



PHEM subspecialty training

North East

Why the North East?

The Great North Air Ambulance has a long history of utilising doctor and paramedic teams to deliver critical care to those in need. As one of the first services in the UK to adopt this model (now commonly used) we have a long history in delivering training and have a deep understanding of the skills that clinicians need to fulfill their potential as world class prehospital clinicians. Our long history of training doctors and paramedics means we have been able to develop a number of training courses that attract candidates from across the world.

With a patch covering 8000 square miles, including some of the most exciting landscapes in the UK, clinical encounters take place in a wide range of environments. From trauma in urban and inner city environments to rural medical cases in the mountains of the Lake District and other national parks, the diversity of the speciality makes it suitable to a wide range of personality types and backgrounds. As with all training delivered by Health Education England – North East we strive to provide training of the highest quality and to support trainees in achieving their full potential.

GNAAS currently has 15 full time paramedics and over 25 experienced consultant trainers. It operates 3 helicopters out of 2 airbases: Durham Tees Valley Airport and Langwathby, Cumbria. In addition to the 2 helicopters, a physician / paramedic car service operates throughout the night providing advanced pre-hospital capabilities.

2019 saw the organisation move to a new state of the art operational base which is complete with dedicated conference facilities, class rooms and simulation areas making it one of the best facilities anywhere in the world.





The scheme

Sub-speciality accreditation requires trainees complete 12 months (whole time equivalent) training in PHEM. In the North East this consists of a 2-year post comprising one year (whole time equivalent) PHEM and one year (whole time equivalent) base specialty. The 2 posts are blended such that a typical week will involve approximately 50% (of hours worked) based in hospital, and the remaining 50% with pre-hospital services.

The pre-hospital component of training will be undertaken with the Great North Air Ambulance Service (GNAAS) and the North East Ambulance Service (NEAS). In addition there will be opportunity to work with other agencies such as the paediatric retrieval service and mountain rescue teams.

Training includes funding for the Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine Crew Course (PHEMCC), Pre-Hospital Emergency Anaesthesia (PHEA) course and Paediatric Emergency Anaesthesia and Resuscitation Lessons (PEARLS)

Trainees will be supported to participate in service improvement, audit and research including through our partnership with Northumbria University

Parent Specialty Recruitment Information

The northern deanery operates an annually alternating system whereby we recruit an Emergency Medicine Higher Specialty Trainee one year, who completes their EM training component at Sunderland Royal Hospital, and an Anaesthetic trainee the next year who will work at James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough.

As of August 2023, odd numbered years will be an Anaesthetic PHEM trainee vacancy and even years (i.e. August 2024) will be an an Emergency Medicine PHEM trainee.



Health Education England – North East

Junior doctors ranked the region as number one in the UK for 17 of the 18 indicators in the annual GMC trainee survey. The consistency with which we have achieved number one rankings, secures the region as providing some of the best postgraduate medical training in the UK.

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