lot of hurdles to jump in Core Training in terms of exams, psychotherapy competencies, emergency assessments etc.
59	please could you explain the weighting of MSRA questions again? Is it only psychiatry related questions that carry a weight?	Live answered (56:25) No, it's not just psychiatry related questions. It's psychiatry and neurology as they are linked. There are also questions around communication that are weighted more heavily. Within your score there is more of a weighting towards those specific areas



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		because they're relevant to core psychiatry. As I mentioned before it is a multi-specialty exam so different specialties would focus more on specific questions and answers.
60	I am current on call; will this be available as a recording?	Yes, the recording of this webinar will be available on our website along with the questions asked in the Q&A box. https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/become-a-psychiatrist/foundation- drs/applying-for-core-and-higher-training-webinars
61	Is run through training relatively new? Is it likely other sub specialities may follow suit?	Live answered (57:42) The child and adolescent mental health run through came in as a pilot, 4-5 years ago and that was successful which is why it was approved. Psychiatry of learning disability followed suit so they're fairly new. There are currently no plans for other specialties to offer run through training but this may change in future
62	Is there a link to see the differentiation between the competition ratios/available posts in the first and second round?	Live answered (58:30) all the competition ratios are published on the national recruitment website. If you go on to the homepage, it would be listed on there as well as post numbers and fill rates. You can follow this link for more information: <u>Competition ratios   Medical Hub</u>
63	Will we know exactly how many run-through posts are available in each location by February/March (when we rank on Oriel)?	Yes, this information will be confirmed during the 'preferencing' process.
64	Sorry when I asked about the extra places I meant for August 2025 intake - think Jennifer mentioned you were expecting the vacancies to increase in London and KSS?	Yes, currently the vacancies on our website are 'indicative' only - the confirmed numbers will be shared with applicants later in the process (expected to be in February 2025)
65	When is the second recruitment for 2025? And if you get an offer when does the training start?	The application window for the August 2025 intake is currently open and will close on 21/11/24 at 4pm (UK Time). The application window for the February 2026 intake will be advertised in July 2025.
66	does it matter if your references are psychiatrists or consultants from other specialties?	There is no requirement for the referees to be Psychiatrists.



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67	Regarding STI for CAMHS and Learning disabilities - how many years is the training and is it run through? How can we apply for that in this round? Sorry if I missed this info!	6 years, assuming you pass exams etc. and don't have progression issues. You apply by preferencing one of the run through posts once made an offer.
68	l'm a good doctor, can you hire me?	Depends, can you sit the MSRA in January/February and do you want to go into Psychiatry training? If so, possibly.
69	Once preferencing opens, is there a resource/ map to show us what the boundaries are for each region when preferencing jobs? e.g. which hospitals are grouped together. Without having to look each one up manually.	Live answered (59:30) Unfortunately not. There is some information that is provided within the description. Some will give you a specific list of hospitals, certainly for the first 6 months a year whereas others just give a brief answer. That's mostly because with preferences going on so far in advance of the post actually starting the school teams just don't have that information yet as it's 6 months away. Therefore, some can be quite detailed whereas some may still be vague which is dependent on various elements but ultimately, they are also always subject to change because it depends on an array of things i.e. current CT1 trainees and whether they need to extend posts etc.
70	what was the MSRA cut off score in the most recent application round?	Applicants must score a minimum of 186 (raw score) in both MSRA papers. It's not possible to predict what score is required for an offer as it will depend on the quantity of other applicants, and your performance/rank in comparison with others.
71	How much value is placed on the SJT part compared to the clinical part?	Applicants need to score 186 on each paper to be eligible, they are both equally valued
72	I think I just want to reiterate the point that others on here seem to be expressing- that being someone who really wants to do core psychiatry training, only using the MSRA feels like it might put me at a disadvantage. It feels as though it may invite people to apply as a guaranteed	Thank you for your comment. We appreciate the candidate's concern, but we aren't in a position to add a commitment to specialty element. [please see question 4 for further detail]



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	training post, as it is no extra effort for those applying to radiology/ surgery/ GP, despite not being passionate about it.	
73	when do we rank locations?	If and when you get an offer
74	To clarify, is this current application process for starting work as a trainee in August 2025?	Yes
75	Will certificate be provided to the attendees?	We will be emailing all attendees after this event to confirm attendance and share relevant links and information.
76	when do we find out our MSRA scores?	We cannot yet confirm this as it will depend on when applicants sit the MSRA.
77	What exactly is considered equivalent to "12 months post GMC registration" experience, for IMGs?	We are looking for a total of 24 months experience, which would be equivalent to the UK Foundation Programme. So we would expect a candidate to have 24 months (or more) clinical experience (not observer/academic posts), with at least 12 months of working independently, but under supervision, equivalent to FY2.
78	Do run through programs have an interview component or is it still only MSRA?	MSRA only - there are no interviews for CT1/ST1 Psychiatry.
79	Is there a section on the application for degrees other than our medical MBBS e.g. masters?	The only qualification that you must have in order to be eligible for Core Psychiatry training, as per the person specification, is a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (BMBS, MBBS) degree or other equivalent medical qualification. We only ask for this as part of the application form, as not having a masters would not make you ineligible. The person specification can be found here: <u>Core</u> <u>Psychiatry Training CT1 2025   Medical Hub</u>
80	Can you dual CCT with a run through programme?	No, there are currently no dual run through programmes. You can however choose to change to a non-run through programme and apply to Higher Training after ST3 is complete. But it would be competitive interview at that point



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81	If we select core psychiatry as our preference but would be happy to do one of the run through programmes too, can we rank those jobs too?	Applicants can rank any of the available CT1/ST1 posts across the UK - you are not limited to one group.
82	Do paeds MSRA questions carry any weighting? (due to the CAMHS run through programme)	The paediatric questions do not carry any particular weighting in the MSRA. The application processes for CTI and run through STI Psychiatry programmes have been combined. Applicants will receive a single rank for their MSRA performance, and will be able to preference all available CTI/STI posts.
83	For example, in CAMS, do I need to apply for run through now? Or later down the line? Thank you ?	Once you've got an offer.
84	When you talk about the 'weighting of questions' of MSRA does that affect your rank for psych rather than your absolute MSRA score then?	Yes, the weighting used for rank rather than raw score.
85	Can you apply for STI learning disability straight after F2?	Yes, you can