

FAQs

Below is a list of questions that have already been raised in relation to the new curriculum.

We will add to these as more are raised.

Some of the descriptors in the Level 1 Patient Management syllabi will be achieved in the first few months of ST1 – why are they not required until the end of ST2?

We expect that many trainees will achieve descriptors and, in some cases, entire Learning Outcomes in Level 1 ahead of the indicative time. Some training units may choose to use the first Learning Outcomes of Level 1 Patient Management to assess whether trainees are ready to be first on call, early in their training.

However, it may take a little longer to be signed off as competent at all of the Learning Outcomes necessary to manage a low complexity ophthalmology patient, including demonstrating underlying knowledge of basic and clinical science (evidenced by the Part 1 examination) and initiating management plan. The end of ST2 is simply the latest point at which entrustment in all of the Level 1 Learning Outcomes must be demonstrated to allow continuation on the training pathway. Where any capability is demonstrated earlier, trainees should start working towards achieving entrustment at the Learning Outcomes in the next level.

The indicative times for Level 4 training varies between the special interest areas. How did you arrive at these?

Professional bodies (e.g. BEAVRS, BIPOSA etc.) were consulted about the amount of time likely to be required for trainees to be entrusted to undertake the activities described in the Level 4 Learning Outcomes independently. Those that are more surgically based, and/or where experience of the specialist surgery is likely to have been limited before entering Level 4 training, are longer.

Could I do more than 2 level 4 domains?

For most trainees we expect they will achieve Level 4 in Cataract Surgery by the mid-point of ST6, as well as Level 3 in all Special Interest Areas (SIAs). It will be most usual to spend the remaining training time undertaking a 9, 12 or 18 month Level 4 SIA. It is possible to complete 2 further Level 4 SIAs. For example, trainees that have completed all Level 3 Learning Outcomes by mid ST6 could use their final 18 months of allowed training to complete Level 4 training in both Urgent Eye Care and Community Ophthalmology.