

Health Education England Clinical Endoscopist Accelerated Training Programme

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Applicant FAQs:

(a) Who can apply?

The programme is for post registration professionals who are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or Health Care Professional Council (HCPC). It is not available as a training programme for students' pre-registration, medical practitioners, overseas applications and those without a substantive NHS contract.

(b) I have already successfully undertaken one HEE Programme. Am I eligible to begin another?

Yes, the programme now accepts previous students to undertake any of the programmes available which are relevant to them.

(c) Can trainees from Wales and Northern Ireland or Scotland apply?

This programme is only open to students working in England.

(d) I have already started my endoscopy training in house. Am I eligible?

For upper gastrointestinal (GI) and introduction to lower GI endoscopy programmes, you are eligible if you have not recorded more than 100 procedures. For progression to colonoscopy, you are eligible if you are:

- Training in house in colonoscopy and have not yet achieved Joint Advisory Group (JAG) provisional certification in colonoscopy
- Have certification in flexible sigmoidoscopy, and are training in house for colonoscopy

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- (e) I am a bowel cancer screener, who only undertakes flexible sigmoidoscopy. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are eligible to undertake the progression to colonoscopy or upper GI programme.

- (f) I am a JAG certified colonoscopist who wishes to become a bowel cancer colonoscopist. Am I eligible?**

No, as you already have full certification. The programme is not to develop bowel cancer colonoscopist.

- (g) I have applied before, but I was not successful / withdrew my application. Can I reapply?**

You may reapply at any time, but you must complete a new Expression of Interest or application form. This should outline any new changes which now make an application suitable.

- (h) I would like to express my interest by sending my completed application form, but I am awaiting my manager's signature although they are fully aware of my intention and commitment to apply for this training. Can I still submit my application without my line manager's signature.**

Yes, please submit an expression of interest via JISC Online Surveys [Expression of Interest form](#). Please tell us your line manager's name and their email addresses. Please resubmit your application once you have obtained all the required signatures.

- (i) Is there an application deadline?**

Applications are on an open rolling programme with the plan to recruit for the next or advance chosen cohort. To find out cohort dates, please see cohort dates on the main page.

- (j) What if I am not available on the interview dates?**

Interviews are currently being held virtually online. Please email diagnosticsprogramme@hee.nhs.uk to arrange a bespoke time and date

Manager FAQs:

(k) Are there a maximum number of candidates per organisation?

While no limit will be set, organisations must be able to fully support all students, including guaranteeing access to two dedicated training lists per week. The requirements of other trainee endoscopists should also be considered, e.g., medical endoscopists.

(l) Would it be acceptable for the candidate to have two trainers, one already accredited as a trainer who will be the main trainer and one experienced endoscopist waiting to attend a Train The Trainers (TTT) course?

As part of clinical governance, HEE require each trainee to have a nominated consultant grade doctor as the trainee's clinical supervisor. A minimum of 50% of the clinician training also must be supervised by this clinical lead but the other 50% can be done with a TTT trainer.

(m) Currently we are recruiting for a new trainee endoscopist. How can we plan a cohort place for them?

The manager or proposed clinical supervisor should complete an expression of interest form, giving a general timeline of interview and proposed start dates. HEE will then support proceeding with an application and service planning to interview the candidate at the most appropriate time. Please note, we can interview the candidate and give a provisional place if a job offer has been given to the individual.

(n) What expectations are there on the employing trust?

The employing trust will need to support the prospective trainee's application to join the CE programme. The student will be expected to have practical support from both their manager and clinical endoscopy lead for the duration of the training programme. The employing trust will be expected to enable trainees to undertake at least two clinical lists each week to meet the required number (200 /300 clinical procedures in 30/40 weeks) and support them in other training opportunities, including on-line training, study days, basic skills training and competence development as set out in the HEE CE competence portfolio.

(o) What extra support will be put in place where necessary for trainees (e.g., for someone with dyslexia or other needs)?

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We expect any needs of individual students to be raised as part of the selection process and disclosed to the Higher Education Institution (HEI) so that any necessary adjustments can be discussed.

(p) What grade would the trainee be expected to perform once the candidate has completed the HEE clinical endoscopist training programme?

This is a trust / local decision as there is no national banding for this role. Advice on how the role meets the National Occupational Standards can be found through Skills for Health at https://tools.skillsforhealth.org.uk/roles_directory/

(q) Is there a commitment on the host organisation to guarantee an endoscopist role at the end of the programme?

This will be a local / trust level decision but HEE's strong expectation is that trainees will work in a role for which the Non-Medical Endoscopist Training Programme (NME) programme has prepared them.

(r) Will salary support be provided to clinical areas from which successful applicants are chosen for the duration of training?

There is a training grant of up to £15,000 available for organisations to facilitate this training, as well as a student grant for travel, accommodation, learning resources. The student's organisation is expected to provide a salary for them during the training programme.

(s) Will the trainees be contracted to the trust or to HEE?

The individual remains fully contracted with the employing organisation.

Trainee FAQs:

(t) Seven months seems a very short time to train an endoscopist. Why?

The HEE CE training programme is designed as an intensive, accelerated course. The programme was piloted in 2016 prior to being rolled out as a seven-month programme in 2017. The application and selection process are rigorous to ensure that applicants are suited to the programme's challenging learning and professional requirements. The programme has been developed with JAG and academic institutions and is being independently evaluated.

(u) Can trainees change between academic levels once started?

No, once you have started the programme you cannot change the level.

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(v) Do I need to attend all the study sessions again or just the ones relevant to my chosen modality?

Yes, experienced endoscopist will need to attend each learning session but we want to make the sessions as bespoke as possible for those of you doing the second modality. The programme may have changed since you last undertook it. As adult learners we therefore would expect you to dip in and out of the sessions as you see fit based on your own learning needs and knowledge gaps. Lots of it will be useful revision even if you have sat through it before. We also truly value your input into the delivery of the sessions as a previous trainee and a now certified CE. The richness that classroom mix provides for newer trainees is difficult to source elsewhere and is of immense value.

(w) What is the SLATE lesion recognition course?

Standard Lesion Assessment Test in Endoscopy (SLATE) is an e-learning resource designed to develop skills in lesion recognition, assessment, and reporting. There are separate courses for UGI and LGI diagnostic endoscopy. Each comprise of 6 levels starting from basic concepts and principles and building to more complex or rarer scenarios. They are formative in design but based around assessment tests. These materials are being developed in conjunction with JAG and currently are undergoing evaluation with multi-professional user groups.

(x) What JAG resources will be used during the programme?

All students will be booked on a JAG approved basic skills course (either colonoscopy or Upper GI Diagnostic Gastroscopy (OGD)). Also, students are required to record endoscopic procedures through the JAG Endoscopy Training System at www.jets.nhs.uk. [Access the JETS User Guide for Trainees here.](#)

(y) What about JAG certification payment?

HEE will be paying for trainee clinical endoscopist JAG Endoscopy Training System (JETs) certification fee.

HEE Contact Details

Please email the HEE Clinical Endoscopist Programme Team at diagnosticsprogramme@hee.nhs.uk