

National training survey 2018

Updating programme specific questions

This briefing note sets out the process for reviewing programme specific questions for the 2018 national trainee survey.

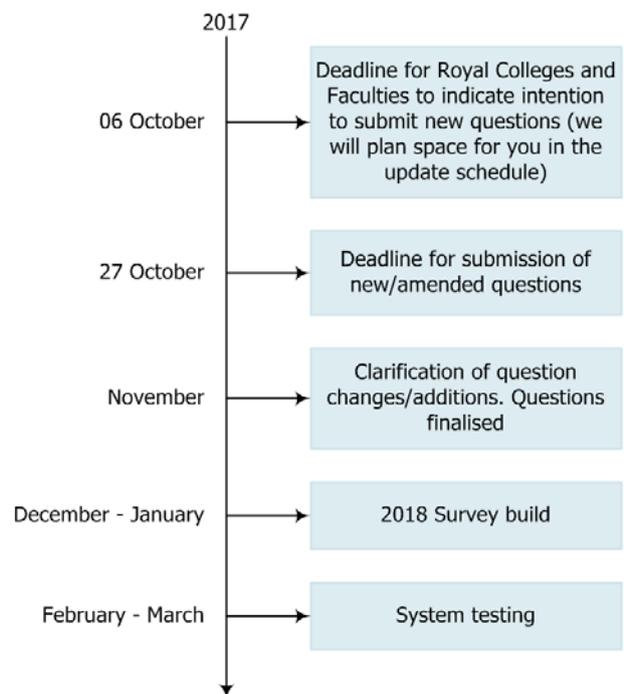
Background

This briefing note is for medical royal colleges, faculties and the UK Foundation Programme Office.

Programme specific questions (PSOs) are included in the trainee survey each year to help colleges understand how their curricula and assessment systems are being delivered and to explore issues specific to their specialty.

The questions can be used to explore short term issues or to track long term patterns and emerging trends. They can also be used as a data source to help improve specialty curricula and programmes of assessment.

We ask that you review the content of your questions each year to ensure they continue to provide useful and relevant results. You are



encouraged to remove any questions which are no longer needed or relevant.

There is no obligation to change your questions if they continue to provide useful year on year data.

Key points

1. The questions should give you feedback on how your curriculum and assessment system is being delivered locally, across the UK. The results should inform your curriculum and assessment review processes.
2. If you are making changes to your curriculum or assessment systems, you may consider adding new questions, either before the change to provide a baseline, or after the change to test the implementation.
3. You should remove questions that are no longer useful.
4. You should avoid asking questions that can be answered via other data sources (for example ARCP or your e-portfolios). This particularly includes quantitative questions such as 'how many X procedures have you done?' We recommend you aim for questions about the quality of trainees' experience.
5. You should underpin each question with a clear rationale and consider how answers will be used.
6. You should avoid covering any of the generic question themes in your questions so that trainees in your programmes don't have to answer similar questions multiple times. You can find the [full generic and demographic question set](#) from 2017 on our website.
7. We cannot support the analysis of free text responses due to the level of resources required to anonymise and analyse them. And, in general, focus groups are more useful in capturing and understanding narrative feedback.
8. We encourage you to test any proposed changes with your trainee network.
9. You can find some general guidance on question setting best practice in annex A, attached to this note.

How to request changes to your PSQs

We have attached your 2017 programme specific questions alongside this briefing note in a word document with track changes enabled.

- If you would like to amend questions please keep track changes on and edit the document where you would like changes to be made.
- If you would like to add new questions please add extra rows at the bottom of the table and type in 'new question' under the question name column, add in your new question, answer scale and trainee grade in the appropriate columns.
- Be sure to give a rationale for each new question by leaving a comment on track changes. This will help us to understand your reasoning when reviewing the questions for the final survey design.
- Question changes must be submitted by 27 October 2017.

If you would like help to design new questions please contact us at NTS@gmc-uk.org

Review process

We will review your change requests and provide feedback for where the following apply:

1. A question is ambiguous.
2. The potential responses don't appear to provide the required information.
3. Where a question is duplicated in the generic or demographic question set.
4. Where the terminology used doesn't match that used throughout the survey.
5. Where the question style greatly differs from that used in the core question set or in the rest of your question set.

Contact information

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