

## The FFICM Examination

The FFICM examination is a two part exam required for the completion of a CCT in ICM. The Primary FFICM is taken during core training (CT1-2) and consists of an MCQ paper. Exemption from the Primary FFICM can be gained through the completion of one of the following partner specialty examinations (Dual CCTs trainees are not required to sit two primary exams):

- FRCA (Primary)
- MRCP UK (Full)
- MCEM (Full)

The Final FFICM is taken during Stage 2 training (ST5-6) and must be passed to progress to Stage 3. The Final FFICM consists of an MCQ paper followed by OSCE and SOE (viva) examinations. Example questions are now available on the FFICM pages of the FICM website, [www.ficm.ac.uk](http://www.ficm.ac.uk).

## Overseas training

It is possible to accredit training abroad toward your UK ICM training programme. The FICM will allow up to a year of overseas training to count toward your CCT. This must be undertaken during Stage 2 or Stage 3 training and **must be prospectively approved by both the FICM and GMC**. Overseas training undertaken before starting an ICM training programme cannot be counted toward a CCT. In order to complete your training you must undertake the final 6 months of your overall training programme (the second half of Stage 3) in the UK.

## Registration for training

Once appointed to an ICM CCT programme it is essential that you register with the FICM for your training to be approved. Without registration you will not be eligible to complete your CCT programme.

## Further information

More information on training in ICM can be found at [www.ficm.ac.uk](http://www.ficm.ac.uk).

Trainees may also find useful contacts from the Intensive Care Society and its Trainee Committee at [www.ics.ac.uk](http://www.ics.ac.uk).



Search 'Intensive Care Society Trainees'



@ICSM Meetings

### Note:

This guidance is intended for trainees entering the standalone ICM CCT programme (either single or Dual CCTs) **after 1 August 2012**. Trainees appointed to the outgoing 'Joint' CCT in ICM may continue training under the provisions of the guidance pertaining to that programme. Recruitment to the Joint CCT will cease on 31 July 2013. Joint CCT trainees should contact the FICM for further information if required.



# Training in Intensive Care Medicine

*A guide to the UK CCT programme*



[www.ficm.ac.uk](http://www.ficm.ac.uk)

2012

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## Intensive Care Medicine



Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) is an exciting and dynamic specialty with the responsibility for caring for the most critically ill patients in hospital. Whilst other medical specialties deal exclusively with specific organs or body systems, ICM encompasses the entire spectrum of medical and surgical pathology. An ICM doctor is able to provide advanced organ support during critical illness and is responsible for coordinating the care of patients on the ICU. ICM is high tech, life saving care that underpins and interacts with all other areas of the hospital.

It is now possible to train exclusively in ICM in addition to combining it with another specialty.

## Single CCT training

The ICM training programme runs from ST3 to ST7 and consists of 3 stages of training. Entrance to ST3 is from a number of core training routes.

### Core training/entry requirements

Prior to starting dedicated ICM training you will need to have completed one of the following core training programmes in addition to your Foundation years:

- Acute Care Common Stem Training (ACCS)
- Core Anaesthetic Training (CAT)
- Core Medical Training (CMT)



Entrance to ST3 ICM is through competitive national interviews run by the West Midlands Deanery. In addition to completion of a core training programme you will need to have completed one of the following exams:

- **FFICM (Primary)** *Currently under development*
- **FRCA (Primary)**
- **MRCP UK (Full)**
- **MCEM (Full)**

### Stage 1 training

Stage 1 training encompasses the completion of one of the defined core programmes (see above) and the first two years of Higher Specialist Training (ST3-4). These two HST years are aimed at developing the core competencies that were not covered in your core training programme, in addition to extending ICM experience. For example if you have undertaken CMT then you will gain further experience in Anaesthesia during these years. Alternatively if you have completed CAT then you will undertake a period of basic medical training.

## Stage 2 training

Stage 2 training runs from ST5 to ST6. During these years you will gain experience of sub-specialty ICM including cardiothoracic, neurosciences and paediatric ICM in addition to further general ICM experience. Stage 2 training also encompasses a 'Special Skills' year. This year is aimed at allowing you to develop an area of special interest: examples include academic ICM, management, pre-hospital medicine, education or echocardiography. During Stage 2 training you will be required to pass the Final FFICM examination in order to progress to the final year.

## Stage 3 training

Stage 3 is the final year of training (ST7) which is spent exclusively in ICM. This year is aimed at developing high-level clinical and non-clinical skills in the run up to becoming a consultant.

## Dual CCTs training

Prior to the introduction of single CCT ICM training, doctors training in ICM would do so in conjunction with a 'parent' specialty. Whilst this is no longer necessary, you may wish to undertake a Dual CCTs programme leading to a qualification in both ICM and a partner specialty. Dual CCTs programmes will inevitably extend your training; the length will depend on your previous experience and chosen partner specialty, though 8.5 years is the common indicative minimum duration.

Application to the partner specialty is through competitive national interviews. Dual programmes are available in:

- Acute Medicine
- Anaesthesia
- Emergency Medicine
- Renal Medicine
- Respiratory Medicine

For Dual CCTs trainees, training during your Special Skills year will be undertaken in your partner specialty. Any further agreed dual specialties will be announced by the Faculty.



## The ICM curriculum

Training in ICM is governed by the 2011 ICM curriculum which can be found at [www.ficm.ac.uk](http://www.ficm.ac.uk). Assessment of training will be through a number of mechanisms familiar to UK trainees including Structured Learning Events/Workplace-Based Assessments and maintenance of a portfolio. In addition you will be required to write two expanded case summaries each year during your Higher Specialist Training. Assessment of knowledge will take place through the Fellowship examination that you will be required to pass before entering Stage 3 training.