

Transition plan Core Surgical Training (CST) curriculum from August 2025

The August 2025 curriculum incorporates an updated syllabus. Trainees must follow the new version as they enter specialty training or move into a new training level.

The updated syllabus aligns with the latest surgical practice as well as new developments, ensuring a much better-prepared consultant surgeon. Training Programme Directors and Assigned Educational Supervisors will be expected to make provision at the earliest opportunity to allow for trainees to adapt their training accordingly.

Details about the changes and why they have been made can be found [here](#)

All CST trainees will be expected to be following the new curriculum by the start of the 2026 academic year.

Training level to be entered on or after August 2025	Requirement	Guidance
CT1 / ST1	Use the new 2025 curriculum	Trainees entering specialty training must follow the new curriculum from the start of the specialty programme.
CT2 / ST2		Trainees must follow the new curriculum as they move into a new training level.
Statutory leave (e.g. maternity/paternity/adoption leave)	Remain or Transfer	Trainees returning from statutory leave may remain on the previous curriculum while at CT/ST1 but should follow the new curriculum when they move to CT/ST2). However, if they are moving back into CT/ST2 they may finish training on the previous curriculum.
Less than full time (LTFT)		CT/ST1 Trainees who are LTFT may remain on the previous curriculum until they move to CT/ST2 when they should follow the new curriculum. However, if they are returning to CT/ST2 they may finish training on the previous curriculum.
Out of Programme (OOP)		OOP will not normally be agreed until a postgraduate doctor in training has been in a training programme for at least one year of specialty training (unless at the time of appointment, deferral of the start of the programme has been agreed for leave on statutory grounds). <u>Occasions where OOP is granted to those in core training programmes are likely to be exceptional given the length and nature of their training.</u> [Ref Gold Guide point 3.156]