

Pharmaceutical Medicine Specialty Training

Frequently asked questions...



*Information on entry requirements, enrolment,
assessment and modules in PMST,
with testimonials from trainees and supervisors.*



Basic information...

What is Pharmaceutical Medicine Specialty Training (PMST)?

The purpose of Pharmaceutical Medicine Specialty Training (PMST) is to equip doctors with specialist knowledge and comprehensive skills and competencies to practise to the highest ethical and professional standards in the discovery, development, evaluation, registration, regulation and the safe use of medicines.

Pharmaceutical Medicine Specialty Training is a GMC-approved training programme, run by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine (FPM), and is the main route for a doctor to gain a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) or Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (Combined Programmes) (CESR-CP) and gain entry onto the GMC's Specialist Register in Pharmaceutical Medicine.

PMST is a competency-based, 4-year programme and is predominantly based upon in-work experience. The knowledge base covers the Syllabus for the Diploma in Pharmaceutical Medicine (DPM) exam, and the acquisition and demonstration of competencies in seven modules of the curriculum (see below).

What is the curriculum for PMST?

All new trainees in Pharmaceutical Medicine follow the 'Specialty Training Curriculum for Pharmaceutical Medicine August 2010 (Amended 2014)' available to download here:

https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/pmst2_curriculum_16dec2014

The curriculum modules are:

- Medicines Regulation
- Clinical Pharmacology
- Statistics and Data Management
- Clinical Development
- Healthcare Marketplace
- Drug Safety Surveillance
- Interpersonal, Management and Leadership skills (general module)





If I want to be a pharmaceutical physician do I have to do PMST?

No, PMST is not a mandatory programme. However, most companies and organisations employing pharmaceutical physicians will encourage participation and support the programme. Some senior roles require the successful completion of PMST and/or a pass in the DPM.

Do I have to have come from a particular clinical background/specialty?

No, doctors of all therapeutic/specialty backgrounds are eligible, including general practice and surgical and medical specialties.

Where can I undertake PMST?

You must be in a post with a UK-based pharmaceutical medicine organisation (i.e. pharmaceutical company, clinical research organisation, regulatory authority) that is an approved Local Education Provider (LEP) to undertake PMST. A list of LEPs is available here https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/local_education_providers.

How long does PMST take?

PMST will take at least four years - ST3 to ST6.

How much does PMST cost?

You are required to pay a one-off enrolment fee to the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB) of £845 and an annual PMST fee of £1025 to the FPM (both these fees are subject to change). Further details about these fees can be found here: https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/enrolment_forms/fpm_jrcptb_2015_fee_info_sheet

How will I revalidate?

Pharmaceutical physicians enrolled on PMST will revalidate through the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) process. A separate fee for revalidation is not required. The designated body for trainees in PMST is the Pharmaceutical Medicine Virtual Deanery, and the Responsible Officer is the Postgraduate Dean.

Eligibility and enrolment...



Am I eligible for PMST?

You will need to have full registration and hold a current licence to practise from the GMC. Other specific eligibility requirements are outlined here: <https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/enrolment>. Three or four years of postgraduate clinical training/experience are required depending on whether you qualified before 2005, or in or after 2005, respectively.

I studied and completed my clinical training/gained clinical experience outside the UK – will this count towards fulfilling the eligibility criteria for PMST?

Yes, probably. We would recommend that you complete the Faculty's CV template, which you can find here <https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/enrolment>, and send it to the FPM (see contact below) before you apply, so that we can give you a preliminary view as to whether you are eligible.

How do I enrol on PMST?

You must ensure that you have sufficient clinical experience before leaving clinical medicine (see eligibility above). You are then required to be in the employ of an LEP before enrolling on PMST. It is recommended that you have at least one to two years of industry experience before you enrol onto PMST. Upon successful enrolment you will be given a National Training Number (NTN) issued by the Pharmaceutical Medicine Virtual Deanery. You can download the enrolment forms here:

https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/enrolment_forms/pmst_enrolment_forms

Am I able to do less-than-full-time training?

Depending on your employment contract – yes. Less-than-full-time trainees will still normally be expected to work a minimum of 50% of full-time and meet the same requirements as full-time training. There is more information about less-than-full-time training in the Specialty Training Curriculum for Pharmaceutical Medicine August 2010 (Amended 2014), page 9 – find out more here: https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/pmst2_curriculum_16dec2014

Will my specific job in pharmaceutical medicine affect my training in PMST?

All trainees follow the same overall curriculum and structure, though the balance of in-work to course-based training will vary depending on your role. The PMST programme allows for considerable individual variation and flexibility in a trainee's approach to meeting the requirements of the curriculum, and an overall individual programme takes account of the trainee's experience, job description and content, and career development aspirations.

Are there any training rotations?

No. PMST is a self-structured specialty training programme and the trainee and his or her Educational Supervisor will have to identify where within the organisation they will be able to gain the experience to achieve the competencies of the curriculum. Some organisations

do run career/professional development programmes for prospective or existing employees who are physicians, and which gives them the opportunity to work in different areas of the organisation's business. These programmes are not associated with the PMST programme, but the experience on one of these career/professional development programmes may indirectly assist a trainee with achieving some of the curriculum competencies.

Assessment and supervision...

How will I be assessed?

- Workplace-based assessments (WPBA) (including: continuous assessment; standardised WPBA tools, course-based assessment, MCQ tests; written assignments).

A minimum of two specialty modules and the general module comprise the core practical programme and must be completed in the workplace. The remaining modules can be completed in the workplace or through approved modular interactive courses or through a mix of in-work and course-based training. You can find a list of approved courses for PMST here: <https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/approvedcourses>

- Knowledge-based assessment (examination)

There are currently three diploma examinations in pharmaceutical medicine recognised by the FPM and the GMC:

- The Diploma in Pharmaceutical Medicine (Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine, London, UK), which is a two-part exam composed of a multiple-choice paper (part 1) and short answer and critical appraisal papers (part 2)
- The Diploma in Pharmaceutical Medicine (PHARMED, Brussels, Belgium) (must be passed before 31 December 2015)
- The Diploma in Advanced Studies in Pharmaceutical Medicine (ECPM, Basel, Switzerland) (must be passed before 31 December 2015)

How will I be supervised/mentored?

You will have an Educational Supervisor (ES), who will be responsible for facilitating PMST and monitoring your performance. The ES will be a GMC-registered doctor with a licence to practise and be an experienced pharmaceutical physician. The ES maintains records of interactions with you, including competency assessments and appraisals. The ES will normally be your medical manager and work at the same site, but this is not always the case.

In addition there will be an FPM-appointed Senior Specialty Adviser (SSA). The SSA is responsible for quality managing the delivery of the PMST programme within a LEP. The SSA will normally be a Fellow of the FPM, experienced at a senior level in pharmaceutical medicine, as well as in staff supervision, appraisal and assessment, and is committed to continuing professional development in general with a particular emphasis on PMST.

In their own words...

Past and current trainees tell us what PMST means to them....



Dr Phil Ambery FFPM

“As the 100th trainee and now an educational supervisor, I’m a big supporter of PMST. You sometimes end up in a niche in an initial job in industry, but PMST is fantastic at delivering exposure to and training for the other roles you could possibly fill. It enabled me to make a jump from medical affairs straight into R&D. I now specifically look for it in physicians I interview because it shows you have transferrable skills and can get up to speed in a new role immediately.”



Dr Janusz Kaminski FFPM

“In the structured, well-organised and busy world of pharmaceutical medicine one needs postgraduate training that also meets these criteria, and PMST really does! Add to this business relevance, the flexibility of the program, and the opportunity to network with your peers (who one day may become your colleagues, if not bosses) and you have got the whole picture. It is not a coincidence that many employers support this program.”





Dr David Montgomery FFPM

“PMST provided a framework for me to understand the whole of the industry, beyond my own area of medical affairs. I am now able to participate more actively and knowledgeably in meetings and projects with colleagues from all over pharmaceutical medicine, from clinical development to regulatory. This incredible experience is why as a medical director I now support and encourage all of my team to participate in PMST.”



Dr Sue Brook MFPM

“PMST provides a structured approach to learning about the different facets of the pharmaceutical industry, which I might not normally be exposed to. I feel reassured that I am on a par with other SpR trainees working towards specialist status in hospital medicine.”



Dr Juleen Gayed MFPM

“PMST provides a 360° view of a large and often misunderstood specialty, helping medics find their feet in an unfamiliar environment using a format that is familiar to any doctor who has worked in the NHS. I have found it invaluable in guiding my career and staying the course.”



Find out more...

Where can I find out more information about PMST and the specialty of Pharmaceutical Medicine?

Useful websites

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine:

<https://www.fpm.org.uk/trainingexams/pmst/trainingland>

Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB):

<http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/>

General Medical Council information on the Pharmaceutical Medicine curriculum

http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/pharmaceutical_medicine.asp

Enquiries to

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