

## Postgraduate Medical Training

# LEVEL 4 SPECIAL INTEREST AREAS

## Guidance for Training Programme Directors

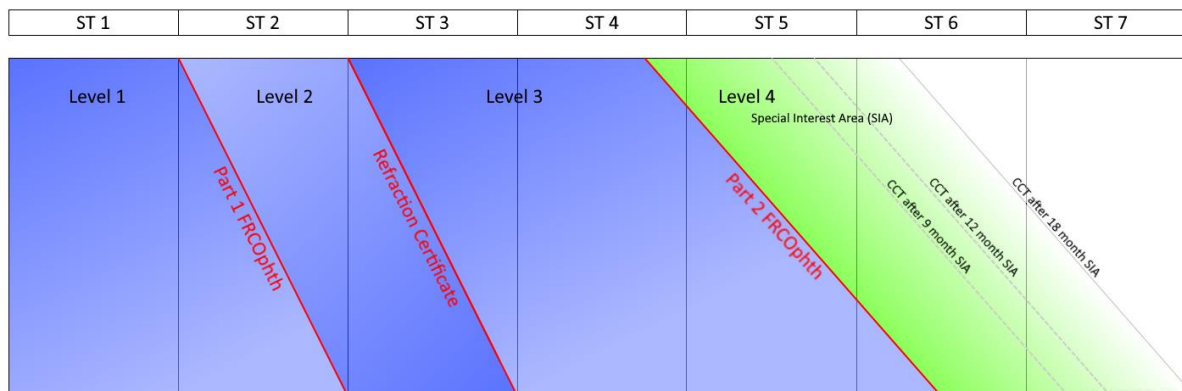
November 2022

### Introduction

1. This document aims to provide guidance on the implementation of Level 4 ophthalmology training in the new curriculum (to be introduced from 2024).
2. It is intended as a guide for College Tutors, Educational Leads, College Tutors, Training Programme Directors and Heads of Schools.
3. It has been developed with input from the RCOphth Training Committee Level 4 Task & Finish Group and the Curriculum Sub-committee.

### How the New Curriculum will look

1. Ophthalmologists in training will be expected to achieve Level 1 by the end of OST2, Level 2 by the end of OST3 and Level 3 by mid-way of OST6 in all domains, including all twelve SIAs in the Patient Management domain as set out in the diagram below. The last 12 to 18 months of training will be dedicated to Level 4 in 2 Special Interest Areas (SIAs).



Progression through the Levels of Competency within the training pathway can occur at varying times, as indicated. Examinations can be taken at any point prior to, or within, training as agreed with the Examinations department, but are required by the boundaries shown above.

Transition from one level to the next will be possible after satisfactorily completing the training requirements, which will include the examination as indicated above. For example, progression from Level 1 to Level 2 can occur at any point within ST2, on completion of Level 1 competencies, and attainment of the Part 1 FRCOphth examination.

2. The Patient Management domain is divided into the twelve Special Interest Areas (SIA) listed below.
  - Oculoplastics and Orbit
  - Cornea and Ocular Surface Disease
  - Cataract Surgery
  - Glaucoma
  - Uveitis
  - Medical Retina
  - Vitreoretinal Surgery
  - Ocular Motility
  - Neuro-ophthalmology
  - Paediatric Ophthalmology
  - Urgent Eye Care
  - Community Ophthalmology
3. All 12 SIA must be completed to Level 3 before a trainee can commence Level 4 training.

### ***Standards***

1. All trainees must complete level 4 training in at least 2 SIAs.
2. At the end of level 4 training, both the trainer and trainee must be satisfied that the level achieved is that of an independent consultant in this SIA. This will be achieved using the new assessment tools including EPA. If this level is not achieved further training ( via extension of training) would be required before application for CCT.
3. All Level 4 timetables must afford the trainee the opportunity to complete training in this SIA to the level of an independent consultant. The learning outcomes required are listed in the curriculum (). If there are areas that one trust/board within a region cannot provide, local arrangements will need to be made to afford the trainee the opportunity to complete training.
4. Not all units will be able to provide training in all SIAs. It is important for all TPDs to know what units can deliver Level 4 training in which SIA and which combinations can be facilitated.
5. Any Level 4 timetable will need to include theatre sessions, specialist clinics and RSTAC (Research, Study, Teaching, Audit and Curriculum requirements) sessions. At level 4 the trainees will be expected to teach junior colleagues in clinics and theatres and be involved in the development and management of the service.

### ***Development of timetables***

1. Regions will need to identify which SIAs they can deliver level 4 training in and communicate this to enable trainees to decide what SIA they can do in each region.

2. Trainees will need to identify as early as possible in Level 3 training which 2 SIAs they intend to complete in the last 18 months of training. Many will have already have achieved level 4 in cataract surgery by ST6 enabling them to concentrate on 1 SIA for the last 12-18 months.
3. Suitable timetables will need to be generated to afford the trainee the opportunity to train to completion of 2 SIA Level 4 in the last 12 to 18 months of training.
4. Two RSTAC ( Research, study, teaching, audit and curriculum requirements) sessions are required weekly in addition to the postgraduate teaching requirement.
5. Out of hours/ acute services should be appropriate for Level 4 training and locally determined.
6. Nationally there will be a decision about how trainees access SIA Level 4 training when there are several trainees wishing to do the same SIA or Level 4 training in their chosen SIA is not available in the region.
7. There are multiple combinations possible for 2 SIA and each trainee will need to work with their college tutor and TPD to determine an appropriate timetable. An example timetable for VR and cataract is below.

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>AM</b>	VR emergency clinic	RSTAC	VR theatre	VR clinic	Teaching
<b>PM</b>	Cataract list	VR clinic	VR theatre	RSTAC	Complex pre/post op clinic including cataract

### **Resources**

1. All documentation relating to the new Curriculum is on the [Curriculum2024 webpage](#).
2. All the syllabi can be found here <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/training/ophthalmic-specialist-training/ost-curriculum/curriculum-2024/syllabi-patient-management-and-other-domains/>.
3. All Level 1 outcomes are in this document <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Level-1-LOs-and-descriptors-all-domains.pdf>
4. All Level 2 outcomes are in this document <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Level-2-LOs-and-descriptors-all-domains.pdf>
5. There is a separate document for each Level 3 and Level 4 SIA.

### Level 3 SIA

- [Oculoplastics and Orbit](#)
- [Cornea and Ocular Surface Disease](#)
- [Cataract Surgery](#)
- [Glaucoma](#)
- [Uveitis](#)
- [Medical Retina](#)
- [Vitreoretinal Surgery](#)
- [Ocular Motility](#)
- [Neuro-ophthalmology](#)
- [Paediatric Ophthalmology](#)
- [Urgent Eye Care](#)
- [Community Ophthalmology](#)

### Level 4 SIA

- [Oculoplastics and Orbit](#)
- [Cornea and Ocular Surface Disease](#)
- [Cataract Surgery](#)
- [Glaucoma](#)
- [Uveitis](#)
- [Medical Retina](#)
- [Vitreoretinal Surgery](#)
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