

Training in Anaesthesia in Wales

Core and Specialist Training Programmes are offered in all Health Boards across Wales.

There are 2 routes of entry into the speciality; Core Training or the Acute Care Common Stem programme. Core Training is a 2-year programme in Anaesthesia, with 3 months of intensive care medicine included in the programme. Acute Care Common Stem trainees spend the first 2 years rotating in 6 monthly attachments in the acute specialties of acute medicine (general internal), emergency medicine, Anaesthesia and intensive care medicine, before completing the third year in their parent specialty of Anaesthesia.

Core trainees are also offered the option of a third Core Training year to gain experience in other acute specialties such as Emergency Medicine and Acute Medicine if they wish to do so.

This has proven incredibly useful for trainees considering a career in Intensive Care Medicine or Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine.

Trainee feedback from the GMC national training survey consistently rates Anaesthetic training in Wales as one of the best! Trainees in Wales have a voice and are represented on our Specialist Training Committee panel across all training grades.

Teaching & Training

The Wales School of Anaesthesia offers comprehensive teaching and training opportunities.

All new trainees to the speciality undergo a 3-month structured novice teaching programme. This programme compliments the initial clinical exposure gained and includes simulation teaching. After the novice period, trainees are then enrolled in the regional fortnightly Basic Science teaching designed to navigate trainees through the Royal College curriculum.



Useful Contacts:

Health Education & Improvement Wales:

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/>

Email: heiw@wales.nhs.uk

Royal College of Anaesthetists:

<https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/>

Association of Anaesthetists:

www.aagbi.org.uk

Welsh School of Anaesthesia:

<http://www.welshschool.co.uk/a-career-in-anaesthesia>

 [heiw.nhsiw@wales.nhs.uk](https://twitter.com/heiw_nhs)

 facebook.com/heiw.nhs



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A CAREER IN:

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Anaesthesia in Wales

Anaesthesia is an exciting and rewarding career and is the single largest hospital specialty.

The training is organised by the Welsh School of Anaesthesia (www.welshschool.co.uk) and there are many sub-specialties, so there really is something for everyone. You can start Anaesthesia in your Foundation year by using a taster session or as a four month post. You can then join as an ACCS trainee or alternatively, enter the core training programme of Anaesthesia and intensive care.

If you enjoy working as part of a team and the challenges of dealing with acutely ill patients, then Anaesthesia may be the career for you.

Key Locations

Training in Anaesthesia takes place in almost every hospital throughout Wales as part of a structured training programme. The training will enable you to experience the district general hospital, as well as large teaching hospitals for the sub-specialty work e.g. Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia, Neuroanaesthesia, Paediatric Anaesthesia and Academic Anaesthesia.



Taster Sessions in Anaesthesia

We encourage Foundation trainees to arrange a taster session in Anaesthesia to help you decide whether to apply for core training. If you can't spend a week, then even one or two days would be beneficial.

HEIW also has a '**Career Taster Policy**' with further guidance: <https://careers.walesdeanery.org/exploring-planning>.

Notable Achievements in Wales

We have a very strong academic department in Anaesthesia at the University of Wales which enables all trainees to have the opportunity to take part in many ongoing research projects.

Our trainees are strongly encouraged to present at Welsh meetings and there are many groups representing trainees e.g. Junior Anaesthetists of Wales (JAW), Group of Anaesthetists in Training (GAT). We were the first school in the UK and specialty in Wales to establish a skills training programme in Quality Improvement Science, which is available to all trainees.

Workforce Information

This is the largest single specialty with approximately 325 consultants working in Wales, 70 associate specialist or SAS doctors and over 200 trainees. We recruit biannually to a total ~35 Core training posts in Anaesthesia and ACCS - Anaes, followed by competitive entry to ~24 ST3 posts each year. The demand for Anaesthesia services is ever increasing, partly due to surgical services demand and expansion in the scope of work outside of theatre e.g. surgical pre-optimisation and pre-operative assessment clinics.

Less than full time training is very popular, with up to 20% of our trainees working a LTFT job plan for a variety of reasons. We also have a healthy number of less than full-time trainees (LTFT's).

The trainees experience

"Anaesthesia provides me with the mix of skills and experiences that I love."

"Excellent support and teaching with regular assessments, progress reports and feedback."

"There are excellent trainee regional study days to meet up with fellow colleagues from all over Wales."

A consultant's experience

"Anaesthesia enables me to have an enjoyable, challenging career with plenty of continuing professional development so things never get boring. It also allows for a healthy work-life balance for family and leisure time."



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