FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
How many Units of Application can I apply to?

2

You will be asked to preference up to 8 Units of Application when applying, however, your application will only be forwarded to the two UoAs that you have preferred highest. Lower preferences will be considered at the time of clearing if you have not been successful in obtaining another post by that time.

If eligible, you can apply for both CT2 and ST3. If you do this, the highest preferred UoAs do not need to match for each of the two levels.

I am planning on applying for ST3 Anaesthesia. What is meant by the 3 categories of candidate?

Candidates are categorised according to their Primary FRCA examination and immigration status as follows:

Category 1 Candidates who have passed the full Primary FRCA examination or its equivalent.

Category 2 Candidates who have passed the MCQ part of the Primary FRCA examination or its equivalent and are sitting the SOE/OSCE part of examination in May 2010.

Category 3 Non UK/EEA candidates.

International applicants who have completed a UK undergraduate training programme, UK foundation training programme or are on a current recognised postgraduate training programme will fall under either category 1 or 2, dependent on whether they passed the FRCA Primary or have the FRCA Primary MCQ and intend to sit the FRCA Primary OSCE/SOE in May 10. This also includes doctors without any prohibition about ‘no employment as a doctor in training’ on endorsements.

I am in a CT2 post already hoping to get an ST3 post can I reapply for CT2 as well?

Yes.

I am a current CT2 and would be interested in remaining as a CT2 if I fail to pass the Primary FRCA in May. Do I need to apply for CT2 posts or will my current post be extended automatically?

Some deaneries will offer CT2 extensions to trainees who have failed to pass the Primary FRCA exam by the end of their CT2 year, but this is not a universal arrangement. It is essential that applicants in this position contact your current deanery before the application window closes to confirm whether or not you will be offered an extension. If your deanery does not offer extensions, you will be required to apply for CT2 posts in open competition.
I am in a CT2 post and have passed the Primary FRCA but have failed to be appointed to a ST3 post. Can I still apply and be appointed to a CT2 post even though I will have now completed that year of training?

To be considered for a CT2 post, you must ensure that you apply in February, at the same time as submitting your application for ST3. You cannot be considered, at a later date, for a post that you have not applied for.

I have only passed the MCQ part of the Primary FRCA examination. Am I eligible to apply for ST3?

Yes. However, you must be able to evidence that you have applied to sit the SOE/OSCE part of the examination in May 2010.

Applying without the full Primary FRCA examination would mean that you would be classed as a Category 2 candidate. This means that if you were deemed appointable at interview that you would only be offered a post provisionally, subject to a successful attempt at the May exam.

I do not have the full Primary FRCA examination and am concerned that I will not pass at the next attempt. Am I able to apply for both CT2 and ST3?

It is expected that candidates who have yet to pass the full Primary FRCA examination will apply for both CT2 and ST3. If you apply for both and are subsequently deemed appointable at each of the levels you will receive an offer for CT2 in April and will be informed that you have a provisional offer for ST3, subject to success in the May Primary FRCA examination.

If you then pass the Primary examination in May, you will receive a firm offer for ST3 and will be able to accept this and withdraw from the previously accepted CT2 post.

Where and how can I apply for CT2 and ST3 Anaesthesia training posts?

Anaesthesia CT2 and ST3 recruitment will be a nationally co-ordinated process for England and Wales in 2010.

Applications will be accepted from Monday 15 February 2010 until Friday 12 March 2010. Advertisements and information regarding the recruitment process will be posted on the Royal College of Anaesthetists, West Midlands Workforce Deanery and NHS Jobs websites. An advertisement will also appear in the BMJ.

You will be able to apply for posts electronically using the I:CAMS recruitment system.

I need to declare a Fitness to Practice proceeding on my application. How will this be handled as part of the national process?

You will be required to forward details of your declaration to the co-ordinating deanery. This information will be forwarded to the UoAs that you have preferenced first and second in order that they can follow their normal local processes for dealing with such issues.

When will the interviews take place?

Last updated 18/01/2010
All interviews will take place between 6 and 23 April.

What happens if I am offered two interviews on the same day?

Wherever possible we have tried to ensure that multiple UoAs are not interviewing on the same day, however, with a short interview window, this will not always be possible.

If you have conflicting interviews, it is your responsibility to speak to the two deaneries involved as early as possible. They will have been advised that they must facilitate interview swaps where conflicts occur.

Will the interview format be set across all Unit of Application?

No. For 2010 recruitment the interview format will not be dictated to the Units of Application by the Royal College of Anaesthetists. This means that each UoA will continue to use their own locally preferred interview methods. Interview format in one UoA may therefore differ considerably from that in another region. Advice on the format of specific interviews should be requested from the relevant UoA.

The application form asks me to preference a Unit of Application. How am I able to preference a particular School of Anaesthesia within that UoA?

Units of Application have been asked to follow local processes to determine preferences of candidates to programmes within their geographical area, however, it is anticipated that this information will be collected from candidates at interview, with the exception of London, where it will be collected at the time of application.

When will offers be made?

The offers process will commence on Monday 26 April 2010 with offers to successful CT2 and Category 1 ST3 candidates. At the same time, appointable Category 2 ST3 candidates will be made aware that they have a provisional offer, subject to success at the Primary FRCA examination in May.

If I rank highly in both my first and second choice Units of Application, will I receive two offers?

No. You will only receive a maximum of one offer for each level that you apply for. The offer that you receive will be the highest preferred UoA that you have ranked highly enough to be offered a post in.

If I do not rank highly enough in either of my first two preferenced Units of Application to be offered a post, what will happen to me?

Your progress to clearing will be dependent on you reaching the threshold for appointment in at least one of your interviews. Your preferences from your original application will be looked at and if any of the Units of Application that you ranked 3 to 8 have vacancies remaining, your details will be forwarded to them with your permission, together with your cumulative shortlisting score derived from your first two choice UoAs.
As the interview format will not be mandated for 2010, interview scores cannot be transferred between UoAs. Therefore you should expect to be interviewed again by any UoA that has vacancies remaining.

**If I reach the appointable threshold in both my first and second choice but only rank highly enough to be offered a post in my second choice in the April offers cycle, what happens?**

If you reach the appointable threshold in both of your top 2 preferences, you will be given the opportunity to hold the offer until 28 May 2010, at which time Category 2 candidates will have received their exam results and places in your first choice may become available. If you choose to hold the offer and a place becomes available in your first choice, you would be expected to accept your first choice.

If however, you are happy to accept your second choice, you can do this in April and decline the opportunity to hold.

**What happens if I do not reach the appointable threshold in either of my interviews?**

You will not be offered a post and you will not be eligible to enter the clearing process

**I am a non UK/EEA candidate. What will be the process for me?**

Your application form will be forwarded to Units of Application for shortlisting at the same time as all of the UK/EEA candidates. If you score highly enough at the shortlisting stage, you will be called for interview alongside the UK/EEA candidates.

Following interview, the interview panel will make a decision as to whether or not you are appointable. If you are deemed appointable, this information will be fed back into the co-ordinating deanery. However, as the resident labour market test has to be satisfied, you would not receive an offer until the pool of UK/EEA candidates has been exhausted.

If vacancies still exist at this time, non UK/EEA appointable candidates will be offered the posts. This process will be two fold. Firstly we will look to see if there are any vacancies remaining in the UoAs that you preferred first or second. If there are, these will be offered in rank order.

If vacancies exist in UoAs that the appointable non UK/EEA candidates did not preference first or second, preferences will be looked at and names and shortlist scores will be forwarded on to the UoAs. As interview format differs between UoAs, you should be expected to undergo another interview in the clearing process

**Who is responsible for requesting references?**

Shortlisted candidates will be asked to download the structured reference form from the I:CAMS website and forward it on to their referees with a request that the completed form is returned directly to the co-ordinating deanery by post or email from the referee’s NHS email account (or work email if outside of the NHS).

Following the offer process, the co-ordinating deanery will ensure that references are forwarded on to the appropriate Unit of Application. This will ensure that referees are not supplying multiple copies of the same reference form unnecessarily

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How do I obtain feedback?

Feedback requests should be directed to the co-ordinating deanery in the first instance. The co-ordinating deanery will then forward these on to the appropriate Units of Application for response.

How competitive will the recruitment process be?

It is anticipated that at both CT2 and ST3 there will be significantly more applicants than posts available. You are therefore advised to consider the competition ratios in each of the Units of Application before deciding on your final preferences.

It is also important that you consider your answers before submitting your application form and ensure that you have answered the question fully and given sufficient detail. You should therefore start your application form in plenty of time and well ahead of the closing date. Do not leave it to the last minute.