

## Riverside

### Riverside GP Training Programme

Chelsea & Westminster Hospital  
369 Fulham Road  
London  
SW10 9NH

**Half Day Release:** Wednesday PM

### Description of scheme

The Riverside Vocational Training Scheme is based in West London around Chelsea, Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham. It has been a well-regarded, friendly and popular scheme for over 25 years, achieving excellent MRCGP results in recent years. The scheme consists of 15, three-year entry points, each starting in August. From 2021, one year is spent in two, secondary care six-month posts. These posts include Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Medicine, Psychiatry, Ophthalmology and ENT, GUM, Palliative Care, Paediatrics, A&E. Two years will be spent in General Practice including a six-month Extended scope GP or Innovative Training Post (ITP). ITP jobs are based in General Practice with clinics in Paediatrics (including Paediatric ENT), or Obstetrics and Gynaecology (including GUM) or Medicine (including Endocrine Medicine, Dermatology and Palliative Care). The new extended scope positions (currently under development and to be confirmed) will be a mixture of GP with sessions in one of dermatology clinics, the community independence service or medical education and research. Secondary care posts are based at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, Charing Cross Hospital, The Hammersmith Hospital and Trinity Hospice.

Twelve training practices are currently associated with Riverside training scheme. West London has a diverse population, each practice offers a slightly different experience depending upon location and practice population. Training practices work closely together to ensure that the GP trainee gets the best experience from rotations. Each trainee will spend time in at least two different practices during their training, allocations are overseen by the Programme Directors.

### Educational Activities

Regular VTS teaching program runs over three 10-week terms, with breaks for Christmas, Easter and the summer. Teaching is based at the Postgraduate Centre at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital on Wednesday afternoons, between 2.00 pm and 5.00 pm. *(Since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic all sessions have been run remotely on Zoom but with restrictions lifting in the next few months, hopefully, face to face meetings will become the norm again from the start of the Autumn 2021 term).* Sessions are divided into two parts: the first is usually a more formal teaching session including consultant teaching, teaching sessions run by GPs or by the VTS group itself. A variety of teaching methods are used, ranging from consultant lectures to small group teaching and role-play. The teaching programme content is largely determined by the group at the end of the previous term.

The second half of the session is run by the group itself and often includes “hot topics”, critical appraisal of papers, case-based discussions, Balint group discussions often led by a psychiatrist, discussion of medical news events and presentations by the group members.

From time to time, we hold joint VTS sessions with local schemes, St Mary's and Imperial. We try to have a yearly residential with the trainers usually held at Cumberland Lodge, Windsor Great Park.

## **Contacts**

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