

Applicant Guidance

Round 1
August 2021

Anaesthetics/ACCS Anaesthetics CT1

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1. Introduction

The Anaesthetics National Recruitment Office (ANRO), part of Health Education England working across the West Midlands, co-ordinates the nationally agreed and quality assured process for recruitment to Anaesthetics/ACCS Anaesthetics Core Training Programmes (CT1).

Recruitment to Core Training (CT1) posts will take place twice a year, once for August 2021 starts and once for February 2022 starts. Round 1 covers August 2021 commencement; Round 2 Re-advert covers February 2022 commencement. **This guide relates to Round 1 only.**

All submitted applications for Anaesthetics training will be assessed using a standard, national and consistent staged process outlined using modern methodologies that are fair, robust and fit for purpose.

For an Anaesthetics training post, an applicant makes one application for *all* participating Health Education England (HEE) Local Offices, NHS Education for Scotland (NES), Northern Ireland Medical & Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA) and the Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW). At the time of application, you will be required to choose which 'cluster' you want to be considered for posts in England & Wales **or** Northern Ireland **or** Scotland.

If you preference Scotland as your cluster then you must attend an online interview conducted by Scotland, similarly if you preference Northern Ireland you must attend an online interview conducted by Northern Ireland. If you preference England & Wales as your cluster you can book any slot on a preferred date of those available. Depending on which cluster you preference will depend where you are considered for appointment. Applicants who preference Scotland will be considered for Scottish posts only, Northern Ireland will be considered for Northern Ireland posts only and England and Wales will be considered for appointment across both nations.

The method being used in England and Wales is known as a Single Transferable Score (STS) as applicants are not restricted to only being offered a post in the area they attended an online interview. The system is designed to maximise the numbers of applicants and opportunities for successful appointment.

You should also refer to both the [Oriel Applicant User Guide](#) (for technical help with the on-line application form) and the [2021 Medical Specialty Recruitment Applicant Handbook](#) (for general information about the national recruitment processes administered by HEE).

1.1 Assessment and Selection Process for 2021

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, changes have been required to the Assessment and Selection process for 2021:

Plan A

- Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA) – 15%
- 30-minute online interview with two assessors – 85%

There will be no Self-Assessment for CT1 in 2021.

Greater detail of each assessment stage is provided in the subsequent sections of this Guidance.

In the event of disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Plan B will be deployed and offers made using:

Plan B

- Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA) – 15%
- 30-minute online interview with one assessor – 85%

If disruptions are significant enough that Plan B is not viable, recruitment to Anaesthetics/ACCS Anaesthetics commencing in August 2021 will cease.

1.2 Evaluation of the Recruitment Process

Anonymous data from the recruitment process including scores awarded and feedback collected, will be used to evaluate and refine the national selection process. Data may be correlated with anonymised scores from outcome measures during your future training such as success in professional examinations.

1.3 Core Training Curriculum

Applicants should note that The Royal College of Anaesthetists are currently revising its Core and Higher Training curricula at the request of the General Medical Council. Core Training posts, at a time still to be specified by the GMC, would likely be of 3 years in duration for Core Anaesthesia and 4 years duration for ACCS Anaesthesia. There will be multiple avenues to gain this extra year and trainees should be reassured that this will not disadvantage them in any way. ANRO will update successful applicants as soon a decision has been made on how the 3rd year is to be managed.

2. Application Window

Advertisements will appear on NHS Jobs; Find a Job; in the BMJ and on the Oriel recruitment system on **Monday 2nd November 2020**.

Applications will be accepted from **10.00am (UK time) on Thursday 5th November 2020** until **4.00pm (UK time) on Tuesday 1st December 2020**. Applications must be made through the Oriel system; applications will not be accepted in any other way. Oriel can be accessed [here](#).

No late applications will be accepted.

Support for applicants experiencing problems with their application will be available from ANRO during normal office hours (i.e. Monday to Friday 9am-5pm) for the duration of the application window.

Please be aware that the Oriel system does not support internet browsers that have reached the end of their product support lifecycle.

3. Recruitment to ACCS (Anaesthetics) CT1

Anaesthetics and ACCS (Anaesthetics) will be recruited as one process, following the process outlined in this document.

If you wish to follow a career in Anaesthetics, you should apply with a single application which covers both core Anaesthetics and ACCS (Anaesthetics). There is no need to submit a separate application for each.

Applicants wishing to apply for either of the other ACCS specialty streams (i.e. Acute Medicine and Emergency Medicine) should visit <https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/> to find out how to apply for these.

4. Communications Regarding an Application

Contact regarding your application will be via direct messaging through Oriel.

ANRO administrators will also send an email as a secondary form of communication. However, as emails are external to the Oriel system, delivery cannot be guaranteed and therefore this method of communication should **not** be relied upon.

You should make sure that you are using an email account that you can access at any time and will not be blocked by your employer's IT security system. If you are uncertain about this, you should check with your IT department at work.

ANRO understand the importance of the selection process for an applicant's future career pathway, however we would like to politely remind applicants of their responsibility to conduct themselves in a professional manner as outlined in the [Good Medical Practice](#) when in correspondence with ANRO team members.

5. Preferencing

At the time of application, you will be asked to preference which one of three clusters (England and Wales **or** Northern Ireland **or** Scotland) you would be prepared to work in. Your choice of cluster cannot be amended once an application has been submitted.

Providing you meet the longlisting and, if utilised, shortlisting criteria, you will be invited to book a slot at Selection Centre. Each applicant will have a maximum of one assessment for Anaesthetics.

A list of the HEE Local Offices, NES, NIMDTA and HEIW posts recruiting at this level is available on [ANRO website](#).

Please be reminded that the recruitment process is competitive with more applicants than posts available.

6. Self-Assessment

The self-assessment process has been removed and all applicants who have been successfully longlisted will sit the Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA).

7. Deferment of Start Date

Deferments to start date will only be considered on statutory grounds as stated in the Gold Guide i.e. maternity leave or ill health.

Deferment for any other reason will not be permitted.

If you wish to request a deferment to your start date, you must declare this on your application form. If you accept an offer you should contact your recruiting HEE Local Office, NES, NIMDTA or the HEIW as soon as possible regarding your deferment.

8. Flexibility in Deployment of Trainees (UK)

There are formalised processes to assist applicants to train in desired locations.

8.1 Special Circumstances

A standardised national process is available for all specialty recruitment to ensure that applicants with special circumstances and a requirement to train in a specific region are treated in a fair and consistent way.

Any applicant who falls into one of the following eligibility criteria can apply to have their circumstances taken into consideration, allowing them to be pre allocated into a post, subject to it meeting the requirements of entering Anaesthetics training:

- **Criterion 1** – the applicant is the primary carer for someone who is disabled, as defined by the Equality Act 2010,
- **Criterion 2** – the applicant has a medical condition or disability for which ongoing follow up for the condition in the specified location is an *absolute* requirement.

Applicants wishing to be considered for special circumstances should complete the special circumstances application form (available from the [Specialty Training Resource Bank](#)) and forward this, together with the appropriate supporting evidence by email to mdrs.nationalrecruitment@hee.nhs.uk as soon as their application has been submitted.

It is important that you review the relevant section in the [2021 Medical Specialty Recruitment Applicant Handbook](#) for full details on the eligibility criteria and administrative process.

8.2 Offer Exchanges/Enhanced Preferencing

ANRO understand that applicants can have a change in circumstances for any number of reasons in the time between sub-preferences being made and offers being released.

For applicants who have accepted or held a post, you will be able to change your upgrade options to not only include those sub-preferences that were originally ranked higher than the offered post, but also those that were ranked lower or not at all (see section 20.2).

Applicants who have not been made an offer can also make amendments to their expressed sub-preferences. ANRO will keep sub-preferencing open throughout most of the recruitment process. They will be closed between offers algorithms and release of offers (see section 18).

Further information on this is available in the [2021 Medical Specialty Recruitment Applicant Handbook](#) (page 26).

8.3 Adjustments under the Equality Act 2010

All recruiters are aware of the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and in this regard, recruiters will make reasonable adjustments to accommodate applicants at online interview provided these are made known in advance. Applicants who require adjustments (e.g. wheelchair access, extra time, nursing mothers) will be required to submit supporting evidence to substantiate the required adjustment. This evidence will need to be uploaded to Oriel via the Document Upload dashboard as “Supporting evidence” and attached to the application form at the point of application.

Adjustments cannot be guaranteed if evidence is provided late and no adjustments can be made on the day of the assessment.

ANRO will be unable to review your request if supporting evidence is not provided.

Once applicants have booked a slot for an online interview, ANRO expects the applicant to forward any reasonable adjustment requests to the regions lead contact.

9. Application process for International Medical Graduates (IMGs) without Right of Residence

All medical practitioners have been added to the Shortage Occupation List in the UK. This means that all medical practitioners are exempt from the Resident Labour Market Test (RLMT) and can apply for any specialty in any recruitment round, subject to eligibility.

It is strongly suggested that you read the [2021 Medical Specialty Recruitment Applicant Handbook](#) to familiarise yourself with the immigration information contained within.

10. Right to work in the UK

All applicants will be requested to produce valid right to work documents. Applicants who do not have valid right to work documents will need to apply for Tier 2 / Skilled Worker sponsorship.

From 1 July 2021, EU/EEA citizens will need to either provide confirmation that they have obtained *EU settlement status*, have another valid right to work visa (e.g. dependent visa) or will need to apply for Tier 2 / Skilled Worker sponsorship.

11. Assessment of Foundation Competency

All applicants to CT1/ST1 posts are required to provide evidence of having met the UK Foundation Competences, or equivalent, within the 3½ years prior to the intended commencement date for the advertised post(s).

- **Currently on a Foundation Programme** - Applicants currently undertaking a recognised foundation programme in the UK which is due to finish by the advertised start date will need to confirm the name of their Foundation School but do not need to submit any other evidence at the point of application. Any offer of a training programme will be conditional upon successful completion of the Foundation Programme and being awarded a Foundation Programme Certificate of Completion (FPCC) before the advertised start date.
- **Already completed a Foundation Programme** - Applicants who have already completed a UK Foundation Programme will be asked to confirm that they have been awarded an FPCC, signed no earlier than 3½ years prior to the advertised start date and will be required to upload their or FPCC to their application form, at the time of application submission.
- **Currently on a Specialty Training Programme** - Applicants currently in active clinical or clinical and academic practice in a UK educationally approved training post (CT/ST/LAT or equivalent), holding either a National Training Number (NTN) or Deanery Reference Number (DRN) will be considered as having had their foundation competences assessed on entry to their current post and do not need to demonstrate these again, regardless of when foundation competences were signed off.

Important: Applicants in this category, who relinquish their NTN or DRN between the time of application and commencement of Anaesthetics training will be required to submit a Certificate of Readiness to Enter Specialty Training for the period out of training.

- **Previously resigned from Anaesthetics training in the UK** - Applicants who have previously *resigned voluntarily* from an Anaesthetics training programme will be considered as having had their Foundation competences assessed previously, providing that they can demonstrate evidence of satisfactory progress in the form of ARCP documentation for the duration of the training undertaken.
- Applicants who have started but who have **not satisfactorily completed a 2-year UK Foundation Programme or a standalone UK Foundation Year 2** post are expected to return to the Foundation Programme to complete their training. In exceptional

circumstances, where trainees were unable to continue their training in the Foundation Programme at that time, e.g. due to personal illness or family caring responsibility, applicants can provide a letter written and signed by the Postgraduate Dean where the previous training took place. This letter must use the standard proforma available from either the ANRO or the Oriel Resource Bank and be uploaded to the application form. The letter must include the following information:

- The dates of the previous training
 - Confirmation of the reasons for the resignation, removal or relinquishing of their post in the Foundation Programme
 - Confirmation that the applicant has met the requirements and/or demonstrated the competences of foundation training
 - Confirmation that the applicant has completed a period of remediation, if applicable
- **Currently in a Widening Access to Specialty Training (WAST) Programme –** Applicants in WAST post need to obtain a fully completed and signed Certificate of Readiness to Enter Specialty Training (CREST) by the start date of the post to which they are applying. No further evidence needs to be provided at the time of application.
 - **Anybody who is not covered by the above** - Applicants who do not fall into any of the above categories will be required to submit a Certificate of Readiness to Enter Specialty Training (CREST) signed by a consultant who has supervised them for at least 3 months (whole time equivalent and continuous period) in the 3½ years prior to the advertised start date; CRESTs will be accepted where the assessed post has been wholly undertaken in the 3½ years prior to the advertised start date. Applicants **must not** submit multiple Certificates, from different posts to show evidence of achievement of all competences; only **one certificate should be submitted**. Only the 2021 CREST will be accepted; forms from previous recruitment years **will not** be accepted.

The signatory for the certificate **must not** be the applicant's spouse, partner or family member.

Where the signatory does not currently have GMC registration, it is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that adequate evidence of their signatory's standing with a regulatory authority is provided. This evidence must be scanned and attached to the CREST. Where this evidence is not in English, an official English translation should also be provided. In cases where the signatory has historic but not current GMC registration, it is the current registration that is required; previous GMC registration

will not be accepted. Where adequate evidence is not provided, the CREST and the Anaesthetics training application will be rejected.

In addition, applicants are also required to have 12 months experience **after** achieving full registration with the GMC, or equivalent medical regulatory body, by the advertised start date.

- The only exception to providing evidence of Foundation Competences is if you are a refugee. Refugees, as defined by [UK Visas and Immigration](#), are advised submit a Certificate of Readiness to Enter Specialty Training (CREST), if possible. Where this is not possible, on successful appointment, there may be a requirement by the employer or the responsible officer for you to undergo further assessments to ensure that your competence, professional knowledge and skills are up to date in line the [GMC Good Medical Practice](#).

12. Fitness to Practise

Applicants who answer *yes* to any of the Fitness to Practise questions on the application form must complete a form (see link below) and submit it to ANRO together with further supporting information, if applicable.

Forms are available from the resource bank on the [specialty training website](#).

Further details on the nature of the declaration may be requested and should be provided prior to the deadline for submission of applications. Failure to provide this detail by the closing date may result in the application being rejected.

13. Reapplication to Specialty Training

Specialty training posts and programmes are not normally available to any doctor who has previously relinquished or been released or removed from that training post/programme. However:

13.1 Support for Reapplication to Specialty

If you have previously resigned or been removed from an Anaesthetics/ACCS Anaesthetics Core Training Programme, you will need to provide full details of the resignation/release/removal. This must be provided on the [Support for Reapplication to a Specialty Training Programme](#) form and approved by both the Head of School/Training Programme Director **and** Postgraduate Dean in the HEE Local Office, NES, NIMDTA or HEIW where training was previously undertaken.

This evidence **must** be uploaded to your Oriel account via the *Document Upload* dashboard as *supporting evidence* and attached to your application *at the point of application*. A new

form has to be completed, with appropriate support for application, each recruitment year. Forms completed in previous recruitment years will not be accepted.

Any applications from excluded trainees without submitted evidence **will not** progress any further in the recruitment process.

13.2 Support for Reapplication to Specialty Training in a Different Region

Trainees currently working in an Anaesthetics/ACCS Anaesthetics Core Training Programme, applying to continue their training in another HEE Local Office, NES, NIMDTA or HEIW, without a break in service, will need to provide information relating to this. You must gain support from your current employing region by completing the [Support for Reapplication of Specialty Training in a Different Region form](#). This form exists to ensure that any applicant moving region is currently performing to the required standard (i.e. satisfactory progress at ARCP).

This evidence **must** be uploaded to your Oriel account via the *Document Upload* dashboard as *supporting evidence* and attached to your application *at the point of application*. A new form has to be completed, with appropriate support for application, each recruitment year. Forms completed in previous recruitment years will not be accepted.

Any applications without submitted evidence **will not** progress any further in the recruitment process.

14. Document Upload

As you progress through your application, it may become apparent that you will be required to upload some form of documentation to allow ANRO to assess your eligibility.

If you are required to do this then in order to help ANRO you are required to follow some 'house rules':

- Please ensure that the document is uploaded as a whole and not in separate pages
- Please ensure that the document is appropriately named for clarity to allow ANRO to understand what it is they will be opening
- Please ensure that the document is uploaded into the correct document section

Please ensure that all required documentation is uploaded by the required deadlines. ANRO reserve the right to request re-submission of documentation if the above 'house rules' are not followed.

IMPORTANT: Please do not upload anything other than documents to support the longlisting process.

15. Longlisting

All applications will be assessed against the essential criteria outlined in the national [CT1 Anaesthetics/ACCS Anaesthetics Person Specification \(2021\)](#).

Applicants that fail to demonstrate that they meet all of the essential criteria by the closing date for applications will not progress any further. It is the applicant's responsibility to fully demonstrate in the application form eligibility for the post applied for.

16. Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA)

For 2021, all eligible Anaesthetics applicants (i.e. those who have been assessed as demonstrating evidence of eligibility as outlined in section 15) will be invited to attend the Multi-Specialty Recruitment Assessment (MSRA).

The MSRA is a computer-based assessment, delivered in partnership with Work Psychology Group and Pearson VUE, which has been designed to assess some of the essential competences outlined in the Person Specification and is based around clinical scenarios. The MSRA has two component parts - a Professional Dilemmas (PD) paper and a Clinical Problem Solving (CPS) paper. The MSRA is delivered as a *single* exam.

The MSRA will be delivered at Pearson VUE testing centres with remote testing provisions in place for those who are isolating/shielding due to COVID-19 or depending on their geographical location, local or national COVID-19 lockdown measures preventing access to a testing centre. The testing window is **Thursday 28th January – Friday 12th February 2021**.

The MSRA will be used to determine invitation to online interview where the number of eligible applicants exceeds interview capacity. There is no maximum achievable score. This will be known as shortlisting hereafter.

Your MSRA score will contribute 15% towards your total selection score. The PD and CPS elements will be weighted equally at 7.5%. MSRA scores are scaled for each specialty, so that they can be combined with the rest of the selection process, and appropriately weighted, as intended.

The General Practice NRO (GPNRO) lead the delivery of the MSRA on behalf of all participating specialties and has developed a separate guide which provides applicants with information

about the whole MSRA process (e.g. registering to sit the test, centre locations, format of the assessment, etc.)

All applicants are expected to read this document in full to develop an understanding of this stage of the recruitment process and what is expected of applicants; it is available from the ANRO website.

17. Allocation to a Cluster for consideration of Appointment

On completion of the longlisting, and shortlisting if utilised, all applicants that have met the minimum criteria will be invited to attend an online interview.

HEE Local Offices, NES, NIMDTA or HEIW will notify ANRO of the maximum number of online interview slots they can accommodate.

The HEE Local Office or nation that you are considered for appointment in will be determined by your cluster selection during the application process. All eligible applicants will be allocated to their chosen cluster.

Applicants who chose the Scotland cluster will be invited to attend online interview conducted by Scotland and will be considered for posts in Scotland only. Applicants who chose the Northern Ireland cluster will be invited to attend online interview conducted by Northern Ireland and will be considered for posts in Northern Ireland only.

Applicants who chose the England and Wales cluster will be invited to attend an online interview of their choice in these nations. A list of all the online interview dates that are being run in this cluster can be seen on the [ANRO website](#).

17.1 Booking an Online Interview

If you are invited to attend online interview, you will be required to log into your Oriel account and use the self-service functionality to book an online interview on a date and time of your choosing, subject to availability.

When booking your online interview slot, it is strongly recommended that you avoid booking from a mobile device or internet browsers that have reached the end of their product support lifecycle as these are unlikely to be supported.

The Online Interview booking window will be between **Monday 1st March 2021** to **Thursday 4th March 2021** on a first come; first served basis.

Applicants who have any problems booking an online interview slot you should email anro@hee.nhs.uk

17.2 Confirmation of booking

Once you have booked your online interview, you will receive an automated confirmation of booking message in Oriel and a secondary automated message will be sent to your registered email address. If you do not receive confirmation, log into your Oriel account to confirm if the booking process was completed in its entirety.

18. Sub-Preferences

Once you have been allocated to a cluster you will be asked to make more detailed programme and geographical preferences, known as sub-preferences. Sub-preferences must be made on Oriel and your stated sub-preferences will be used when offers are made. Please be aware that sub-preferences expressed in any other way will not be taken into consideration.

Depending on which cluster you have been allocated to will depend on what sub-preferences you have the ability to rank. For applicants allocated to the Scotland cluster you will be only able to rank all the sub-preferences available in Scotland.

For applicants allocated to the Northern Ireland cluster you will be only able to rank all the sub-preferences available in Northern Ireland.

For applicants allocated to the England and Wales cluster you have the ability to rank sub-preferences across the two nations and can be considered for appointment in any of these nations. This means you are not restricted to one single region for appointment and can rank your sub-preferences with increased flexibility. There is no standardised level of detail for sub-preferencing in this cluster so you may note that some regions provide more information than others. ANRO inform all regions that they must provide as much detail as they can to assist applicants when ranking their sub-preferences.

If you place any of the sub-preference options in the *not wanted* box, you will never receive an offer for these rotations/programmes, even if this means that you are bypassed in the offers process and a lower ranked applicant is made an offer instead of you. ANRO therefore suggest that you should only move sub preferences to the *not wanted* box if you are certain that you would not want to receive an offer for that rotation/programme. Applicants that fail to rank their sub-preferences on Oriel should expect that any offer made will be to one of the less popular sub-preferences.

The sub-preferencing window will be opened at regular periods. The window will initially be open from **Monday 11th January 2021** to **Wednesday 14th April 2021**. ANRO will then close

the window to allow for the preparation for offers to take place. Once the first wave of offers has been released on **Thursday 15th April 2021**. The sub-preferencing window will be opened in between each offer recycle to allow applicants to update their sub-preferences should they wish. This process is described in Section 9.2 and will continue up until the upgrading deadline at **4.00pm (UK time) on Friday 30th April 2021**.

19. Online Interviews

The online interview window will run between **Monday 8th March 2021 - Friday 9th April 2021**.

All online interview dates can be found on the [ANRO website](#).

If you are invited to participate in an online interview, instructions regarding access to the online system; proof of ID and participation guidelines will be provided in due course.

If you are invited to online interview and are unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances or an emergency, you must contact the region directly to ascertain whether alternative arrangements can be made. It is important to note that alternative arrangements cannot be guaranteed.

19.1 Online Interview Format

All interviews will be performed online on Microsoft Teams and will be 30 minutes in length.

Please ensure that you have a secure and stable internet connection and that your PC device works with video and microphone enabled with the video-conferencing platform, before the scheduled interview date

Two clinicians will interview and score the candidate independently.

You will be assessed and scored on set of domains in relation to your clinical experiences to date and your understanding of issues relevant to working in the NHS. The scoring grid can be found on the [ANRO website](#)

19.2 Global Rating

This relates to an assessor's professional judgement of the overall performance of the applicant at a particular station. Further information on this domain can be found in the appropriate scoring guidance document available from [here](#).

19.3 Appointability and VETO

For an applicant to be deemed successful at interview, they need to score a **minimum of 60** in the online interview.

Applicants will not be eligible to be offered an Anaesthetics/ACCS Anaesthetics post in this recruitment round if they do not score the minimum threshold.

Applicants can score above the national cut-off (i.e. 60) and still be vetoed out of the process for particularly poor performance. Vetoed applicants will not be considered for appointment in the recruiting HEE Local Office, NES, NIMDTA or HEIW and will not be eligible for clearing.

A Global Rating score of 1 from each of the assessors in a particular station is the only way that an applicant can be vetoed, however, an applicant could score two 1s and a decision could be made not to veto. A discussion between the assessors and the Clinical Lead will take place for any applicants who could potentially be vetoed and the final decision will rest with the Clinical Lead.

19.4 Observers on the online Interview

There may be a Lay Representative present during the online interview. The purpose of this role is to ensure that quality, consistency and standardisation is present throughout. Furthermore, it allows for areas of best practice to be established and shared.

ANRO can confirm that the observers will have no role in the assessment of an applicant nor in deciding the appointability of an applicant.

19.5 Online Interview Courses and Websites

It should be noted that ANRO and the RCoA do **not** recommend that you book commercial courses, sign up to websites or purchase advice and guidance books specifically aimed at doctors undertaking the Anaesthetics selection process. None of the Anaesthetics assessors take part in or endorse any preparation courses, websites or books.

20. Offers

Applicants who have preferred England & Wales will be ranked in a single national list based on their performance throughout the selection processes. Applicants who have preferred Northern Ireland or Scotland will be ranked against other applicants who preference Northern Ireland or Scotland. Offers are made in rank order based on this national ranking.

Tied ranks occur when applicants achieve the same total interview score. The applicants' unique rank will be achieved in the following order:

1. Commitment to Specialty
2. Communication
3. Decision Making
4. Reflective Practice
5. Team Working
6. Working under Pressure
7. Global Rating
8. Qualifications & Experience
9. Involvement in Teaching, Audit, QI, Research
10. MSRA

The first wave of offers will be sent out by ANRO on **Thursday 15th April 2021**. Please do not contact ANRO about offers prior to this date, as it could delay the release.

You will be given 48 hours (exclusive of weekends) to respond to an offer and have the option to accept, decline or hold.

If you fail to respond to an offer within the 48 hour window it will expire and you will be deemed to have declined the offer.

Once you accept a post you will not receive any further offers from any other specialties within the same recruitment round.

Offers that are declined will be recycled and offered in rank order to other applicants.

Only one offer can be held at any one time, across all specialty applications in the same recruitment round. If you are already holding an offer, and try to hold another offer, the original held post will be automatically declined by the system. If you choose to hold an offer, you can hold this up until **1.00pm (UK time) on Wednesday 28th April 2021**.

Before this deadline, you will be required to go back into Oriel and make a final decision on the offer. Any offers still held when the deadline is reached will be deemed to have been declined and the system will automatically change your status.

After the hold deadline has passed, any offers made will only have the option of accept or decline.

20.1 Upgrading of Offers

Up to the offers stage, you will have had the ability to rank sub-preferences for training programmes and geographies within your allocated cluster. If you rank highly enough to be made an offer, this will be made to the highest ranked sub preference that is available when your rank is reached. If you are happy with this offer, you can choose to simply accept it.

However, if you would like the option of getting one of your higher ranked sub preferences, should they become available, you can opt into upgrading. The upgrading option is available to all offers that have been held or accepted, but not where an offer has been declined. An applicant who has accepted or held an offer can opt in or out of upgrading at any time during the window which runs until **4.00pm (UK time) on Friday 30th April 2021**.

If you opt in to upgrading and a higher sub-preference offer becomes available, subject to your ranking, the upgrade will be automatic. You will be placed in the higher sub-preference post *without* ANRO making any further contact with you and you *will not* be given 48 hours to decide whether you wish to accept or decline the new post. If an upgrade is made, the previously held or accepted post will be released and will be reoffered to another applicant.

Once you have been upgraded you will be contacted via an automated email message to inform you of this. Details of the upgrade made will be available in the Oriel System.

If you have been allocated to England and Wales, due to you being considered for all posts in these nations, it is possible that an upgrade could move you in to a different region. Any movement into a different region as the result of an upgrade will be dependent upon how you have ranked your sub-preferences.

Once the upgrading deadline has passed, no further upgrades will be offered, even if one of your higher preferences becomes available at a later date.

20.2 Offer Exchanges/Enhanced Preferencing

There is increased applicant flexibility for upgrading of offers as described in Section 9.2. Any applicant that has accepted or held an offer, and opted into upgrades, can amend their sub-preference options as many times as they like up until the upgrade deadline. Applicants will be able to re-rank their sub-preference options so that they can move lower ranked preferences, or preferences originally not wanted, into a higher ranked preference than their current offer. This will then mean that these newly ranked sub-preferences are considered for an upgrade in subsequent offer iterations.

Please note: Any changes to sub-preferences made between the offers algorithm being run and offers being released will **not** be considered until the next offers match is run.

The above process will continue up until the upgrading deadline at **4.00pm (UK time) on Friday 30th April 2021.**

21. Clearing

Clearing will be available to applicants who were deemed appointable but who have not been made an offer. It will not include applicants who have been made an offer that they chose to decline. Clearing will only be run if there are available posts left in one cluster **and** appointable applicants left in the other. For example, there are unfilled posts in the England and Wales cluster and appointable applicants without an offer in the Scotland and Northern Ireland cluster (or vice versa).

If you are eligible for clearing you will be contacted through Oriel, by ANRO, and will be asked to preference the available clearing posts. CT1 clearing posts and offers will **not** be subject to a further assessment.

You will only be able to accept or decline offers made in Clearing. They cannot be held, and they will not be upgraded (as the deadlines will have passed), even if a higher ranked clearing post becomes available at a later date.

You will receive a maximum of one offer in Clearing. If this offer is declined, you will not receive any further offers.

22. References

Referees should be contacted at the earliest opportunity to confirm that they are happy to support the application and provide a reference. You are required to give details of your last three clinical or educational supervisors from your current post, your previous post and the post before that.

All offers made will be on the condition of the offered region receiving three satisfactory references. Obtaining references is an applicant's responsibility. The offered region will NOT chase your referees.

22.1 Reference Requests

Reference requests are an automated process in Oriel. A request will be triggered and sent electronically to your nominated referees when you accept or, accept with upgrades an offer of Anaesthetics training. To ensure that the requests are not blocked or filtered by your referees' email providers you are strongly advised to inform your referees to add noreply@oriel.nhs.uk to their email whitelist.

22.2 Completing a Reference

Referees are required to submit references electronically, using the online referee portal in Oriel. You will be advised, via your Oriel portal, when your referee has submitted a reference.

In rare cases there may be a need for your reference to be provided on paper. We will instruct you if this is necessary. You can download a Structured National Reference Form from the [Oriel Resource Bank](#) and you will need to ask the affected referee to return the completed form directly to the offered region.

22.3 Changing Your Nominated Referee

For any references that have not yet been submitted you are able to update the details of or, change your, nominated referees. However, if a referee has already submitted your reference, you will not be able to make any changes to their details.

If you change the email address against a referee, a new reference request will be sent to the newly provided email address, and the original request will be withdrawn.

23. Feedback

Applicants will be given feedback throughout the recruitment process and will not need to make a formal request to receive it.

Applicants that are rejected at the longlisting stage will be advised of the reason why their application was rejected.

If shortlisting is deployed, MSRA scores will be disclosed before invitations to interview are sent. Where capacity enables all applicants to be interviewed, MSRA scores will be disclosed along with online interview scores.

Online interview feedback will be released up to seven days after the initial offer date.

Applicants who wish to request feedback above and beyond the standard feedback that is provided (i.e. their actual score sheets) can do so by making a request to the ANRO. ANRO expect the score sheets to be sent back to applicants within 20 working days however applicants must understand that in busy periods this could take longer to receive.

There is no further feedback that can be provided after score sheets have been requested.

24. Offers of Employment & Pre-Employment Checks

The offer and allocation of a Training Programme referred to above is **not** an offer of employment. An employment contract detailing the terms and conditions of employment will be issued by the responsible employing organisation and is made subject to satisfactory pre-employment checks. Your offer of employment will include the name of your employer, the start date and length of the period of employment, the location, the hours, the minimum rate of remuneration and the notice period applicable.

Information regarding pay, hours, sick pay and annual leave entitlements, notice period, study leave, pension scheme etc. are set out in the national terms and conditions available from NHS Employers. A framework for a written contract of employment for Anaesthetic specialty registrars is also available from the BMA. Individual HEE Local Office, NES, NIMDTA or HEIW websites may also provide additional local information and links to individual employer websites.

The employing organisation carry out a number of pre-employment checks before an offer of employment can be confirmed. These will include verification of identity, registration and qualifications, right to work (immigration), employment history and employment reference checks (these are different from the clinical reference checks that the HEE Local Office, NES, NIMDTA or HEIW needs), a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and an occupational health check. Some of these (verification of identify, registration and qualifications and right to work for example) may also be undertaken by the HEE Local Office, NES, NIMDTA or HEIW during the recruitment process.

25. Complaints Procedure

All national recruitment offices use a nationally agreed process for handling complaints about recruitment. If you feel your application has not been managed correctly and have evidence of a failure in the process, you should explore this route. A copy of the national complaints policy and procedure document can be located on the ANRO website.

25.1 Raising Concerns

Applicants wishing to raise concerns about any part of the recruitment process, where this falls outside the scope of the complaints policy should forward these, in confidence to mdrs.confidential@hee.nhs.uk

Concerns raised without detail are difficult to investigate due to the volume of applications received. Applicants are therefore requested to provide details of the specialty and, where applicable, the applicants concerned. Any information provided would be treated in the utmost confidence.

