

SIA Posts Application and Allocation Guidance

Full-time & Less than full time (LTFT) Trainees

The 2021 Anaesthetics Curriculum requires all trainees to undertake **12 months (whole time equivalent)** of Stage 3 training in one or more areas of special interest (SIA). The curriculum also stipulates minimum and maximum training times (whole time equivalent) for certain SIAs:

- Clinical SIAs in Anaesthesia for Cardiac Surgery, Anaesthesia for Neurosurgery, Obstetric Anaesthesia and Paediatric Anaesthesia must have a *minimum* of 6 months training time (whole time equivalent).
- A *maximum* of 6 months training time (whole time equivalent) can be undertaken in any *one* of the non clinical SIAs.
- Pain Medicine requires a *minimum* of 6 months training time (whole time equivalent) but the curriculum also states that it is expected that Pain Medicine training should take 1 year (whole time equivalent).
 - The SIA in Pain medicine is NOT part of this application process and there is a separate Pan London application process for it.
 - Trainees wishing to undertake an SIA in Pain Medicine should look at the *Pain Medicine Programme* section of the London School of Anaesthesia website for further details.
- Trainees in a Dual Anaesthetics and ICM training programme will use the SIA year for completion of the required 12 months (whole time equivalent) of stage 3 ICM training.
 - Stage 3 ICM placements are NOT part of this application process and dual trainees should discuss these with their ICM TPDs.
 - Dual trainees are not eligible to apply for any SIAs via this process.

In order to meet the whole time equivalent requirements of the curriculum, the amount of time undertaken in each SIA will be determined by a trainee's full-time / less than full time (LTFT) percentage and the SIA specialty itself.

The SIAs have been categorised into three groups (1, 2, 3) according to the whole time equivalent training time that can / should be undertaken in them (see table below).

All trainees can undertake up to **two** SIAs and placement times will be allocated to ensure that the appropriate whole time equivalent training time is provided for the specific SIA. Thus, all trainees will achieve the required 12 months (whole time equivalent) SIA training within their two allocated SIAs and there will not be a need or option for LTFT trainees to undertake a third SIA in order to achieve this.

*Any trainee who has already undertaken an SIA as LTFT or is due to do so in August 2023 / February 2024 **must** have a discussion about this with their TPDs prior to submitting an SIA application this year. In order to ensure that the appropriate whole time equivalent SIA training time is being provided, this may require changes to be made to the duration of already allocated SIA placements for August 2023 / February 2024.*

Trainees can apply for and will be allocated to SIAs as follows depending on their full time / LTFT percentage and the SIA group:

- **Full time**
 - 12 months of single SIA from group 1
 - Two x 6 month SIA from group 1 or 2
 - One x 6 month SIA from group 1 or 2 AND One x 6 month SIA from group 3

- **LTFT 80%**
 - 15 months of single SIA from group 1
 - One x 9 month SIA from group 1 or 2 AND One x 6 month SIA from group 2 or 3
 - [* Two x 7.5 month SIA from any group ... this option may be possible ONLY if **both** SIAs are in the same hospital and are undertaken consecutively]

- **LTFT 70%**
 - 18 months of single SIA from group 1
 - Two x 9 month SIA from group 1 or 2
 - One x 9 month SIA from group 1 or 2 AND One x 9 month SIA from group 3

- **LTFT 60%**
 - 21 months of single SIA from group 1
 - One x 12 month SIA from group 1 or 2 AND One x 9 month SIA from group 2 or 3
 - [* Two x 10.5 month SIA from any group ... this option may be possible ONLY if **both** SIAs are in the same hospital and are undertaken consecutively]

- **LTFT 50%**
 - 24 months of single SIA from group 1
 - Two x 12 month SIA from group 1 or 2
 - One x 12 month SIA from group 1 or 2 AND One x 12 month SIA from group 3

** This option **may** only be possible if **two** SIAs are undertaken consecutively **AND both** are in the same hospital. However, the complexity of this arrangement may mean that even in this scenario, it may still not be possible due to the potential negative impact on overall grid placements. TPDs will determine if such an arrangement will be possible at the time of allocation.*

All LTFT trainees should seek advice from their TPDs prior to applying for SIAs, in order to ensure full understanding of the above process and to fully consider all the available options based on their individual circumstances.

SIAs will be offered to trainees based on the full time / LTFT % information provided on their application form. Once an SIA placement is offered it **may not** be possible to then change the full time / LTFT % for the specific SIA that has been offered. Trainees should discuss any potential change in full time / LTFT % at the earliest opportunity with their TPD and need to be aware that any such change **may** then necessitate a change in SIA location or even specialty.

SIA Specialty Groups – Minimum / Maximum / Recommended Training Times

<p>Group 1 <i>Require a minimum of 6 months whole time equivalent training time</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaesthesia for Cardiac Surgery • Anaesthesia for Neurosurgery • Obstetric Anaesthesia • Paediatric Anaesthesia • Pain Medicine <i>[NOT part of this SIA application process]</i> 	<p>Group 2 <i>3 – 6 months whole time equivalent training time recommended</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anaesthesia for Bariatric Surgery • Anaesthesia for Complex Orthopaedic Surgery • Anaesthesia for Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery • Anaesthesia for Major General Surgery • Anaesthesia for Ophthalmic Surgery • Anaesthesia for Patients with Complex Airway • Anaesthesia for Plastic Surgery and Burns Management • Anaesthesia in Resource Poor Environments • Anaesthesia for Thoracic Surgery • Anaesthesia for Vascular Surgery • Military Anaesthesia • Perioperative Medicine • Regional Anaesthesia • Transfer Medicine • Trauma and Stabilisation • Acute Inpatient Pain <i>[6 months WTE recommended in curriculum]</i>
<p>Group 3 (Non clinical) <i>Non clinical SIAs – up to 6 months whole time equivalent training time in any one of these</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and Professional and Regulatory Requirements • Safety and Quality Improvement • Education and Training • Research and Managing Data 	

Full time / LTFT percentage & Whole time equivalent SIA training time

The table below shows the whole time equivalent of the SIA placement time according to full time / less than full time percentage:

FT / LTFT	SIA placement time (months)	Whole time equivalent (months)
Full time	6	6
	12	12
LTFT 80%	6	4.8
	* 7.5	* 6
	9	7.2
	15	12
LTFT 70%	9	6.3
	18	12.6
LTFT 60%	9	5.4
	* 10.5	* 6.3
	12	7.2
	21	12.6
LTFT 50%	12	6
	24	12

* This option **may** only be possible if **two** SIAs are undertaken consecutively AND **both** are in the same hospital. However, the complexity of this arrangement may mean that even in this scenario, it may still not be possible due to the potential negative impact on overall grid placements. TPDs will determine if such an arrangement will be possible at the time of allocation.