

Physician PHST Recruitment 2025

Applicants' guide addendum for round 2

Version	Publication date	Amendments
1.0	13 June 2025	Original version

1 Introduction

This document is an addendum to the applicants' guide produced for round 1 of recruitment to physician higher specialty level training programmes in the Physician Specialty Recruitment Office (PSRO)-coordinated process.

It should be used in conjunction with the applicants' guide for PHST round 1, and the information available on the PHST Recruitment website (www.phstrecruitment.org.uk) to assist applicants throughout the recruitment process.

This guide will overview how this round will run and will address all parts of the recruitment process which will be different from round 1. This guide is for PSRO-coordinated HST 2025 round 2 recruitment only.

Should you have any queries or comments relating to the Physician HST Recruitment process, please direct these to the PGMDE Support Portal at <https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>.

1.1 What will happen in PHST round 2?

The process for round 2 will be largely the same as round 1. The selection process will consist of self-assessment within the application form, which will be reviewed and verified as part of the shortlisting process, followed by an online interview. Applicants will need to electronically provide supporting evidence to recruitment teams to justify the score they have awarded themselves.

1.2 National 'Round 3'

Although this round is the second round of recruitment to physician higher specialty training, it is the third round nationally of the 2025-26 recruitment year. Consequently, you may see the round referred to as 'Round 3' on the Oriel application system, which needs to make the distinction.

We appreciate it is a little confusing but felt it would be more confusing to call it round 3 in the PHST guidance, when it is the second round for physician higher specialties.

1.3 Major points to note and differences this round

1.3.1 Participating specialties

Unlike round 1, not all specialties will participate in round 2. If the specialty is not listed below, it is not participating in round 2. At time of publication, the specialties participating in round 2 of 2025 recruitment are:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • acute internal medicine | • endocrinology and diabetes | • medical oncology |
| • allergy | • gastroenterology | • neurology |
| • combined infection training (CIT)† | • general internal medicine | • palliative medicine |
| • clinical pharmacology & therapeutics (CPT) | • genitourinary medicine | • rehabilitation medicine |
| • dermatology | • geriatric medicine | • renal medicine |
| | • haematology | • respiratory medicine |
| | • immunology | |

†Recruitment to CIT covers training in the specialties of: infectious diseases, medical microbiology, medical virology and tropical medicine. For more information please visit the 'Infection specialties' page of the PHST Recruitment website at the following link: <http://www.phstrecruitment.org.uk/specialties/infection-specialties>

For a full list of medical specialties (including those not coordinated by PSRO) please visit the PHST Recruitment website: <http://www.phstrecruitment.org.uk/specialties>

1.3.2 MRCP(UK)

All specialties require you to have the full MRCP(UK) in order to take up a post. The deadline to have gained the full MRCP(UK) diploma is the first offers deadline for Round 2 is **21 October 2025**.

To ensure that you receive your results for each examination before the deadline of 21 October, the latest examination diet for which you can be considered for this round are as follows:

- Part 2 – 2025/02
- PACES – 2025/02

Applicants requiring the full MRCP(UK), who have not completed it prior to these diets, and have not applied to these diets for their outstanding part(s), will not be eligible and should expect their application to be withdrawn.

1.3.3 Outstanding eligibility criteria

In the event that you are applying without one or more of the other eligibility criteria being completed, these must be completed by the advertised post start date, this is set as 4 February 2026.

1.3.4 Post start dates

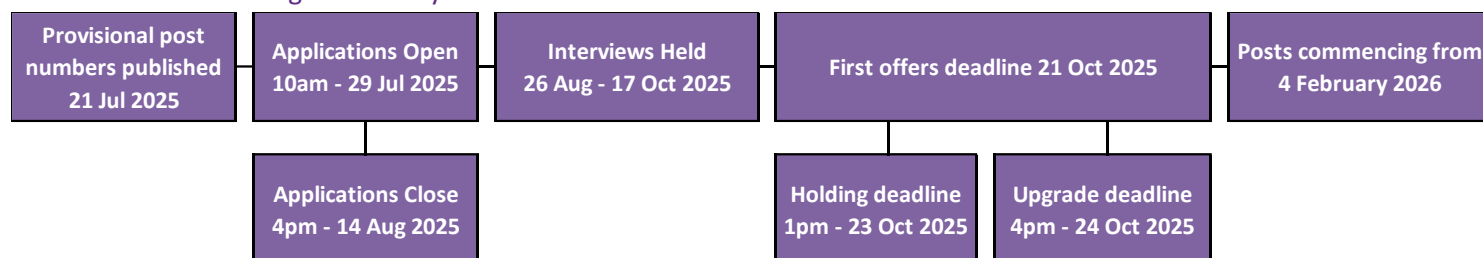
As many posts in round 2 are unfilled from round 1, they can be available to start as soon as possible. However, the time required for pre-employment checks can vary so the exact start date will be dependent on how long this takes.

When selecting programme preferences, the start dates should all be between 4 February (the earliest possible start date) and 1 April (the latest start date). However, if you are successful, the actual start date is likely to be later than 4 February, depending on the date it is vacant from and how long it takes to complete your checks; the latest a post can start is 1 April 2026.

The actual start date will be agreed with, and confirmed by, employing regions for successful candidates as soon as possible after accepted offers are confirmed.

2 Timeline

The table below gives the key dates in this round of recruitment:



The timing of the processes for longlisting, evidence verification and shortlisting will vary, although in each case they should be completed no later than seven days prior to interview.

Dates for interviews and when self-assessment evidence must be loaded can be found on the 'Interview dates and posts' tab under each specialty page on the PHST recruitment website:

<https://www.phstrecruitment.org.uk/specialties/overview>

2.1 Lead regions by specialty

Each specialty is managed by a lead region who is responsible for managing applications and organising evidence verification and interviews. If you have a query about the progress of an application, this can be directed to the lead region. Contact details can be found on the 'Who do I contact?' page of each specialty's page of the website: <https://www.phstrecruitment.org.uk/specialties/overview>

Specialty	Lead region
acute internal medicine	West Midlands
allergy	London
combined infection training	Scotland
clinical pharmacology & therapeutics (CPT)	East of England
dermatology	North West
endocrinology & diabetes mellitus	South West
gastroenterology	Scotland
general internal medicine	East Midlands
genitourinary medicine (GUM)	East Midlands
geriatric medicine	North West
haematology	South West
immunology	London
medical oncology	London
neurology	Thames Valley
palliative medicine	West Midlands
rehabilitation medicine	West Midlands
renal medicine	North West
respiratory medicine	South West

3 Programme numbers

In the main the programmes available in round 2 will be those not filled in round 1. However, it is often the case that additional vacancies are included which have become vacant since round 1.

Provisional post numbers will be confirmed on the PHST recruitment website by **Monday 21 July 2025**, although it is expected that there may still be some regions unable to confirm at this stage and on average post numbers tend to increase between the start and end of the round. These can be found on the 'Interview dates & posts' tab on the specialty's page of the website:

<https://www.phstrecruitment.org.uk/specialties/overview>

One thing we must stress is that, although we will give what indications we can, there are no guarantees of accuracy and things can change during the round. In particular, if a region has no posts at the start of the round, it is possible they will add some during the process if any become available.

Actual post numbers will be confirmed when you are asked to preference programmes, and the website will not be updated after indicative numbers are published.

The only way to be in contention for posts which may arise later in the round is to submit an application.

4 Applicants

4.1 Applicants who applied in round 1

If you applied in round 1 and wish to be considered in round 2, it will be necessary to submit a separate application to this round.

Candidates may reapply for various reasons, for example:

- They were not successful in round 1.
- Their personal circumstances have changed.

Regardless of your reasons, and the outcome of your application in round 1, you are permitted to apply, and your round 1 application will have no bearing on round 2.

4.2 New applicants

As round 2 is entirely independent of round 1 there is no requirement to have applied in round 1.

4.3 Applying on Oriel

If you have previously registered via Oriel, please use the same Oriel account as before.

5 Future recruitment

5.1 2026 recruitment

We expect to be able to publish the timeline and any major changes for 2026 in August 2026. We will update the whole website to make it specific to 2026 PHST recruitment in autumn 2025, as that recruitment period approaches.

Major updates, such as the timeline being confirmed, will be published to our news page:
<https://www.phstrecruitment.org.uk/news>

6 Finally

We have endeavoured to make the process of recruitment to physician higher specialty training programmes as fair, transparent and streamlined as possible for all parties – and for applicants in particular.

We have consulted widely with trainees' groups, consultants, the four UK nations' training bodies, specialty advisory committees, as well as recruitment offices and groups for other specialties/programmes.

Further information

Detailed information on PHST Recruitment is available on our website: <http://www.phstrecruitment.org.uk/>

Should you have any queries relating to the recruitment process at any time, our website contains a section giving details on the most frequently-asked questions relating to PHST Recruitment:
<http://www.phstrecruitment.org.uk/help/overview>

Otherwise, please direct your query to the PGMDE Support Portal:
<https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you luck with your application.

Physician Specialty Recruitment Office

NHS England
