Understanding the progression reports: Specialty destination

The specialty destination report contains a variety of visualisations which show the percentage of doctors in each specialty based on the medical school where a doctor undertook their training.

To create the report, we combined data from the National Training Survey (NTS), the NTS census of trainees, the Medical Register (LRMP) and the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

In this report you can explore destination specialties by the year the primary medical qualification (PMQ) was awarded, the year of Specialist or GP registration, or by year of joining a CT1/ST1 training programme.

This report can be broken down by:

- Medical school or UK country of medical school;
- Specialty group or Royal College of specialty; and,
- Demographics; gender, age group, ethnicity, less than full time at any point in training, deprivation quintile at point of applying for medical school.

Special notes

PMQ year	This report only includes doctors who were awarded their PMQ from 1990 to the year previous to the reporting year. The current year's graduates are not included in this report. This report is based on the most recent NTS census dates and these graduates would have not finished medical school at that point - but may have graduated by the time this report is published.
Registration	This report does not take registration into account and will include doctors that are not registered or have been erased.
Specialist and GP register	The Specialist Register (SR) was introduced in 1997 and the GP Register (GPR) in 2006. In tab 1 (Compare medical schools) and tab 2 (Compare specialities), all specialists and GPs are included. But in all other tabs, only doctors that joined the SR or GPR since 2007 have been included. This is to account for large scale changes to doctor's registration at the point of introduction of the SR and GPR.
Changes to Core Medical Training	Core medical training (CMT) was replaced by Internal medicine - stage one (IMT) from August 2019. You can find more information on this change from the JRCPTB website.

Technical notes

GMC confidentiality rules	To protect the confidentiality of doctors, and where data is report that is not included on the LRMP, any group smaller than three doctors is not reported.
HESA data	The report includes information derived from that collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited ("HESA") and provided to the GMC ("HESA Data"). Source: HESA Student Record 2002/2003 to 2017/2018. Copyright Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited. HESA makes no warranty as to the accuracy of the HESA Data and cannot accept responsibility for any inferences or conclusions derived by third parties from data or other information supplied by it. Medical school details, course type and some demographic information are taken from data provided by HESA.
HESA confidentiality rules	All reported group sizes are rounded to the nearest multiple of 5. For example, a report including information about 28 people will be reported as including 30 people. No group smaller than 23 is reported.
Medical school	The medical school name has been used instead of PMQ awarding body. In some cases, the awarding body is not always the same as the medical school. For example, University of London as a PMQ can refer to one of several London medical schools. The medical school name is provided by HESA and can be used for attendees of UK medical schools from 2002 onwards. For attendees prior to 2002, the PMQ awarding body is used. Medical school can be filtered on most tabs with an option to change how the medical school is filtered; by medical school name, first and last school or UK country.
First and last school	There are some instances where a student's first medical school is not the same as their graduating school. Using first and last institution allows us to report on these cohorts. For example: • Students starting at St Andrews and moving to Manchester for their clinical years • Students starting at Durham and moving to Newcastle for their clinical training • Students from Oxbridge who complete their PMQ at a London Medical School
UK country	This is the UK country of the medical school a doctor attended. For doctors where their first medical school is different to their last, the last medical school is used to determine the UK country. For example: • Students starting at St Andrews and moving to Manchester would be counted under England • Students starting at St Andrews and moving to Glasgow would be counted under Scotland

Doctor type	The doctor type category is based on whether the doctor was a GP, a specialist or a trainee at the point of the last NTS census. Doctors are only counted once in this report, based on their first destination. • GP: A doctor that is on the GP register or a doctor that joined the GP register before joining the specialist register • Specialist: A doctor that is on the specialist register or a doctor that joined the specialist register before joining the GP register • In foundation training: A doctor on a foundation programme • In specialty training: A doctor on a specialty training programme that is not already on the GP or specialist register. Doctor type can be used as a filter in most tabs and in table view, when the column headers are hovered over, it will provide the option to split the doctor types
Course type	The course type category is derived by mapping the HESA values of COURSEID and COURSETITLE to course types described in the Medical School Council's Entry requirements for UK medical schools – please see: https://www.medschools.ac.uk/studying-medicine/course-types This mapping was confirmed by the schools as part of an exercise conducted by the MSC Selection Alliance Data Group.
Royal College of Specialty	The specialties have been grouped based on the Royal College that set the curriculum for the programme. For example: • Renal medicine is under the Royal Colleges of Physicians • Otolaryngology is under the Royal Colleges of Surgeons • Foundation training is under the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
Specialty group	Specialty group is similar to the Royal College of Specialty, but the core training programmes are reported separately. For example: • Renal medicine is under medicine • Otolaryngology is under surgery • Core surgical training is its own group Anaesthetics and intensive care medicine are reported differently for specialists than for trainees. For specialists, anaesthetics and intensive care medicine are reported in one group, but for trainees they are reported separately. This is in line with other GMC reporting by specialty group. The Royal College view allows all anaesthetics specialist and trainees to be counted together.
Compare years	This shows the percentage change in doctors joining the GP or specialist registers each year using 2007 as a baseline. If no doctors joined the SR/GPR in 2007 for the medical school or specialty selected, the first year of entry is used instead. This is to show growth in the GPR/SR to see if medical schools consistently produce similar proportions of a specific specialty group.
Time to specialty	This shows how long graduates take between passing their primary medical qualification (PMQ) and joining the GP or specialist register. This does not show how long it takes to complete training, but how many years the doctor took to join the GPR/SR in the UK. This tab allows comparisons between different medical schools and specialties. The average time (median) for a specific specialty, regardless of medical school, is show in the box next to the filters and the average for the medical school is highlighted on the graph. The view can be changed to show by a selection of demographics. When split by the chosen demographic, the graph will show each group split by the number of

	years to the GPR/SR so the graph may add up to more than one 100% vertically. For example, when split by gender: • The bars will add up to 100% for females and 100% for males horizontally • This is then split by the proportion that took each number of years to gain SR/GPR
Specialty training over time	This shows the proportion of CT1/ST1 trainees in each year by the training programme. Trainees are only counted once using the first CT1/ST1 programme they joined. This is taken from the NTS census and data is only available from 2012. The programme can be shown in different ways • Programme type: General practice is reported separately, other specialties are group by whether they are run through (e.g. Paediatrics) or uncoupled (e.g. Core medical training) • Specialty: this is the specific programme that the doctor joined. It is recommended to filter the report before switching to this view.
Demographics	The demographic tab shows the change over time for selected protected characteristics about doctors joining the SR/GPR or a CT1/ST1 training programme. The two groups are displayed separately as a different time period is used for each group.

For further information and any queries please email the education data and insight team by clicking here.