

Terms of reference for the Joint Committee on Surgical Training (JCST)

Scope of the JCST

The Joint Committee on Surgical Training (JCST) is an intercollegiate advisory body which acts on behalf of the four surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland. It is supported by and responsible for a number of committees and groups, including 10 surgical Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs), the Core Surgical Training Advisory Committee (CSTAC), and the Training Interface Groups (TIGs), and is also the parent body for the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme (ISCP). It reports to the Surgical Royal Colleges via the College Presidents at the quarterly Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting.

Main responsibilities and activities include:

- Support and advise surgical trainees from enrolment into training through to certification
- Support and advise surgical trainers
- Curriculum and assessment development
- Development and maintenance of the surgical online training management system, the ISCP
- Support Quality Management and Improvement processes across the UK and Ireland, and provide externality to training programmes
- Review and evaluate applications to the Specialist Register under the GMC's Portfolio Pathway¹ route
- Support and develop post certification fellowships in niche and cross specialty areas required by health services
- Management and support of Committees delivering the above.

Purpose of the JCST

The JCST works with all relevant bodies to ensure that surgical trainees satisfactorily complete a comprehensive, structured and balanced training programme, enabling them to enter the GMC's Specialist Register or the Irish equivalent in their chosen specialty, and to be eligible for senior specialist appointments in the National Health Service (NHS) or Irish health service.

To facilitate this, the JCST oversees advisory committees² in:

Cardiothoracic Surgery
Core Surgery
General Surgery
Neurosurgery
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
Otolaryngology
Paediatric Surgery
Plastic Surgery
Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery
Urology
Vascular Surgery
Interface Training (JCST Fellowships)

¹ Formerly known as the Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR).

² Terms of Reference for Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs) can be found [here](#).

Remit of the JCST

- To ensure that surgical training programmes across the UK are designed to match the training principles of the GMC and the output of training is a person fit to be appointed as a day 1 consultant in that specialty.
- To advise surgical trainees and trainers of regulations and guidance pertaining to surgical training in the UK and Ireland.
- To develop, implement and maintain a structured curriculum via the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme for training in all 10 specialties within surgery and Core Surgery.
- To develop and maintain the online training management system, the ISCP.
- To provide the appropriate regulatory body³ with recommendations for certification for surgical trainees who have completed an approved training programme and successfully completed the mandatory examinations and assessment.
- To recommend to the GMC whether candidates applying for admission to the Specialist Register through the Portfolio Pathway have demonstrated knowledge, skills and experience required for practising as an eligible specialist in the UK therefore maintaining a consistent standard of practice and maintaining patient safety.
- To review decisions taken by the SACs and to adjudicate on matters in which they require guidance.
- To collaborate with Deaneries throughout the UK and Ireland, to provide externality through a network of SAC Liaison Members and support local training committees to ensure that the quality of surgical training is maintained.
- To collaborate with the Schools of Surgery in England, the equivalent bodies in the devolved nations and the RCSI to ensure the consistent implementation of curricula and the workplace-based assessment programme in order to maintain standards of training.
- To support the development of post-certification professional development programmes, namely the JCST Fellowships, taking appropriate recognition of the training requirements and assessment methods throughout specialty training.
- To support national recruitment processes in the UK and collaborate with the Medical and Dental Recruitment and Selection (MDRS) Board to ensure standards are maintained and processes are fit for purpose.
- To analyse and support others analysing data available through the ISCP and other internal databases, to influence and inform national discussions on the improvement and delivery of surgical training.

Interactions of the JCST

Bodies with which the JCST works include:

- Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT)
- British Orthopaedic Trainees' Association (BOTA)

³ In the UK this will be the GMC; for Irish surgical trainees, the JCST engages with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI).

- Confederation of Postgraduate Schools of Surgery (CoPSS)
- NHS England Workforce Training and Education (NHSE WTE) and Deaneries in England
- NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Scotland Deanery
- Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) and the Wales Deanery
- Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA)
- Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- Royal College of Surgeons of England
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
- Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland
- General Medical Council (GMC)
 - i) as the regulatory body for postgraduate medical education and training in the UK.
 - ii) to assess the applications of those who have not completed a full UK specialty training programme and seek entry to the Specialist Register on the basis of their knowledge, skills and experience.

JCST also works closely with other relevant intercollegiate bodies, such as the Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations (JCIE) and the Intercollegiate Committee on Basic Surgical Examinations (ICBSE).

Further details on our core functions, core values and strategic priorities are laid out in our five year strategy (2018-23) [here](#).

The JCST Committee

1) Core Membership:

- a) Chair
- b) ISCP Surgical Director
- c) Quality Assurance (QA) Lead
- d) Research Lead
- e) SAC/CSTAC/ITOG Chairs
- f) Chair of the Joint Committee on Intercollegiate Examinations (JCIE)
- g) Chair of the Intercollegiate Committee for Basic Surgical Examinations (ICBSE)
- h) eLogbook Clinical Lead
- i) Representative from COPMeD
- j) Chair of the Confederation of Postgraduate Schools of Surgery (CoPSS)
- k) Scottish Surgical Specialties Training Board representative
- l) The President (or Vice-President) of the Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT)
- m) The President (or Vice-President) of the British Orthopaedic Trainees' Association (BOTA)
- n) Lay representative

2) Other designated members:

- a) Chief Executive (on a rotating basis)
- b) Director of Professional Activities, RCS Edinburgh
- c) Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland representative
- d) The following will have rights of attendance at all JCST meetings:
 - i) The Head of JCST
 - ii) The JCST Quality Manager
 - iii) The Head of ISCP
 - iv) The Head of Specialist Applications
 - v) The Head of Trainee Services

3) JCST meetings will be quorate if 50% +1 person of the core membership are in attendance.

4) Tenure of members / attendees

- a) This will be determined by the terms of reference of the organisation represented by the member, with the exception of the JCST Chair whose tenure is three years⁴.
- 5) Expectations of members / attendees
 - a) Members are expected to engage in all JCST discussion and activities and, where appropriate, take a corporate approach.
- 6) Working relationships
 - a) As an intercollegiate body, the JCST will work with all relevant stakeholders and report to the Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting (JSCM).
- 7) Meetings and Administration
 - a) The JCST meets three times a year (online and/or in person). The JCST committee is supported by a secretariat based at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.
- 8) Expenses
 - a) The JSCM has agreed that travel expenses will only be paid to the JCST Chair, the ISCP Surgical Director, the QA Lead and the Research Lead.

Appointment process for the JCST Chair

The process for appointment is through advertisement, shortlisting and interview.

The interview panel will consist of the following:

- President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh
- President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England
- President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow
- President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

⁴ Extensions may be considered in exceptional circumstances.