School of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Charlotte Patient Head of School
Malini Prasad Training Programme Director
Erika Manzo ATSM Director

Email: erika.manzo@nhs.net

Dear ST5 Trainee,

Re: ATSM application 2022/23 for all trainees commencing ST6 after August 2023

All trainees must undertake Advanced Training Skills Modules (ATSMs) at ST6 and ST7 to develop the high-level skills needed to achieve CCT in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. We are going to change the way we manage the ATSM applications from 2023 onwards. You will need to complete an application form (attached) stating your preferred ATSMs. You will also need to obtain a reference from a consultant at your current workplace (usually your educational supervisor) to determine if they think you have the necessary aptitude for your preferred ATSMs. There is a standardised reference form that we would like them to utilise (attached). You will also then need to send a 2 page CV.
We are then going to interview everyone via Microsoft Teams with regards to their preferred ATSMs, and ATSMs will then be allocated on a competitive basis. This process of interviewing all ST5s about their preferred ATSMs is done in several other Deaneries.

Please see link below for comprehensive RCOG info regarding ATSMs and ASMs:

https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/careers-training/specialty-training-curriculum/atsms/

Each Trust within the Deanery is able to offer training in several ATSMs. Details are available on the HEEoE website

https://heeoe.hee.nhs.uk/obstetrics_gynaecology/advanced-training-skills-modules-atsm

If an ATSM is oversubscribed i.e. more applicants than spaces for training then not all trainees will be able to undertake their preferred 2nd ATSM (the first being Advanced LW Practice) and some will be allocated a unit that can provide their 3rd ATSM choice.

Please note:

If you temporarily leave the program during ST6-7 (e.g. OOPE, maternity leave, or due to prolonged illness), when you return to program we will try to allocate you at the same unit but this may not be possible

If your training should continue beyond August 2023, you will be allocated to a suitable post to complete your ATSMs.

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If the Part 3 exams are pending, you may apply but you will not be able to start the ASTM if you failed the exam

1. The RCOG regulations state that the maximum intensity score for ATSMs is 3 at any one time. All trainees (except some subspecialty trainees) complete the Advanced LW Practice ATSM which scores 1 point.

2. The RCOG intermediate ultrasound requirements for certain ATSMs – most can be done alongside an ATSM, apart from Fetal Medicine, where intermediate fetal scanning must be completed before starting the ATSM.

3. For ATSM which require certain skills, (e.g. fetal scanning, laparoscopic surgery), you would be advised to obtain feedback from a supervisor as part of your references in order to support your application and demonstrate that you have the necessary aptitude to progress in this field.

You are invited to apply for your preferred ATSMs. Please email the following to Catherine Tarbet ct555@medschl.cam.ac.uk by midnight on Sunday 6th November 2022.

1.) Attached application form
2.) A short version of your CV with 2 referees (2 sides A4)
3.) A reference to support you application (using the reference form attached to the email)

ATSM interview details:

Date: interviews will be held via Microsoft Teams in early February 2023
Time: a time will be allocated to you
Format of interview: A no longer than 5 minute presentation followed by a 15 minute interview
Your presentation should cover the following:
- ✓ Your eligibility for your preferred ATSMs
- ✓ Evidence of your commitment to the ATSMs including QI/audit
- ✓ Research and teaching
- ✓ Leadership and teamwork

We hope this process will improve trainee experience with their ATSM training.

The school board wish you every success for your advanced training.

With kind regards,

Charlotte Patient, Malini Prasad, Erika Manzo

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