

Emergency Medicine

ST3 ACCS/DRE-EM

National Recruitment

2021 Applicant Handbook



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Introduction

The National Recruitment Office for Emergency Medicine is Health Education England - Yorkshire and the Humber. We are recruiting to ST3 posts across the United Kingdom

This handbook aims to provide applicants with information regarding all aspects of the 2021 Emergency Medicine recruitment process.

General information about applying to specialty training posts is available on the [Specialty Training website](#) and in the [Medical Specialty Recruitment Applicant Handbook](#). We recommend that all applicants read this document in full.

Timeline and Key Dates

Recruitment to ST3 Emergency Medicine in 2021 will follow the timeline below:

Activity	Date(s)
Applications open	At 10:00 on Thursday 26 November 2020
Application deadline	At 16:00 on Thursday, 17 December 2020
Self-Assessment Validation Upload Window	27 th January – 3 rd February 2021
Interviews	13 th – 15 th April (TBC)
Initial offers released	By 17:00 on Wednesday 5 th May 2021
Holding deadline	At 13:00 on Tuesday 11 th May 2021
Upgrade Deadline	At 16:00 on Wednesday 12 th May 2021

Please note: all dates are subject to change at any time

Adjustments for Covid-19

Following the 2020 recruitment process which resulted in some face to face in person interviews being cancelled, the plans for 2021 have been reviewed for all medical and surgical specialties by senior clinical representatives from across the four nations, and junior doctor representatives from the BMA JDC and AoMRC trainees' committee, supported by the Medical and Dental Recruitment and Selection (MDRS) team. A number of general principles have been agreed to support the appointment of doctors to Medical training programmes. More details can be found within the [Medical Specialty Applicant Handbook 2021](#).

We can confirm that Face to face interviews have been approved and that they will be conducted online rather than in person. Where self-assessments are being used these will be processed online and be fully validated.

Each specialty has two selection plans, known as Plan A and Plan B, the main content of the document describes the Plan A, there is then a separate section detailing the Plan B along with details of when and how this would be implemented.

Contact details

We have a recruitment helpdesk to assist applicants through the recruitment process. You can contact the recruitment helpdesk in the following ways:

By email: emrec.yh@hee.nhs.uk We aim to respond to all emails within 48 working hours. However, please be aware that this may not always be possible.

By telephone (for urgent enquiries only): For urgent enquiries we have a telephone helpdesk, which is available between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday to Friday. The Emergency Medicine recruitment helpdesk number is 0113 8871714

Vacancies

Health Education England (HEE) is responsible for educating and training doctors, dentists, nurses and all healthcare professionals in England. Medical and Dental training programmes are managed locally by HEE's Local Offices. Training programmes in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales continue to be managed by Deaneries. Links to the individual Local Offices and Deaneries are provided in [Appendix 2](#).

Vacancy numbers will be published on the [national Emergency Medicine recruitment webpage](#) once confirmed.

LAT Vacancies

Recruitment to Locum Appointment for Training (LAT) posts in England ceased on 1st January 2016 for all specialties. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland may continue to recruit to LAT posts.

All vacancy numbers are indicative and are subject to change at any time.

Application

Applications will only be accepted through the [Oriel recruitment system](#). For further guidance on creating an account, registering and submitting your application using the system please refer to the Oriel Applicant User Guide which can be downloaded from the Oriel [Resource Bank](#).

Completing your application

The application form for Emergency Medicine will open at 10:00 on 26th November 2020. Use the Vacancy Search tool to navigate to the national Emergency Medicine vacancy and click "Apply".

There are a number of sections within the application form:

- Personal Details
- Eligibility to Apply
- Fitness to Practise
- References
- Competences and Experience
- Employment History
- Evidence of Selection Criteria
- Supporting Information
- Equality and Diversity
- Declarations

Please complete all sections in full before submitting your application. Once you have submitted your application, the only sections you will be able to change are your personal details and your referee details.

Self-Assessment Questions

There are a number of multiple choice Self-Assessment questions built in to the application form. For these questions, you need to select the most appropriate response from a drop-down list. The Self-Assessment questions, the list of responses and details of suitable evidence can be found on the [national Emergency Medicine recruitment webpage](#)

Your responses to the Self-Assessment questions will be validated against the evidence you submit. Evidence to substantiate your answers must be easily identified and follow the strict guidance given in the policy. If you fail to provide satisfactory evidence or provide patient identifiable information you will be referred to a Probity Panel. The Probity Panel procedure can be found in [Appendix 1](#).

We will be using a separate system for collating and verifying the self-assessment evidence, details of the system, timelines and how to upload your evidence will be provided to applicants after Longlisting has been completed. You will be expected to upload 1 document per question only, you will have 7 working days to upload your evidence, your documents will then be validated against your self-assessment score by a panel of clinicians. After validation has been completed applicants will be provided with feedback detailing any amended scores, applicants will then have a 72 hour window to appeal their validated self-assessment score, as part of this appeal applicants will not be able to upload any additional documents. The appeal will then be reviewed by the appeals panel and the score awarded by them will be final.

More information about the self-assessment upload portal can be found in the “Self-assessment Evidence Portal - Applicant Guide.pdf” located in the [Specialty Training – Resource bank](#).

Application Deadline

The deadline for submitting applications is **16:00 on Thursday 17th December 2020**. After this time no applications will be accepted. **There will be no exceptions to this deadline.** You are advised to complete and submit your application at least 24 hours ahead of the deadline to allow for any unforeseen problems.

When you submit your application, you should receive an automatic confirmation email. If you do not receive this email within two hours you should check to ensure that you have successfully submitted your application.

Academic Benchmarking

Applicants that have applied for local Emergency Medicine Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) vacancies at ST3 or above and require clinical benchmarking must complete a National ST3 Emergency Medicine application and be deemed appointable at interview.

For more information about clinical benchmarking and the ACF process please see the [Specialty Recruitment Applicant Handbook](#).

Eligibility and Longlisting

The eligibility criteria for ST3 Emergency Medicine are listed in the [2021 Person Specification](#). It is an applicant’s responsibility to demonstrate that they meet the eligibility criteria. Applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria both during longlisting and after offers where necessary. Any applications which do not meet the eligibility criteria will be longlisted out of the process and will not progress to the next stage.

By allowing applicants to progress to the interview stage, Health Education England DOES NOT accept or confirm that applicants meet all eligibility requirements. This includes immigration status, evidence of achievement of core competencies or equivalent, and requisite length of time in training as per the national [Person Specification](#). This list is not exhaustive and is applicable to all eligibility criteria.

Applicants may still be withdrawn from the application process at any stage, including after the interviews have taken place, if the evidence pertaining to an eligibility criterion is found to be unsatisfactory.

GMC Registration and Licence to Practice

Applicants will need to hold full General Medical Council registration status and a current licence to practice by the time of appointment¹ (in most cases this will be Wednesday 4 August 2021). You will be asked to confirm that you will meet this requirement on page 2 of your application form. Any offers made will be subject to you meeting this requirement by the time of appointment.

Assessment of Competency

Please refer to the routes of entry in the 2021 ST3 Person Specification.

Immigration/Right to Work

You must have the right to work as a doctor in training in the UK. Your application will be assessed based on your immigration status at the time of application.

Applicants requiring Tier 2 sponsorship in order to take up a post are eligible to apply.

All medical practitioners are now on the Shortage Occupation List and therefore the Resident Labour Market Test (RLMT) no longer needs to be met.

Career Progression and Experience

You must provide a complete employment history going back to completion of your primary medical degree on your application form. If you are in a rotational training programme, please also list posts that you are *due* to rotate to up until the end of July 2021 or until completion of your Core Training Programme (if applicable) if this is later. You must provide an explanation for employment gaps of more than four weeks.

Trainees released or removed from a training post or programme

Specialty training posts and programmes are not normally available to anyone who has previously relinquished or been released/removed from a training post/programme in that same specialty. When applying for a post you will be asked if you have previously relinquished or been released or removed from a training programme in the specialty to which you are applying.

If you answer yes to this question, you will need to upload a completed "Support for Reapplication to a Specialty Training Programme - Exclusion Policy Support Form" to your application no later than the application deadline. This form can be downloaded from the Oriel [Resource Bank](#).

Trainees applying to continue training in a different region

Applicants who are currently undertaking a specialty training programme (and who have a National Training Number), who are reapplying to continue their training in a different region must declare this on their application form.

If you are reapplying to continue your training in a different region, you must also upload a completed "Support for Reapplication of Specialty Training in a Different Region - Support Form" to your application no later than the application deadline. This form can be downloaded from the Oriel [Resource Bank](#).

Applicants on the Specialist Register

You are not eligible to apply if you already hold, or are eligible to hold a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in Emergency Medicine. You are not eligible to apply if you are currently on the specialist register in any EU member state.

Criminal Records and Fitness to Practice

The application form contains a Criminal Records and Fitness to Practice Declaration. **If you answer 'Yes'** to any of the questions on this page you must fully complete and submit a separate '**Fitness to Practise Declaration Form**'. **This must be received no later than 4pm Thursday, 17th December 2020.**

This form is available from the Oriel [Resource Bank](#) and must be submitted to ftprec.yh@hee.nhs.uk. Please mark your email '**CONFIDENTIAL – Emergency Medicine**'.

Both declarations and any information provided in relation to them, will be kept securely and in confidence, and access to it will be restricted to designated persons within the Recruitment Office and other persons who need to see it as part of the selection process and who are authorised to do so.

If you are successfully appointed to a training post, this information will be passed to designated persons in the HEE local office / Deanery which will be responsible for your training and subsequently to your employing organisation and any organisations through which you rotate as part of the training programme.

No information relating to your declaration form will be made available to any members of the selection panel at any time during the recruitment process.

Applying for a Deferred Start Date

Applicants can request deferred entry to specialty training programmes on statutory grounds (e.g. maternity leave, ill health etc.) only. Deferred entry to training programmes is not permitted for any other reason. Refer to the [Gold Guide](#) for more information about deferring start dates.

If you wish to request a deferred start date you should indicate this on your application form and contact the HEE local office / Deanery which you are appointed to and follow the local process for requesting a deferred start date.

The final decision regarding any deferment will be made by the HEE local office / Deanery which will be responsible for your training according to their local policies.

Applying for Less Than Full Time Training

Trainees may train on a Less Than Full Time (LTFT) basis for a variety of well-founded reasons. Refer to the [Gold Guide](#) for more information about Less Than Full Time Training.

All posts offered through this recruitment process will be offered as full time posts. If you wish to request Less Than Full Time Training you can indicate this in the relevant section on the application form. If you are appointed to a training post, this information will be passed to the HEE local office / Deanery which will be responsible for your training; we recommend that you also contact them directly to discuss your needs. You will only be able to apply for Less Than Full Time Training once you have accepted a full time post.

The final decision regarding Less Than Full Time Training will be made by the HEE local office / Deanery which will be responsible for your training according to their local LTFT policies.

Shortlisting

If the number of eligible candidates after longlisting exceeds the interview capacity, applicants will be Shortlisted using their validated Self-Assessment score. Please read the [Self-Assessment section](#) of this handbook for more information.

Shortlisting is a method of reducing the field to a manageable number of candidates, being unsuccessful at shortlisting does not affect subsequent applications.

Interviews

Booking an Interview Slot

Applicants who are invited to attend and interview will need to book an interview slot using their Oriel account. Interview slots are offered on a first come first served basis. You must book your interview slot by the deadline stated in the invite email. Please refer to the [Oriel Applicant User Guide](#) for instructions on booking your interview slot.

You should receive an automatic confirmation email once you have booked your interview slot. If you do not receive this email within two hours of booking, please check your Oriel account to ensure that you did successfully book a slot.

If you experience problems booking your interview slot please contact emrec.yh@hee.nhs.uk for assistance.

Interview Dates and Venue

The interviews for Emergency Medicine will take place via the platform Microsoft Teams on 13th – 15th April 2021 (these dates are subject to change)

Candidates will be sent a link and joining instructions after they have booked their interview and in advance of the interview date.

Candidates are advised to check they have access to MS Teams before the interview day to ensure they don't encounter any avoidable technical issues.

Applicants with Disabilities

If you have a disability which may require specific arrangements or adjustments to enable you to attend an interview please indicate this on page 1 of your application form and contact emrec.yh@hee.nhs.uk to discuss your requirements.

Documents Required at Interview

Candidates will be required to evidence proof of ID at the start of the interview which will require their Passport or Driving License. Candidates will be notified of all requirements on the invite to interview sent via Oriel.

Technical requirement for the Online Interview

During the application process applicants will be asked to complete an interview declaration, we also expect applicants to review this a few days before their interview and follow any direction highlighted within it. A copy of the declaration can be found on the [Specialty Training Resource Bank](#), titled "2021 Recruitment Applicant Declaration.pdf".

Candidates must ensure that they are in a location with stable and reliable internet connection. Candidates must also ensure that the device they use is suitable for a call on Microsoft Teams and that they have a compatible camera for video interview. The administration staff from HEE will be unable to assist you with any technical issues.

Where technical difficulties are experienced during the interview process, we will firstly attempt to resume the interview. However if we are unable to resume the interview, we will, where possible, aim to rearrange the remainder of the interview for a at a later date/time. Where the interview has been partially completed, only the questions that were disrupted will be rerun; scores from interview questions completed without disruption will stand.

Technical issues that happen outside of the interview itself, need to be reported to the Recruitment Team, with details of the issues experienced, with screenshots, where possible, within one hour of the allocated interview time. Technical issues reported outside of this timeframe will not be considered.

HEE confirm that they will not be recording your interview and candidates are required not to record the interview either. If a candidate has been found to have recorded an interview a probity panel will be convened to look into this breach and further action could be taken.

Interview Format

The interview will consist of one 30 minute interview designed to assess the selection criteria detailed on the [2021 Person Specification](#).

The interview will cover:

- **Prioritisation**
- **Scenario (Ethical/Clinical)**
- **Communication**

Lay Representatives

A Lay Representative may be present on your interview to observe the process. The Lay Representative will not score or assess your performance in the station; they are there to ensure the process is fair and consistent.

Digital Scoring

Interview panel members will submit their scores and feedback notes electronically using tablet computers. Panel members are permitted to use electronic devices for this purpose during an interview.

Confidentiality

You should ensure that the content of the interview assessments remains confidential and must not be discussed with other applicants or published where they can be accessed by other applicants. This includes on websites, online forums or discussion groups and all other forms of social media.

Remember, this is a competitive process and you may reduce your own chances of appointment by giving an unfair advantage to other applicants.

Reporting Issues During Your Interview

The vast majority of interviews are conducted without issue. However, if there are any issues during your interview which may affect your assessment, it is vital that you report them to a member of the HEE Recruitment Administration Team at <mailto:Emrec.yh@hee.nhs.uk>

Any issues must be reported as soon as possible and ideally **within 2 hours of the completion of your interview**. This will give us the best possible chance to investigate and, if necessary, take action to remedy the issue. It is not usually possible to investigate issues or take remedial action after you leave the venue.

Scoring and Ranking

Your performance in each domain will be scored using a structured scoring system. The scores from each interview section will be combined to produce your overall interview score.

Your ranking will be based upon your overall interview score and your individual station scores. HEE may set a minimum required score in any individual domain and should your score in an individual domain not meet that requirement you will be ranked 0.

Appointability

To be considered appointable you will need to achieve a minimum percentage of the maximum interview score.

Tied Scores

In the event of tied overall interview scores, the individual station scores will be used to differentiate between candidates:

References

References will only be requested through the Oriel system once an offer of training has been accepted. Referees will be contacted by email with details of their referee accounts, so it is important that the contact details provided are correct. We strongly advise that you inform your chosen referees that you have listed them for this so that they expect this email coming through from the Oriel system. We also recommend that you double check the email address provided so as to avoid any issues or delay in your references being completed.

Candidates are reminded that it is their responsibility to chase up any incomplete references and HEE take no responsibility in chasing these up on your behalf.

Offers

All recruitment offices will be using the Oriel system to make offers to training posts in all specialties. Oriel can be accessed at <https://new.oriel.nhs.uk/Web>. You can download a copy of the Oriel Applicant Guide from the Oriel [Resource Bank](#).

Selecting Your Preferences

You will be asked to rank your preferences using the Oriel Recruitment System. You will receive an email when Preferencing opens. Please note that this may not take place until after the online interviews have taken place.

Once preferencing is open, it will remain open constantly so that candidates can change their preferences at any point in the process, including during and after the offers process.

For guidance on submitting your preferences please refer to the [Medical Specialty Recruitment Applicant Handbook](#) and the [Oriel Applicant User Guide](#).

Receiving and Responding to Offers

If you are offered a post you will have 48 hours from the time of your offer (excluding weekends but not holidays) to decide whether to accept, reject or hold it. You must respond to the offer through the Oriel system. No other form of response will be accepted.

For guidance on responding to offers, please refer to the [Medical Specialty Recruitment Applicant Handbook](#) and the [Oriel Applicant User Guide](#).

Any offer made through this recruitment process is an offer of an allocation to a training programme; it is not an offer of employment. Offers of employment can only be by an employing organisation following completion of satisfactory pre-employment checks.

Withdrawing from the Recruitment Process

An applicant may withdraw completely from the process up until offers are released and should do so via their Oriel account.

Once an offer has been accepted, applicants wishing to withdraw will need to contact the recruitment office directly.

Applicants are reminded of the GMC's Good Medical Practice guidance which states: "*Patient safety may be affected if there is not enough medical cover. So you must take up any post you have formally accepted, and*

work your contractual notice period before leaving a job, unless the employer has reasonable time to make other arrangements.”

Feedback

Feedback will be provided at three stages of the recruitment process:

Longlisting

If you are not longlisted you will be provided with the reasons for this. If you are longlisted you will receive an email inviting you to book an interview.

Interview Ranking

You will be able to view your total interview score and rank online through their Oriel account once offers are released. Please note that a thorough Quality Assurance and validation process is carried out on all applicants' scores following the interviews. No scores will be released until this process is complete.

Interview Scores

Following the conclusion of the offers process, all applicants will be able to view a breakdown of their interview scores including the scores they achieved in each interview station online through their Oriel account.

Evaluation of the Selection Process

Following the conclusion of the 2021 recruitment process, an evaluation of the recruitment process will be carried out. This will include an analysis of anonymised interview scores, appointment data and feedback from a number of groups involved in the process.

Feedback surveys

Feedback about the recruitment process will be collected from the following groups:

- Applicants
- Interviewers
- Lay Representatives

This feedback will be analysed and will help to inform changes and improvements to the recruitment process for 2022.

Privacy Notice

In order to manage and quality assure your training, Health Education England needs to collect, store and process information about you. This is done in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, and in accordance with the data protection principles set out in the Act. Among other matters, these require that your data must be processed fairly and lawfully.

We will process data about you in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and will do so for three main purposes:

1. Processing your data during the recruitment process.
2. Processing of successful applicants' data by Health Education England's local offices, Deaneries and Royal Colleges.
3. Use of recruitment data for evaluation, research and testing purposes

For more information about how we safeguard and process your data please see our [Privacy Notice](#).

Complaints and Confidential Concerns

Complaints

However hard we try to respond to the wishes and aspirations of the healthcare professionals accessing our recruitment services, we do recognise that, on occasion, our service may fall short of expectations.

The [Complaints Procedure](#) explains how you can make a complaint and how it will be handled.

Confidential Concerns

Where applicants have a concern that falls outside of the national complaints policy e.g. fraudulent submissions by other applicants. Applicants can confidentially email the Central HEE Recruitment Team on mdrs.confidential@hee.nhs.uk. This address can not to be used as a way of raising a complaint and bypassing the process detailed in the complaints policy.

Plan B

In the event of an escalation of the Covid-19 outbreak, the delivery of the recruitment process detailed above (Plan A) may become impossible to implement. We have therefore developed a Plan B that will ensure the appointment of Trainees whilst ensuring we utilise the minimum clinical time possible.

The move to Plan B will require a high-level sign off process before its implementation, involving the Medical and Dental Recruitment and Selection (MDRS) team, the lead dean, the specialty lead recruiter, clinical lead and a representative of the BMA Junior Doctors' Committee.

Where there is agreement to move to Plan B, all affected applicants will receive direct communication regarding the change. All applicants will be assessed using Plan B processes only, even where an interview has taken place and the interview score needs to be disregarded.

The Plan B process for Emergency Medicine will consist of all applicants being appointed using their final validated self-assessment score only, details of the self-assessment process are outlined earlier in the document.

Appendix 1: Probity Panel Procedure

An applicant may be referred to a Probity Panel for a variety of reasons including when the veracity of the information contained an applicant's application form or documentation provided at interview is brought into question.

In the event of such an occurrence the applicant will be asked to explain in writing and provide copies of any supporting documentation upon which they will seek to rely. When a response is received, or in the absence of a response within the deadline, a Probity Panel will be convened. The panel will be made up of at least three people including a Postgraduate Dean or their representative and a medical workforce/HR professional.

The Probity Panel will decide whether or not the applicant should remain in the recruitment process. The panel will also recommend whether any further action should be taken which may include referral to the GMC.

Appendix 2: Useful Links

Online Recruitment Systems

System	Link
Oriel recruitment portal	https://new.oriel.nhs.uk/Web

HEE Local Offices and Deanery Websites

HEE Local Office / Deanery	Link
Health Education England - East Midlands	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/east-midlands
	https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/
Health Education England - East of England	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/east-england
	https://heeoee.hee.nhs.uk/
Health Education England - Kent, Surrey and Sussex	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/kent-surrey-sussex
	https://www.kssdeanery.ac.uk/
Health Education England - North Central and East London	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/north-central-east-london
	http://www.lpmde.ac.uk/
Health Education England - North East	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/north-east
	http://www.northerndeandery.nhs.uk/
Health Education England - North West	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/north-west
	http://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/
Health Education England – North West London	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/north-west-london
	http://www.lpmde.ac.uk/
Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency	http://www.nimmdta.gov.uk/
Scottish Medical Training	http://www.scotmt.scot.nhs.uk/
Health Education England - South London	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/south-london
	http://www.lpmde.ac.uk/
Health Education England - South West	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/south-west
	http://www.severndeandery.nhs.uk/
	http://www.peninsuladeandery.nhs.uk/
Health Education England - Thames Valley	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/thames-valley
	http://www.oxforddeandery.nhs.uk/
Wales Deanery	http://www.walesdeandery.org/
Health Education England - Wessex	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/wessex
	http://www.wessexdeandery.nhs.uk/
Health Education England - West Midlands	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/west-midlands
	http://www.westmidlandsdeandery.nhs.uk/
Health Education England - Yorkshire and the Humber	http://www.hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area/yorkshire-humber
	http://www.yorksandhumberdeandery.nhs.uk/

Other Useful Organisations

Organisation	Link
Royal College of Emergency Medicine	https://www.rcem.ac.uk/
Specialty Training Website	https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/
General Medical Council	http://www.gmc-uk.org/
Health Education England	http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk
NHS Employers	http://www.nhsemployers.org/
Scottish Medical Training	http://www.scotmt.scot.nhs.uk/
UK Visas and Immigration	https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration