Study Leave for FY2 Foundation Trainees
Foundation School
Health Education England, Working Across Wessex

Changes to Study Leave (SL) in England came into force in April 2018 as a response to concerns expressed by Doctors about the high financial costs of some of their training, and the inequities of the old system. The allocated individual study-leave budget system was replaced with one that funded the following:

- all elements of curriculum delivery for trainees on approved training programmes in secondary care (Advance Life Support is the best example of this sort of leave in the Foundation Programme, and is now fully funded)
- discretionary courses that add value to the individual and support the wider system. (We have opted in Wessex to support courses on generic subjects that offer benefit to the NHS, such as Quality Improvement, Medical Education or Wellbeing)

Study Leave for FY2 Trainees

There will still be two types of Study Leave

- Essential (to meet Curricular Requirements: for Foundation Trainees, this is limited to Advanced Life Support)
- Discretionary (to add value to the individual and the wider system). ‘Career Development’ will now be included in this category.

In addition to Curricular leave (for ALS) Trainees will be granted approval for a maximum of:

**One ‘Wider system’ course plus One ‘Career Development’ course (OR conference)** in their FY2 year.

**Essential Study Leave**

Curricular Requirements

*Examples:*

- Advanced Life Support

**Discretionary Study Leave**

Two types of Discretionary SL have been identified, those that benefit the Wider System and those that aid Career Development (including presenting at a UK Conference, poster or platform).

For ALL discretionary FY2 study leave, trainees MUST be progressing well, on track for a positive ARCP outcome: Study for Exams or Training Programme Applications should not be allowed to distract from or impede the acquisition of core Foundation Competences.

‘Wider System’ courses

*Examples:*

- QI
- Medical Education
- Leadership / Management
- Resilience / Wellbeing / Psychological First Aid

‘Career Development’ Courses:

Study Leave to prepare for future training posts (including applications), typically the sort of courses taken in early specialty / run-through training.

Examples:

- Part One Membership Revision courses (must do local course if available)
- Basic Surgical Skills Course
- Radiology Course
- APLS
- ATLS

Conferences

Presenting at a National or International Conference within the UK is included in this category of ‘Career Development’ SL. Educational Supervisor must agree it would be advantageous for trainee and usual Trust rules about reasonable costs will apply: low-cost accommodation (only if required in terms of distance), cheapest travel options, presentation of receipts etc.

Presenting at conferences held outside of the UK typically adds very little extra benefit but may be supported on a very exceptional basis, at the discretion of the Foundation Programme Director as well as Educational Supervisor. Conference Registration fees will be paid, but travel and accommodation costs will not.

Postgraduate Certificates

Certificated courses of Postgraduate Study (PG Cert, Dip or Masters) will not be supported, as the time commitments involved are not compatible with full engagement in Foundation Programme Training.