

# FAQs UK Offers System

## 1. Who do I make my specialty application to?

There has been no change. 2012 applications are to be made to the same Colleges or Deanery recruitment systems. For more detailed information please visit the following pages on the [www.mmc.nhs.uk](http://www.mmc.nhs.uk) website.

- Specialty profile page [www.mmc.nhs.uk/specialtyprofiles](http://www.mmc.nhs.uk/specialtyprofiles)
- The home page of the [www.mmc.nhs.uk](http://www.mmc.nhs.uk) for the Applicant Guide for application and recruitment to medical specialty training in England 2012

## 2. Who will deliver my post offer/rejection?

As in previous years the recruitment team within each deanery will be responsible for making offers. However, in 2012 the deaneries and specialties listed below will be using the UK Offers System and will make all offers through the UK Offers System

- West Midlands Deanery                      Anaesthesia and ACCS Anaesthesia
- Yorkshire and the Humber                Neurosurgery
- East Midlands                                Public Health

## 3. Will I be able to upgrade my offer this year?

This year if you receive your offer through the UK Offers System (from any of the above deaneries/specialties using the UK Offers System) you will be able to upgrade your offer. This means if you hold or accept an offer that is a lower preference (from your original choices) than your first choice, you will have the option to either hold the post you have been allocated or accept the offer with upgrades. If you choose to accept with upgrades, you may still receive a better offer (a higher preference) from the same specialty if one becomes available.

The upgrade option is applicable to specialties using the UK Offers System and to Core Surgery and ACF ST1 General Surgery (England) who offer upgrades through Pathway within the same timelines stipulated above. For all other specialties you will need to check with the recruitment team within each Deanery or College to find out whether upgrades are available in the specialty that you are applying to.

Upgrading will continue until 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 for CT/ST1 core and run-through training posts and until Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012 for CT2/ST3 higher specialty training posts and re-advertised CT/ST1 posts.

## 4. Can I hold my offer?

Applicants can hold one offer at a time. The option to hold finishes on the 19<sup>th</sup> March after this point you can only accept or reject an offer. It is possible that you may change the post you are holding because you have received a better offer but you can only hold one offer at a time.

## **CT/ST1 core and run-through training**

All first offers will be issued UK-wide by no later than Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March. If you receive an offer you have 48 hours (including weekends and bank holidays) to decide whether to accept it, reject it or hold; you can only hold one offer at a time. You can hold an offer until noon on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012. If you do not accept the held offer by this time, it will be deemed to have been rejected. Offers made after this date can only be accepted or rejected. You can only accept one offer.

## **CT2/ST3 higher specialty training**

All first offers will be issued UK-wide by Wednesday 23 May 2012. If you receive an offer you have 48 hours (including weekends and bank holidays) to decide whether to accept it, reject it or hold; you can only hold one offer at a time. You can hold an offer up noon on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012. If you do not accept the held offer by this time it will be deemed to have been rejected. Offers made after this date can only be accepted or rejected. You can only accept one offer.

**NB** If you are sure that a particular offer is the best for you, you should accept/hold it as soon as possible and reject any others.

### **5. Why is there a test of the Offers System, I thought it was going ahead this year?**

Implementing the UK Offers System is a complex process and we want to ensure it's working 100% before using it.

We are now in a position where some deaneries and specialties (those listed in the answer to Q2) are ready to commence using the UK Offers System in 2012.

### **6. If there is a test of the UK Offers System, is there any risk for my application?**

No. It will be used only to test the system and will not impact on live applications.

### **7. If I have problems, who do I ask for help?**

If your query is technical with regards to the UK Offers System there is dedicated support and online help available. If your query is about your application and processing of it then you will need to contact the College/Deanery recruitment team for where you are applying who will be best placed to assist you.

### **8. Where can I go for further information?**

The latest update will be on the MMC website and Applicant guide 2012 which can be found on the home page of [www.mmc.nhs.uk](http://www.mmc.nhs.uk)

### **9. Will this delay hearing about my offers if successful?**

No, all first offers have to be made by 9th March and iterations of offers will be made once applicants accept, reject or hold their offers.

### **10. Where is my data stored during the test and is it secure?**

For the purpose of the test application data will be uploaded onto the UK Offers system via a secure web service which has been tested. The transfer of data is by industry standards (HTTPS) practice.

HTTPS stands for HyperText Transfer Protocol over SSL (Secure Socket Layer) and is the industry standard secure system used by websites that collect sensitive personal data such as banking information or purchasing information.

SSL stands for secure sockets layer. It is a security protocol to enable websites to pass sensitive information securely in an encrypted format.

**11. If I'm unsuccessful, could the data submitted and used in the test system effect any future applications?**

No. It will have no impact on future applications. Scorers and Interviewers will not be involved in the testing of the UK Offers System therefore will not have access to your previous application.

**12. Will different specialities know if I apply to multiple specialities?**

Through monitoring of recruitment each year we know that applicants may make multiple applications and specialities become more informed on the cross over between other specialities.

Examples:

- 70% of applicants to Obstetrics & Gynaecology only apply to the specialty, however 30% of applicants apply to other specialties as well as Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- 50% of Core Medical applicants training apply to GP

Each speciality lead (i.e. a local deanery or College) will have access to the UK Offers System when fully implemented in 2013. This will allow them to review statistics available to them such as the fill rate for specialties. It will be evident from the information that applicants are applying elsewhere which is to be expected. Providing an applicant is eligible they may make applications to several specialties to achieve their chosen career path and are encouraged to have a back up plan.

Trainees will benefit from the UK Offers System as it will provide a single portal for receiving their offers thus saving them time. The system will also help trainees in their decision making process as it will provide them with ranking information so will be able to see if they are likely to receive an offer. It will help to secure the best offer available to you through the upgrade offer facility.

Once the applicant decides to accept a specialty training offer on the UK Offers System in their chosen speciality then no further offers will be made to them.