

1. Given the spread of Covid-19, will specialty recruitment interviews be cancelled?

Health Education England, Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency, NHS Education for Scotland and Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) are monitoring the situation closely and will communicate any changes to the recruitment timetable and process with updates on the [Specialty Training Website](#) and [Oriel](#).

2. I am based outside of the UK and have received an invite to interview, however there are travel restrictions in place for the country where I live and I am unable to attend in person. What should I do?

In the event that there are travel restrictions in place due to Covid-19 which prevent you travelling to interview, please contact the Lead Recruiter for your specialty at the earliest opportunity.

A list of Lead Recruiters for each specialty can be found in the 2020 Applicant Handbook in the Resource Bank on [Oriel](#).

3. I have experienced symptoms of Covid-19 and am self-isolating as per guidance from Public Health England, which will take me past the date of interview. What should I do?

If you are experiencing symptoms and self-isolating which will take you past the scheduled interview date, you should contact the Lead Recruiter for your specialty at the earliest opportunity.

A list of Lead Recruiters for each specialty can be found in the 2020 Applicant Handbook in the Resource Bank on [Oriel](#).

4. My Trust have informed me that I cannot be released to attend interview as I am needed to deliver service. What should I do?

If your Trust have placed restrictions on leave in response to Covid-19 and you are unable to attend interview, you should contact the Lead Recruiter for your specialty at the earliest opportunity.

A list of Lead Recruiters for each specialty can be found in the 2020 Applicant Handbook in the Resource Bank on [Oriel](#).

5. If my interview arrangements have changed (eg they have been postponed or an online interview has been arranged) and I have already booked travel and accommodation, will I be reimbursed?

If you have already made travel arrangements following acceptance of an invite to interview, you should endeavour to obtain a refund. If no refund is provided, you can claim your expenses in line with the Candidate Expenses Policy, which can be found in the [Resource Bank](#) on the Specialty Training Website. Please note that caps will still apply and you may be asked to provide evidence that the expense was non-refundable.

6. What is the impact of Coronavirus On Study Leave for Doctors on Training

Trainees should endeavour to obtain a refund for any authorised pre-booked study leave expense. If no refund is provided, HEE will cover the cost to ensure no trainee is out of pocket. Trainees may be asked when they submit their claim to provide evidence that the expense was non-refundable. We also recognise there will be some additional training needed to ensure all doctors are appropriately trained to manage the current pressures.

All requests for study leave time not taken during the outbreak will be properly considered by the employer and will be subject to the need to maintain NHS services

We are asking all parties to be flexible both during and after this difficult time.