



The UK Public Health Training Scheme

October 2024

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Also in attendance today we have some **Public Health Registrars** who have kindly given up their lunchtime to be available on this session, to answer questions in the chat as the session goes along and, to be available to live Q&A at the end of the session:

- **Charlie Markham**
- **Cassie Moore**

- Please keep mics on mute;
- Feel free to use the chat box
- Trouble with sound? Trying leaving and coming back, try a different browser;
- The session will be recorded and put on Moodle under 'Exploring Career Options (recordings)'.

This workshop – objectives

- Introduction to UK Public Health specialty training;
- Application process;
- Insight from a current participant.

Not an overview of all aspects of Public Health in the UK.

Resources for that in 'Exploring Career options (recordings)':

- Careers in Public Health in the UK;
- Career options using your master's;
- Careers using your research skills.

Who is in the room?

Clinicians/non-clinicians?

Experienced/less experienced?

UK/International?

Current level of knowledge of Public Health training scheme?

Use the chat box:



The UK Public Health landscape

- National picture – central Government, [UK Health Security Agency](#) and [Office for Health Improvement and Disparities](#)), NICE.
- Implementation – local authorities (also charities/NGOs).
- Other major players – Think Tanks, consultancies, pharma;
- Research – universities, pharma, research aspects in other organisations/roles.
- Public Health training scheme/registrar training, leading to Public Health Consultant role (usually via local authority).

What is the scheme?

- One of the medical specialties, but open to non-medics;
- Varied training over 4-5 years (4 years if already hold Public Health masters);
- Mandatory placements: 12 months Local Authority; 4 months in Health Protection;
- Optional placements;
- Options for 'Out of Programme' experience (or research e.g. PhD);
- Two exams – written and practical/scenario based;
- Potential route to higher level jobs.

- Body responsible for the training is [Faculty of Public Health Specialty Training](#)
- 60-90 places per year.
- Do you have to be from the UK? No but...
"Applicants must be eligible to work in the UK" ([Public Health ST1, Essential Entry Criteria](#))

Competition

One of the most competitive specialties for medics. Competition varies by location but overall, 8 (98:786 competition ratio*). [Data on last year here](#)

- London and Southeast 18 (15:266), previously 14 (17:234)
- Scotland 6 (11:62), previously 11 (5:53)
- Wales 9 (3:26), previously 13 (2:26)

So it varies, but London/South East is particularly competitive.

*Ratio (posts available: eligible 1st choice apps)

I'm not a doctor....

- Experience required, including public health experience
- No precise description of what that is
- Up to you to evidence & demonstrate
- "At least 48 months' whole-time equivalent (wte) work experience by application closing date, of which at least 24 months (wte) must be in an area relevant to population health practice" ([Public Health ST1](#))



Application process

- Application and assessment of eligibility – first stage;
- After that, all 'blind' selection (no difference for medics/non-medics).
- Assessment centre – verbal/numerical reasoning, situational judgement;
- Selection centre – group task, individual interview, written assessment.
- All candidates ranked, candidates then also rank areas (in UK) in order of preference.
- Training organized regionally, once on scheme, stay in that region.

Recruitment Timelines

- Applications open 10:00am 24 October 2024
- Applications close 4:00pm 21 November 2024
- Assessment centre 7 & 8 January 2025
- Selection centre 4-7 March 2025
- Initial offers by 5:00pm 25 March 2025
- For all enquiries about the recruitment and selection process please contact England.publichealthrecruitment.em@nhs.net
- See <https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/public-health/recruitment-information/recruitment-timelines>

- [NHS Medical Speciality Training](#)
- [2024 Person Specifications](#)
- [2024 Essential Guidance FAQs](#)
- [Recruitment Information](#)
- [FPH recruitment information](#)
- For all enquiries about the recruitment and selection process please contact publichealthrecruitment.em@hee.nhs.uk
- Booklet produced by FPH [‘Specialise in the bigger picture’](#)

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Visit Moodle...

Lunchtime sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays: 1-1.30 pm (UK time)

- Planning your next steps: How to get started
- Careers with UN organisations
- Finding and Funding a PhD
- PhD Applications

Save the date – 25 November - Careers in Public and Global Health - panel discussion

Feedback form

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oaKtcild7U6xIPh0V3cUnib6FT5JU2IKm1h1jmhk5TFUQ1NBQ1gyMkZNTedINjBKM0tjQjQ3MINTSy4u>