SIA in Pain Medicine

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Overview:

The SIA in Pain Medicine is outcome based with an indicative 12-month (or WTE) training period. The SIA may be undertaken for 6 months, combined with another SIA of your choice; however please note that you will not be able to register completion of pain training with the Faculty of Pain Medicine, meaning you would not be able to work as a Consultant in Pain Medicine (as a full 12 month period is required in order to achieve the key capabilities). Therefore, if you are interested in a career in Pain Medicine, we recommend applying for the 12 month SIA and completing the FFPMRCA exam. If you are a SL anaesthetic resident, you may undertake the SIA in ST6/7; however, NL residents can only undertake the SIA in their final ST7 year. You may wish to complete Stage 3 Pain first.

SIA Posts:

Across London, we have a number centers offering SIA training, though the exact placements offered at any one time will depend on availability. The majority of rotations comprise 6 months in a DGH and 6 months in a teaching hospital. In some cases, two teaching hospitals may be paired (e.g. King's and GSTT). We currently offer one or two 12-month run-through posts at GSTT and C&W (although this may be subject to change and will only be advertised if available). Each centre may also offer opportunity for different clinical experiences based on their pain service (bios with contact details for each centre can be found on the LSA website).

You may apply for any post pan-London (i.e. a NL resident may apply for a SL post) and more than one timeline (although this is only relevant to SL residents who currently have flexibility in when they start and may wish to increase their chance of securing a particular rotation). You will be able to make a short statement on the application if you wish this to be taken into account when posts are allocated, so if you have a rotation preference, please state this in your application, although please remember that application is competitive and you will be scored and ranked anonymously.

Please note that all SIA posts currently include anaesthetic on-call service commitment with the exception of Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital (RNOH)/National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (NHNN) rotation. This is not negotiable.

SIA Posts commencing Aug 2027:
You will be asked to rank in order of your preference. Please note rotations may be subject to minor change.

POST 1: HILLINGDON (Aug 27-Feb 28)/ CHELSEA & WESTMINSTER (Feb 28- Aug 28)

POST 2: RNOH (Aug 27-Feb 28)/ NHNN (Feb 28- Aug 28)

POST 3: BART'S HEALTH: ROYAL LONDON (Aug 27-Feb 28)/ WHIPP'S CROSS (Feb 28- Aug 28)

POST 4: ST GEORGE'S (Aug 27-Feb 28)/ EPSOM ST HELIER (Feb 28- Aug 28)

POST 5: KCH (Aug 27-Feb 28)/ GSTT (Feb 28- Aug 28)

POST 6: GSTT (Aug 27-Feb 28)/ KCH (Feb 28- Aug 28)

SIA Posts commencing Feb 2028:
You will be asked to rank in order of your preference. Please note rotations may be subject to minor change dependent on August 2027 intake. If you have a particular rotation preference which is not listed below, please state this on your application form.

POST 1: HILLINGDON (Feb 28-Aug 28)/ CHELSEA & WESTMINSTER (Aug 28-Feb 29)

POST 2: RNOH (Feb 28-Aug 28)/ NHNN (Aug 28-Feb 29)

POST 3: ST GEORGE'S (Feb 28-Aug 28)/ EPSOM ST HELIER (Aug 28-Feb 29)

POST 4: GSTT (Feb 28-Aug 28)/ KCH (Aug 28-Feb 29)

Clinical Experience:

The majority of training time will be spent in chronic pain outpatient clinics; pain interventional procedure lists and related activity within the multidisciplinary pain service including MDMs and pain management programmes. You will be working within a wider multidisciplinary team that includes specialist nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and psychological therapy. In addition, many pain services work collaboratively with other key specialties including orthopaedics, radiology, urology, gynaecology, palliative care and paediatrics. You will gain some experience in paediatric pain and cancer pain specifically; and will be expected to have experience in acute/inpatient pain also. Additionally, there is the opportunity to participate and gain experience from other specialist clinics/joint clinics to understand the multidisciplinary/multispecialty nature of chronic pain management.

Residents who wish to develop a specialist interest in paediatric pain or neuromodulation would be required to undertake an additional Fellowship in that area. You are encouraged to discuss this with the Pain TPD or Regional Advisors in Pain Medicine (RAPMs).

Interventional experience will include peripheral nerve blocks, musculoskeletal blocks and neuraxial blocks, including exposure to radiofrequency, fluoroscopic and ultrasound-guided techniques. Neuromodulation is offered at specific pain centers (e.g. GSTT, NHNN, St George's).

Learning Outcomes & Key Capabilities:

Learning outcomes – provides comprehensive management of patients with acute, acute on chronic, chronic and cancer-related pain using physical, pharmacological, interventional and psychological techniques in a multidisciplinary setting.

Manages referrals/triages within pain service
Manages an outpatient pain medicine clinic
Manages pain procedural cases
Participates effectively within a pain MDT
Manages patients who are taking drugs of potential addiction
Has an understanding of the socioeconomic, occupational health and medicolegal aspects of pain medicine
Describes the healthcare infrastructure and the pain service
Manages pain in paediatric patients (chronic pain)
Manages pain in paediatric inpatients (acute pain)
Manages pain in cancer patients

Training Support:

You will have a Pain TPD-led induction when you start and local pain induction with your Pain Faculty Tutor who will guide and support your training. Under their supervision, you will have quarterly assessments in accordance with the FPM (please review the curriculum for more details on assessments). The Pain TPD and RAPMs will also review and guide your progress formally. These reviews take place via MS Teams biannually.

There are a number of online educational resources to support learning and training. These can be found on the FPM website and include the FPM National Teaching Programme which provides remote monthly teaching which is mapped to the curriculum.

FFPMRCA Examination:

The FFPMRCA exam has been established since 2011 and runs twice a year. The examination is mandatory for credentialing but not currently a requirement for completing the SIA; however we strongly recommend completing this as otherwise this may impact your future career in Pain Medicine and affect your ability to work as a Pain Consultant. The format of the FFPMRCA is changing. The proposed changes include transitioning from MCQ in the first part of the exam to 'single best answer' and 'extended matching questions'. This part of the exam can be undertaken before starting the SIA. The second part of the examination is moving from a structured oral examination to a more OSCE style format. The provisional timeline for these changes is autumn 2026. Further information can be found on the FPM website (https:/fpm.ac.uk/training-examinations/ffpmrca-examinations).

Audit and Research:

There may also be opportunities to contribute to pain audit and clinical research depending on the centre you go to.