

Kings

Kings College Hospital Vocational Training Scheme

Kings College Hospital is a world class, teaching hospital serving a diverse, inner city community. We are situated in Camberwell, near Denmark Hill station, and served by many local bus routes. We have trainees coming from many parts of London to attend our scheme, with 16 new starters every August



Our GP scheme has been running for many years and we are the largest training department within the hospital! Trainees spend 18 months of their 3 year training undertaking hospital specialities. One year will be made up of 3 x 4 month posts – a mixture of 3 placements in psychiatry, obs & gynae/GUM, paediatrics and A&E. The paediatric posts all have one month spent in community paediatric clinics which always receives excellent feedback. Psychiatry experience is provided by South London and the Maudsley and may either be in the Maudsley, the Bethlem or within community psychiatric clinics. In the other year, you will have a 6 month GP post and 6 months in either medicine or elderly care (one post also has 2 months spent at St Christopher's Hospice).



A few of our posts are ITP (innovative training posts) – which mean that alongside your GP experience you will spend some of the week within the GUM or Diabetes department. The Programme Directors (Becky, Frances and Rafik) have good links with hospital consultants and the DME (TJ Lasoye).

As we have relationships with many local practices you will always get to experience 2 different placements in GP surgeries as a trainee – one for 6 months and one for 12 months in your final year. Our trainers for Kings attend regular trainer's workshops and get to attend an annual residential alongside other South London trainers from the Lewisham and GSTT scheme.

Our VTS meets during term time on Thursday afternoons in the gym at the Weston Education Centre at KCH from 2-5. The structure of our afternoons is usually a teaching session from 2-3, followed by a hot topic, some time for tea and then an hour in a smaller Balint style group (facilitated by a programme Director). Teaching is arranged based on the RCGP curriculum and is arranged by our trainees to ensure it is relevant. It is usually a mix of invited speakers and peer-based teaching. As you head towards CSA you will have time within VTS to practice with your peers and

receive feedback from your PDs as to how you are getting on. The Kings VTS has an excellent success rate at both AKT and CSA.

There are reps roles available every year (LMC; BMA; RCGP; Kings reps) and we have social reps who organise a Christmas dinner complete with secret santa – it's your VTS and we encourage you to get involved.

We have run a residential every September– allowing us to spend time as a whole scheme, planning educational sessions for the year and forming supportive relationships. We also have an away day at the end of each term – recent days have included themes such as access/newer models of care; an experiential day of therapy (art, exercise, drama, singing); leadership; sex; and the patient narrative.



What our trainees have to say

“Personally I think Kings is a really excellent VTS scheme. The jobs we get are aimed specifically for GP trainees and working in the Kings area is good, as it has a very diverse and young population. Full of pathology! We get really good, weekly, high quality teaching which is focused on our learning needs and we are extremely well

supported by excellent and passionate PDs. Kings VTS team is friendly, fun, hard working and supportive”. *FP ST2*

“Kings VTS feels like an extended family. There are lots of educational opportunities and support needed for trainees who may have difficulty. It's certainly more friendly than other schemes and we are very supported to attend our teaching. The curriculum is wide and you can tailor your experience dependent on your interests-by pursuing new skills like minor ops or further qualifications such as DSFRH. You are surrounded by similar people and will make lasting friendships”. *CF ST3*

“The engaged, proactive Programme Directors promote a holistic approach to GP training. The scheme looks beyond 'just the medicine'. Working in a tertiary level hospital in London with a huge variety in patient demographics, morbidity, health expectations with a friendly atmosphere, despite being in a vast hospital. Trainees feel well supported and listened to, with strong advocates. Trainees are encouraged to pursue areas of interest, and given the time to do so. I would definitely recommend the scheme!” *JM ST1*

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