

**Wessex**  
**Postgraduate Medical &**  
**Dental Education**

T. 01962 690345

E. [england.foundation.wx@nhs.net](mailto:england.foundation.wx@nhs.net)

27 February 2025

Dear applicant,

### **Congratulations on your allocation to Wessex Foundation School!**

We hope that you will enjoy your foundation training years in Wessex and will use your time here to develop your skills as a doctor.

Now that you have received your notification of your allocation to Wessex Foundation School you are required to rank **all** programmes in Wessex in order of preference on the Oriel system. This will happen in 2 phases.

**Phase 1 - Group preferencing:** In Phase 1 applicants are required to rank which Group they would prefer to be allocated to. In Wessex there are 2 Groups, one for Specialised Foundation Programmes (SFP) and one for Standard Foundation Programmes (FP). This takes place between **27<sup>th</sup> February 2025 - 13 March 2025**. For more information on SFP please refer the [UKFPO website](#)

The national date for all applicants to be notified of their match to Group is **20<sup>th</sup> March 2025**.

**Phase 2 – Programme Preferencing:** In Phase 2 applicants are required to rank all programmes on Oriel in the Group that they have been allocated to. This takes place between **20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (12:00 noon)**. The deadline for ranking and submitting programmes in order of preference is **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 (12:00 noon)**.

The national date for all applicants to be notified of their match to programme is **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

***Please note: it is not possible to extend the deadlines for any individual because this is a national deadline. If you have not submitted your Group/Programme preferences by this deadline, you will be randomly allocated to a programme by Oriel once the allocation has taken place for applicants who have submitted preferences. We strongly advise applicants not to leave their programme ranking and submission until the last minute.***

Please note that 7 programmes in Wessex are themed Enhance Explore programmes. Enhance is a national programme designed to upskill foundation doctors in generalism. Use this [link](#) for more information.

## F1 Welcome Event

You are invited to attend the Wessex Foundation School Welcome Event which will this year be held virtually on Microsoft Teams on **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025 9:15 – 11:30**.

The event will provide applicants with the opportunity to meet current foundation doctors and Foundation Programme Directors and other education staff from all our hospitals. Dr Stephen Taylor our Head of Foundation School will also give a welcome presentation. We hope that the event will help you decide where you would like to work in the Wessex region and offer the chance to find out more about the opportunities available.

- **Attendance confirmation** - Please could you let us know if you plan on attending the event by completing this very brief [online form](#)

We have enclosed with this letter the following documents:

- **Welcome Event timetable for the day** – this includes the Teams meeting **links**. Please use these links to join the event on the day.
- **Event guidance document** – this provides information about how the virtual event will run on the day.

## Trusts & hospitals in Wessex

- Information about our local NHS Trusts and their programmes can be found on our [website](#)
- Education Centre staff in the Trusts are happy to take your queries about their local training programmes and employment related queries. Please contact them directly.

## 2-year foundation programmes/rotations

All the Trusts in Wessex offer 2 year run through foundation training programmes so applicants will know both their F1 and F2 placements.

If you are interested in applying for Less Than Full Time training further details can be found on our [Website](#)

## Allocation to a programme

Wessex Foundation School use the algorithm provided within Oriol to allocate you to a programme. For further information on how the allocation process works, please refer to the UKFP [2025 Applicants' Handbook](#).

It is important to note that being allocated to a Foundation School does not equate to an unconditional offer of employment. Job offers will be made after the satisfactory completion of pre-employment checks and this process will be carried out by each individual employing Trust between April-June.

## Withdrawing from allocated FP

If you are considering withdrawing from your allocated Foundation Programme place, please discuss this first with your medical school and/or allocated Foundation School for support and guidance. Please note the following information and implications of withdrawing from your training programme:

- Withdrawing from the current recruitment round and an allocated Foundation Programme is irreversible and there will be no opportunity to re-join the programme in the current year
- There will be no opportunity to work as a locum F1 doctor (you are required to have full GMC registration to do this)
- You will not be awarded full registration with the GMC until you have completed F1
- If you are a UK medical school graduate who wishes to work in the future as a doctor in the UK, you will have to complete the F1 year regardless of any training you have received outside of the UK
- If you are a UK student/graduate and you decide to re-apply, if the start of the Foundation Programme is two or more years after you qualified from medical school, you will have to apply via the Eligibility route. (Your UK medical school cannot nominate you). It is your responsibility to familiarise yourself with the timelines and guidelines for the year that you apply
- The application process and criteria for applying to the Foundation Programme is under review and there may be changes or additional requirements to future recruitment rounds.
- You have had an opportunity to discuss with the university and/or the local foundation school the implications of withdrawing from the programme
- It is not guaranteed you will be offered a post in future
- For UK medical school graduates, your medical school will be informed of your decision to withdraw from the application process for the Foundation Programme

## Shadowing

Information and dates for the compulsory shadowing and induction weeks can be found on our [website](#). Shadowing will take place w/c 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025. Further information about shadowing will be sent to you once you have been allocated to a Trust.

## Certificate of Sponsorship

If you require a visa to work in the UK you will need to apply for a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS) from NHS England. Please find attached important information that you will need to consider before applying for your visa and CoS.

We hope to meet you on the 14<sup>th</sup> March at our welcome event.

**Yours sincerely**

**The Wessex Foundation School team:**

Dr Stephen Taylor, Head of Foundation School

Dr Elizabeth Williams, Deputy Head of Foundation School

Anna Parsons, Education Programme Manager – Foundation

Jemma Cotton, Education Programme Officer – Foundation

Anita Brudkowska – Education Programme Co-ordinator - Foundation