

Accelerated Training



BACKGROUND

Ophthalmology trainees enter a 7-year run-through training programme via national recruitment. This has recruited mainly to ST1, with some entering at ST3, for the last few years.

The GMC's view has been that training programmes should be undertaken for the indicative time period (i.e. 7 years) but that in exceptional cases trainees may complete their training in a shorter period of time. There is an increasing view that assessment should be about the trainees' competencies and Generic Professional Capabilities rather than *time* spent in the training programme. Most trainees will need to undertake the full time in training to acquire the necessary skills to become an independent practitioner and consultant. However exceptional trainees may have acquired the necessary skills earlier. A trainee in this position may be able to apply for acceleration of training and an earlier CCT date.

Any decision to recommend an accelerated CCT date must be based on **sound educational principles** and not for the sole purpose of applying for a forthcoming consultant vacancy or Fellowship post. This advice will apply to both those in full time and less than full time training.

PROCESS FOR APPLYING FOR ACCELERATED TRAINING

It is anticipated that a trainee applying for acceleration will have been identified by their Educational Supervisor and/or the Training Programme Director/Head of School in advance of it being discussed at an ARCP panel at the end of ST5.

In advance of the ARCP Panel, the RCOphth accelerated training application form should be completed and the trainee asked to attend the panel meeting. Following a positive ARCP Panel decision the form needs to be submitted to the College for ratification. The Education and Training department will confirm whether or not the College can support the proposed change.

Applications for a **12-month acceleration** must be made **at least 12 months in advance** of the proposed accelerated CCT date. No exceptions will be made.

Applications for a **6-month acceleration** must be made **at least 6 months in advance** of the proposed accelerated CCT date. No exceptions will be made.

Applications for accelerated training cannot be made retrospectively.

In order for an early CCT to be recommended, the following conditions would need to be met:

- The trainee has had favourable ARCP outcomes through their ophthalmology training and there have been no irregularities in their training to date.

- The trainee's Clinical and Educational supervisors must agree that the trainee's progress had been exceptional and that early CCT is in the trainee's best interests. This recommendation must be supported by the Head of School or TPD (where there is no School of Ophthalmology).
- The CCT date can only be accelerated by a maximum of 12 months and there can be no further additional or subsequent acceleration.
- The ARCP panel must agree that the trainee is performing exceptionally, is ahead of the expected competency progression, and that there are no patient safety contraindications to early exit from the training programme.
- The final CCT date must be agreed and documented at the ARCP, and the College's accelerated training form completed and sent to the College for ratification.
- It is essential that the trainee not only completes each of the required WpBAs for the 7 years/stages of training (including the full 7 years total of CbDs) but also meets all other curricular requirements and demonstrates a degree of maturity and professionalism normally only achieved by serving the full 7 years in training.
- Specifically, there should be clearly demonstrable acquisition of Generic Professional Capabilities throughout training and these should be evidenced within the e-Portfolio on the Generic Capabilities Grid, which confirms that the whole curriculum has been completed.
- Subsequent Educational and Clinical Supervisors must be made aware that the trainee is in their final year of training and should be assessed as such.
- At the final ARCP where the outcome 6 is awarded:
 - The CCT date on the ARCP form must be correct;
 - The previous completion date must be recorded in the 'detailed reasons for recommended outcome' with text to confirm that, on review of progression; an earlier completion date is supported.
- Once the final CCT date has been recommended, no further alterations would be acceptable. In the unlikely event that the panel at the final ARCP felt that additional training was required then it would need to issue an ARCP outcome 3 detailing the need for a further period of training and a further ARCP review.

Fiona Spencer
Chair, Training Committee

(Revised March 2019)