

Transition plan General Surgery curriculum from October 2026

The October 2026 curriculum incorporates an updated syllabus. Trainees should follow the new version as they enter specialty training or as detailed below.

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

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

All specialty trainees will be expected to be following the new curriculum by October 2029.

Training level to be entered from October 2026	Requirement	Guidance
ST3	Use the new 2026 curriculum	Trainees entering specialty training must follow the new curriculum from the start of the specialty programme.
ST4-ST5		Trainees must follow the new curriculum as they move into a new training level.
ST6-8	Remain on previous curriculum or Transfer	Trainees may remain on the previous curriculum OR choose to follow the new curriculum in discussion with their TPD. They may choose to follow certain areas in the new curriculum while staying with the previous version (version 2 July 2023) for the majority of their requirements. This should also be done following discussion with the TPD
Out of Programme (OOP)	Remain or Transfer	Trainees may remain on the previous curriculum until their return to training when they should follow the advice above for their level.
Statutory leave (e.g. maternity/paternity/adoption leave)	Remain or Transfer	
Less than full time (LTFT)	Remain or Transfer	Trainees who are in LTFT may remain on the previous curriculum until they complete their current training level but should plan to move to the new curriculum as soon as possible if at levels below ST6.
Portfolio pathway applicants	Remain or Transfer	If applicants wish to apply under the previous curriculum they may do so for up to 12 months from release of the new curriculum.