

North Thames Foundation Schools F2 Programme Allocation 2009 Swap Shop

Background

Since circulating the results of the F2 allocation this year, it has become apparent that some F1 doctors are not happy with their allocation, and they have asked if there is any possibility of swapping with someone else in the same Trust or in the Foundation School. The North Thames Foundation Schools Operational Group, which met on Friday 3 April 2008 agreed to a "Swap Shop" being organised for the 2009 F2 allocations. This will not be repeated in future years. The following criteria will apply:

Overview of Process

1. F1 doctors may submit an application to their Foundation School indicating that they wish to swap their F2 programme allocation. They can do this by completing the attached spreadsheet with their own details. The Foundation School will collect all the responses into a spreadsheet of interested doctors, and circulate it to them all. Foundation doctors will then liaise with each other to suggest swaps.
2. The swaps must be discussed and agreed (in writing) by both trainees confirming that they are prepared to change rotations/programmes with each other.
3. No pressure is to be exerted by any foundation doctor over another to persuade them to swap. The Trust and Foundation School must be notified of any such pressure.
4. Only **whole programmes** may be exchanged.
5. The swap may be within the same Trust or between Trusts.

All proposed programmes resulting from the joint application must meet the criteria below in order for the proposal to be eligible for approval.

The North Thames FS Directors must approve all swaps. The Directors have an obligation to ensure that service delivery within NHS Trusts is not compromised by any of the above arrangements and reserves the right to decline swaps on this basis if it is deemed necessary.

Approval Criteria:

a) Applicants may only change to F2 programmes that result in an educationally balanced 2-year programme, to enable trainees to acquire foundation competencies. For example, a proposed swap resulting in most of the two years being spent in Surgery, would not be approved.

NB: experience of different specialties over the two years of foundation training is important in achieving good educational balance and enabling trainees to meet foundation competencies. Generally, revisiting surgical or medical specialties, eg Vascular Surgery, is not ideal but it is not necessarily inappropriate for the trainee to have experience of the same specialty at F1 and F2 level as different experience may be gained (e.g. out-patient work in F2).

6. If an application is rejected by the Foundation School then no further action can be taken and there is no right of appeal.

Timetable

Expressions of interest to be submitted **by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 15 April 2009**. No late requests will be considered. Please note that your name, email address, telephone number and programme details will be circulated to other interested doctors, so you can contact each other directly. The spreadsheet should be returned to Ann Barker at a.m.barker@qmul.ac.uk

List of interested doctors to be circulated **by Friday 17 April 2009**. Foundation doctors to communicate directly with each other with suggestions for swaps.

Deadline for submitting requests for swaps - **12:00 on Monday 27 April 2009**.
No late requests will be considered.

Foundation Schools to notify approval or non-approval - **Wednesday 29 April 2009**.

Foundation Schools to notify the Trusts of the final F2 allocations **by Friday 1 May 2009**.

If you take part in the Swap Shop you should be aware that:

- you are agreeing to accept the programme to which you have indicated that you wish to swap
- it will not be possible for you to retain your original programme allocation after your swap has been approved
- if, as part of a joint application, the resulting 2-year programme for any of the individual applicants is not approved, the entire application (i.e. from all joint applicants) will be rejected and it will be necessary for all the joint applicants to retain their original F2 allocation.
- trainees who enter into the Swap Shop process but do not then identify an appropriate swap, and do not submit an application, will retain their existing F2 allocation