

## EEA Eligibility for Specialty Training

In order to be considered eligible to apply for Specialty Training (ST) posts in anaesthetics through the national recruitment process, applicants are required to hold evidence of completion of the UK core anaesthetic training programme (or equivalent) and success in the UK Primary FRCA. However, in accordance with [EU directive 2005/36/EC](#) (describing the free movement of professionals) it is possible for certain individuals to provide alternative evidence in order to fulfil this requirement.

In order to support the movement of professionals within the European Economic Area (EEA), and simultaneously ensure that applicants are trained to an appropriate level to enter UK training at ST3, the RCoA has produced the guidance setting out the requirements that must be demonstrated in order to be considered under the EU directive 2005/36/EC. rather than the need to have undertaken and passed the UK Primary FRCA.

### What is 'EEA eligibility'?

This term refers to the interpretation of EU directive 2005/36/EC (regarding the free movement of professionals) within the field of medical recruitment.

The directive itself is a large and complex document; but essentially this describes the removal of obstacles to EEA nationals wishing to 'pursue a profession...in (an EEA) Member State other than the one in which they have obtained their professional qualifications.'<sup>1</sup>

The qualifications requirements within the anaesthetic ST3 person specifications are primarily focused on those that are available to UK trainees; so this directive requires that in ST3 recruitment, consideration be given to EEA trainees who may have gained comparable training and qualifications in the EEA, but outside of the UK.

### How do I know if I am 'EEA eligible'?

Essentially if you have trained:

- outside of the UK in another EEA nation;
- on a training programme which is **comparable** to the [UK core anaesthetic training programme](#)
- or you are eligible for the [GMC specialist register](#)
- and you are an EEA national

then it may be possible for you to be considered as having achieved the same standard of training as someone who has completed the core anaesthetic training programme in the UK (from an ST3 recruitment perspective, at least); and as a result you may not need to achieve success in the UK Primary FRCA.

### If I believe I am EEA eligible, what do I need to do when applying to ST3?

In the first instance, you must contact the Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) at [recruitment@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@rcoa.ac.uk) and provide evidence of your training.

### What comparable evidence do I need to provide of my training?

Listed below is the RCoA clarification on what a training programme must contain in order to be considered **comparable** to UK core anaesthetic training programme. You must provide evidence of this directly to the

## EEA Eligibility for Specialty Training

college. We strongly advise you to submit your evidence to the college well in advance of the national recruitment application closing date to enable an assessment of your training by a college representative.

Please note that if your training programme does not meet the criteria listed below, in addition to the points above under eligibility, then you will not be eligible to apply for ST3 anaesthetic training posts without the UK Primary FRCA.

Your training must have:

- been at least two years in duration in a structured post-foundation level training programme
- involved rotations in general duties
- included a minimum of 3 months ICM
- required the completion of an anaesthetic examination, linked to the programme, which includes both a written and an observational assessment of clinical skills
- entailed a formal assessment procedure of workplace based assessment

**In addition, you must also provide a letter confirming that your training meets the EU directive 2005/36/EC from the equivalent of the UK General Medical Council in the country where your training was completed.**

### What will the RCoA do with your evidence?

If the college is satisfied that the evidence you have provided (as set above) demonstrates that you meet the criteria for EEA eligibility route, then the College will inform the Anaesthetics National Recruitment Office (ANRO) of this decision in writing, and you will also receive a copy.

Please note that it will be at the discretion of those assessing your application as to whether they are satisfied that your training is indeed at the level required.

### Assessment of evidence

It must be emphasised that the information above is just the starting point in providing evidence of your EEA eligibility.

Please note that college assessment of your EEA eligibility and your application for specialty training are separate processes. If you are deemed EEA eligible, you must still apply through the recruitment portal ORIEL for anaesthetic specialty training.

---

<sup>1</sup> [EU directive 2005/36/EC](#), Article 251 of the Treaty