

# Applicant Guidance

Round 2  
August 2021

**Anaesthetics ST3**

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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 Specialty Training (ST3).

Recruitment to Specialty Training (ST3) posts will take place twice a year, once for August 2021 starts and once for February 2022 starts. Round 2 covers August 2021 commencement; Round 3 February 2022 commencement. **This guide relates to Round 2 only.**

All submitted applications for Anaesthetics training will be assessed using a standard, national and consistent staged process outlined below. This is an established selection process 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.

Once eligibility checks have been completed, i.e. longlisting and self-assessment verification, an invitation to online interview is offered. However, please note if the number of eligible applicants exceeds online interview capacity, applicants will be ranked by self-assessment verification score to determine whether they will be invited to online interview.

If you preference Scotland as your cluster then you must attend online interview conducted by Scotland, similarly if you preference Northern Ireland you must attend online interview conducted by Northern Ireland. If you preference England & Wales as your cluster you can book a 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 region they attended Selection Centre. 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

- Portfolio Self-Assessment Verification
- 30-minute online interview with two assessors

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

- Online Portfolio Self-Assessment Verification
- 30-minute online interview with one assessor

If disruptions are significant enough that Plan B is not viable, recruitment to Anaesthetics ST3 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.

## 2. Application Window

Advertisements will appear on NHS Jobs; Find a Job; in the BMJ and on the Oriel recruitment system on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**.

Applications will be accepted from **10.00am (UK time) on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020** until **4.00pm (UK time) on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> 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. Dual Programmes with Intensive Care Medicine (ICM)**

Applicants who currently hold a National Training Number (NTN) in ICM and are applying to Anaesthetics, in the hope of securing a dual programme, can only undertake a dual programme if:

1. The offer of an Anaesthetics NTN is in the same region as the one where their partner specialty training is being undertaken (*please remember that not all programmes span across all regions, for example Health Education England, working across South West is made up of two programme regions, Severn and Peninsula. In this example you cannot dual train across both these regions and must rank your sub-preferences accordingly*)
2. The region is able to accommodate a dual training programme. *For any queries relating to this the applicant should speak with the Training Programme Director (TPD) of their training area.*

If an applicant receives an offer for Anaesthetics and either of these conditions is not met the applicant will need to decide whether to accept the Anaesthetics offer. If an applicant lists their preferences incorrectly and they accept an Anaesthetics post in a different region to where they currently hold an ICM NTN then the applicant will be expected to resign their currently held NTN in order to take up their Anaesthetics training post. ANRO reserve the right to withdraw an offer of training if an applicant has listed their preferences incorrectly and they wish to apply for dual training.

Applicants will only be eligible to a dual Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) if they have not yet completed ST5 in their primary specialty by time of Selection Centre. ANRO will longlist out applicants who do not meet this criterion.

### **4. Communications Regarding an Application**

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

ANRO administrators 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 for online interview. Each applicant will have a maximum of one assessment for Anaesthetics ST3.

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 application form will contain a number of self-assessment questions. It is imperative that you answer the self-assessment questions accurately and honestly.

In a situation where the number of eligible applicants exceeds interview capacity, the score generated from verified self-assessment will be used to determine whether you are invited to online interview.

ANRO are not at liberty to give advice to applicants on their scores/answers. Self-assessment is intended as a reflection of where an applicant feels they are with regards to certain criteria considered important for a career in Anaesthetics.

If you feel you could justify giving yourself a certain score, then you are encouraged to put that score on your application form. If you require further advice ANRO would recommend speaking to your Educational Supervisor and/or College Tutor.

Also, there is additional guidance under the downloads section on our website [ANRO](#).

### 6.1 Verified Self-Assessment

All applicants who meet the required longlisting criteria will be required to upload evidence from their portfolio to support their self-assessment score. The evidence will be verified by an experienced clinical assessor.

The self-assessment evidence upload window will run from **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021** to **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

You are able to provide additional evidence that has been achieved since point of application **but** you must justify in the comments section why your score should be changed and the assessor will look at these comments.

We would strongly advise applicants to ensure they have electronic copies of evidence in an appropriate format (PDF/JPG) well in advance of the need to upload.

Details and instructions of how to complete, and what to upload, will be confirmed by ANRO in due course.

### 6.2 Verified Self-Assessment Global Rating

Applicants will be given a global rating score for the portfolio by the assessor reviewing the evidence. This will cover organisation and planning and the quality of the evidence provided.

Applicants will be marked down if evidence is difficult to find, not labelled or unclear to the assessor.

Any evidence should be presented or translated into English including letters from supervisors.

Ensure the same name is used throughout the evidence. If you use 2 different names, make sure this is clearly explained i.e birthname, married name etc.

The verified self-assessment global rating scoring framework can be found on our download page on [ANRO](#)



### 6.3 Verified Self-assessment Appeal Process

On completion of the verification process, applicants will be sent their verified score, together with feedback explaining any changes to score.

Applicants will receive their verified self-assessment scoresheet via email on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021**.

Please make sure you check your email junk folder and please contact [ANRO](#) if you have not received this.

Where an applicant verified self-assessment, score has a divergence of 5 (10%) from the original self-score submitted at point of application, an appeal can be lodged.

Appeals against scoring must be lodged within 72 hours of the verified self-assessment scores being sent to applicants. No additional evidence can be submitted. The appeal should highlight why an applicant feels that the score should be adjusted, based on the evidence that was initially submitted and verified.

Appeals received after the 72-hour deadline will not be considered.

The outcome of the appeal is final and there is no further recourse for dissatisfied applicants. Disagreements over self-assessment scores fall out of scope of the Recruitment to Medical and Dental Specialty Training Complaints Policy and Procedures 2021.

The Appeal window is between **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 - Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021**.

### 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 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](mailto: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 20.1).

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 20.2).

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 Core Competences

All applicants to ST3 posts are required to provide evidence of achievement of all Core Anaesthetics Competences OR that they will have been achieved by commencement of appointment in August 2021. This can be demonstrated in one of three ways:

1. You are currently in a CT2 post and will have enough experience in Anaesthetics/ICM by August 2021 to satisfy the Person Specification requirements.
2. You have completed a UK Core Training Programme and are in possession of a Basic/Core Level Training Certificate (or SHO Training Certificate) which you are required to upload to your application form.
3. You have completed sufficient time in Anaesthetics/ICM posts and upload a Royal College of Anaesthetists 'Basic/Core Level Equivalence' Certificate to your application form at the time of submission.

Ordinarily, core competence cannot be proven in any other way, however in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, applicants in training that do not receive a CLTC can provide a non-fault Outcome 10 as alternative evidence. Applicants not in a UK core training programme and therefore not in possession of a CLE, should obtain a letter of support from their trainer, specifically the College Tutor.

RCoA have been granted a derogation from the curriculum to allow applicants that have not been able to achieve all core competences by intended start date, to commence training and complete outstanding competences by the end of their ST3 year.

In addition to confirming core competence, you are also required to demonstrate Primary FRCA MCQ examination status by interview date. If it is found that an applicant is not in possession of the Primary FRCA MCQ by the time stated in the 2021 ST3 Anaesthetics [Person Specification](#) they will be withdrawn from the recruitment process.

## 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 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 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 [ST3 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. Shortlisting

Verified Self-Assessment will be used as a shortlisting mechanism where the number of eligible applicants exceeds online interview capacity. Interview capacity is subject to change and the range of scores that will determine invitation to interview cannot therefore be defined in advance.

## 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 **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021** to **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021** on a first come; first served basis.

Applicants who have any problems booking a Online Interview slot you should email [anro@hee.nhs.uk](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021** to **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 8.2 and will continue up until the upgrading deadline at **4.00pm (UK time) on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021**.

## 19. Online Interviews

The online interview window will run between **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021** - **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](#).

A Global Rating score of 1 from each of the assessors 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.

### 19.3 Appointability

For an applicant to be deemed successful across the selection process, they need to score a **minimum** of 71 out of 135.

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

Applicants can score above the national cut-off (i.e. 71) 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.

In the event of tied scores, the following tie breaks will be applied:

1. Commitment to specialty
2. Communication
3. Decision Making
4. Reflective Practice
5. Team Working
6. Working under pressure
7. Global Rating
8. Verified Self-Assessment Score

#### 19.4 Observers on the online Interview

There may be a Lay Representative or External Assessor 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 Online Interview. None of the Anaesthetics assessors take part in or endorse any preparation courses, websites or books.

### 20. Offers

All offers will be made on Oriel by ANRO. Offers received in any other way will be deemed invalid. If you are made an offer, you will need to respond to this on Oriel.

Applicants will be ranked in a single national list based on their performance throughout the selection processes. Offers are made in rank order based on this national ranking.

The first wave of offers will be sent out by ANRO on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 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 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 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 8.2. 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 Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020.**

## 21. Clearing

Clearing will be available to applicants who were deemed appointable at Selection Centre 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. ST3 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](mailto: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.

Applicants will receive verified self-assessment scores and feedback on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

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 Health Education and Improvement Wales 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 Health Education and Improvement Wales 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 Health Education and Improvement Wales 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](mailto: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.