

IST benchmarking

In September, the IST Project Board described the requirements for progression of run through IST trainees into ST3:

1. They will need to have successfully completed the MRCS examination.
2. They will need to have achieved an ARCP 1 for their ST2 year.
3. They will need to have taken part in the National Selection process for their specialty.

In this notification it was stated that the mechanism for participation in the National Selection process would be determined following further consultation with HEE, the GMC, the Heads of Schools of Surgery and the Project Board.

It has now been decided that for the first group of IST trainees on trajectory to progress to ST3, the above requirements will apply. The national recruitment score for each trainee will only be used as part of the developmental assessment of the IST pilot and will not be used to assess the trainee as part of the ARCP process.

This will be reconsidered for future trainees after this year's cohort have completed their core training. A statement will then be prepared for the second cohort of General Surgery IST trainees and for the first cohort of Urology trainees. This will not affect the first cohort of Vascular Surgery trainees as there are no plans for them to take part in benchmarking.

Details of applications for national selection interviews will be published in January 2020, which IST trainees should complete. This will coincide with the applications within Oriol for national selection into specialty training for those in uncoupled core training. There will be an appropriate section in the form for the IST trainee to state they are in a pilot programme.

This application process is necessary to facilitate the allocation of times for the interviews during the national selection process.

The Project Board recognises that the requirement to complete the application form will be an extra challenge, but hope that IST trainees will understand that the national selection interview is an important component of the IST pilot evaluation.

Their own progress will be determined at the ST2 ARCP. The Board hopes attendance at national selection will encourage trainees to ensure their portfolios and ISCP entries are in good order in preparation for their ARCP.

The Project Board also recognises that there has been considerable delay in informing IST trainees of the mechanism of this part of the programme but wish to reassure trainees that this has been necessary to ensure the appropriate safeguards are in place to protect trainees.

Further details on the practicalities of the application process will be available from the recruitment team based at HEE London Local Offices.

IST Project Board