

Progression reports | Specialty exams | Postgraduate

These reports show percentage pass rates for Royal College specialty exams for various groups of doctors in postgraduate training.

To create the reports, we used data collected from the medical Royal Colleges and Faculties, along with data from the medical register, the National Training Survey (NTS) and Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

In these reports, you can explore specialty exam outcomes by:

- Deanery/HEE local office with breakdown by training programme and PMQ world region
- Deanery/HEE local office over exam years 2013/2014 – 2018/2019
- Deanery/HEE local office and diet with breakdown by training programme and PMQ world region
- Demographics with breakdown by Royal College
 - Gender & age group
 - PMQ world region & ethnicity
 - Full time/less than full time training
 - Deprivation quintile

In the deanery/HEE local office view a national breakdown is provided as comparison. Candidates are split into several groups to show performance whilst in and out of relevant training programmes. The groups are listed and described in the table below:

Name	Description
In selected training programme	When looking at all programmes the filter shows all those candidates in training. When filtering to different training programmes this only shows candidates who were in that programme whilst they sat the exam.
Never in UK training	Candidates that sat the exam/or an exam relevant to the specialty but have never been in UK training.
Exam not required by registered training programme	Candidates that sat the exam/or an exam relevant to the programme but have never been on a relevant training programme.

In relevant training programme after exam	Candidates that sat the exam/or an exam relevant to the programme and moved into a relevant programme after the exam.
In relevant training programme before exam	Candidates that sat the exam/or an exam relevant to programme after having been in a relevant programme.
In relevant training programme before and after exam	Candidates that sat the exam/or an exam relevant to programme in between training in relevant programmes.

Please note that the report includes all doctors in training at the time of the NTS regardless of whether they were in a training post. In reports published before 2018 we excluded doctors who weren't in a training post (for example, due to maternity leave) therefore the figures may have changed.

Technical notes & definitions

GMC confidentiality rules	To protect the confidentiality of doctors, we do not report on any group smaller than three people.
HESA confidentiality rules	<p>Where we have used HESA's data, we have used HESA's confidentiality rules. Here we do not report on any group smaller than 23 people.</p> <p>And 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.</p> <p>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. The Higher Education Statistics Agency Limited 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.</p>

Confidence intervals	All our confidence intervals (CI) are calculated to the 95% confidence level using the recommended method for proportions from Altman, D.G., Machin, D. et al. <i>Statistics with Confidence</i> 2nd edition; BMJ Books. 2000.						
Outliers	Outliers in these reports are where the upper confidence limit of the report group is less than the lower confidence limit of the benchmark group (below outlier: coloured purple), or where the lower confidence limit of the report group is more than the upper confidence limit of the benchmark group (above outlier: coloured dark blue).						
Reporting period/year	These reports include data from 2014 onwards. Each year of this report includes exams taken in a given academic year, running from 1 August to 31 July. The label refers to the 2nd calendar year in that period. For example, '2019' refers to the academic year starting on 1 August 2018 and finishing on 31 July 2019.						
Deanery/LETB/HEE local office	On 1 April 2013, local education and training boards (LETBs) took over the responsibilities of the deaneries for postgraduate training in England, this meant that some deanery boundaries in England were merged or split to create new boundaries. Those organisations are now known as Health Education England's (HEE) local offices. These reports take account of the boundaries appropriate to the time the data was collected, for example the three HEE London offices are reported as London Deanery from 2013 and earlier. Some of these reports still refer to LETBs rather than HEE local offices. Please bear with us while we update our terminology.						
Diet	Diet refers to the period of the year in which an exam is sat. We have assigned the following dates to each time period: Autumn – 1st August to 31st December; Spring – 1st January to 30th April; Summer – 1st May to 31st July. Not every exam has a sitting in each of these diets. <table border="1" data-bbox="429 1697 1358 1778"> <tr> <td>January - April</td> <td>May -July</td> <td>August - December</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spring</td> <td>Summer</td> <td>Autumn</td> </tr> </table>	January - April	May -July	August - December	Spring	Summer	Autumn
January - April	May -July	August - December					
Spring	Summer	Autumn					

Less than full time (LTFT)

The LTFT information is taken from a question in the NTS and looks at candidates who took exams and have been in training. Between 2012 and 2019, the question has been developed and improved. The changes may have had an impact on the number of doctors who were classed as LTFT trainees.

The question and responses are shown below in the table. How the trainee's responses were categorised into LTFT and full time is also represented

Survey Year	LTFT Question	Answers	
		Less than full time	Full time
2012	Are you training less than full time?	Yes	No
2013			
2014	Are you working less than full time?	Yes	No
2015			
2016			
2017	Are you formally working on a Less Than Full Time	Yes	No
2018	(LTFT) basis, which has been approved by your deanery/LETB?	Yes	No I applied to work LTFT, but it was not approved I considered working LTFT, but I did not apply
2019	Are you formally working on a Less Than Full Time (LTFT) basis, which has been approved by your deanery/HEE local team?	Yes	No I applied to work LTFT, but it was not approved I considered working LTFT, but I did not apply

<p>Index of Multiple Deprivation Quintiles (IMD quintiles)</p>	<p>Each small area within a nation (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) is ranked with a lower score indicating greater deprivation. These scores are put into quintiles described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 - Most deprived 2 3 4 5 - Least deprived <p>We link to the IMD quintile for the postcode included in the HESA data. This is the postcode on application to medical school.</p> <p>IMD quintiles have been calculated in different years for the period covered by the HESA data. We hold postcode on application to medical school for all cases from 2002 onwards.</p> <p>We hold IMD reference data for the following countries and years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England: 2004, 2007, 2010 and 2015 • Scotland: 2004, 2006, 2009, 2012 and 2016 • Northern Ireland: 2005, 2010 and 2017 • Wales: 2004, 2011 and 2014 <p>We use the closest preceding year to the doctor's year of entry to medical school.</p>
--	--

If your queries have not yet been resolved please email the education data and insight team by [clicking here](#).