

Stage 3 Special Interest Areas in SESSA- planning, application, navigation and delivery

Introduction

Stage 3 Special Interest Areas (SIAs) are a feature of the 2021 curriculum and a full description with additional resources can be accessed at:- <https://rcoa.ac.uk/documents/2021-curriculum-learning-syllabus-stage-3-special-interest-areas/acute-inpatient-pain>.

Stage 3 SIAs should constitute 12 months WTE of training in **one or up to a maximum of 3** areas of specialist interest. Anaesthetists-in-Training (AiTs) should elect which areas they would like to focus on with a view to gaining training that will either prepare them for Consultant practice or enable them to access additional training opportunities that may be available post-CCT that will then enable them to pursue an opportunity to work as a Consultant with allocated sessions in an area of specialised practice.

This document is designed to help both SESSA AiTs and their Clinical Trainers effectively plan, apply for, navigate and deliver this mandatory element of the 2021 curriculum.

Planning

The Stage 3 and Stage 3 SIA curricula are integrated, especially with regards to completing the curriculum defined by the General Professional Capabilities. As such evidence gained in the form of SLEs, Personal Activities or Personal Reflections during time spent undertaking a Stage 3 SIA can be used to demonstrate attainment of Stage 3 key capabilities and vice versa.

Stage 3 SIAs can be planned flexibly across the ST6 and ST7 years to support maximum access to these training opportunities.

SESSA reserves the right to introduce competitive selection to Stage 3 SIAs in the future should a particular clinical area become such a popular choice that making fair and consistent allocation decisions becomes problematic. Decisions on the need to introduce competitive section will be made on a year-by-year basis once all AiT choices have been registered according to the deadlines described in this document..

SIAs are grouped according to indicative training times. In Group 1, the indicative times are 6 months to 1 year whilst in Group 2 they are 3-6 months. SIAs are also possible in both Non-Clinical domains and Additional ICM. Non-Clinical SIAs are subject to either local opportunities being available or being appointed to a funded position which supports such a Stage 3 SIA. The indicative time for a Non-Clinical SIA is up to 6 months whilst an SIA in Additional ICM is 6 months.

Application

You should register your preferred SIA choices by completing and emailing the application form found in appendix 2 at the end of this document to the Stage 2-3 Training Programme Director between starting and no later than 3 months WTE before completing your ST5 training year (eg; if you are training full time and you have had no breaks in your programme this period would be between August to May). You are strongly encouraged to discuss your choices and expected training times with the lead trainer in your preferred SIAs before confirming these with the Stage 2-3 TPD. The appendix shares a brief summary of the local training opportunities likely to feature in each of the available Stage 3 SIA options.

The table below outlines the lead trainers for the SIAs currently offered in SESSA and their contact details. Additionally, the maximum number of Stage 3 SIA AiTs that a department can support at any one time is also indicated in this table.

It is possible to register more than 3 choices, if you indicate an order of preference. However, **you will not be appointed to more than 3**. Those seeking to spend some or all of their Stage 3 SIA time working in a District General setting and focusing on areas including but not limited to Major General, POM or Regional should make this clear when registering their choices.

Those interested in Stage 3 SIAs that are not currently offered by SESSA are advised to contact the Stage 2-3 TPD at the earliest opportunity to further discuss. Similar advice would apply to those interested in a Non-Clinical SIA or Additional ICM.

SIA	Lead Trainer	email	Max no. Stage 3 SIA AITs/month
Group 1: 6-12 months			
Anaesthesia for Cardiac Surgery	Emma McLaughlin	emma.mclaughlin@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2 (incl. Anaesthesia for Thoracic Surgery)
Anaesthesia for Neurosurgery	Keith Kelly	keith.kelly@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2
Obstetric Anaesthesia	Catherine Collinson	catherine.collinson@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2
Paediatric Anaesthesia	Naomi May	naomi.may@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2
Pain Medicine	Joanna Renee	joanna.renee@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2 (incl. Anesthesia for Inpatient Pain)
Group 2: 3-6 months			
Anaesthesia for Inpatient Pain	Joanna Renee	joanna.renee@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2 (incl. Pain Medicine)
Anaesthesia for Bariatric Surgery	not currently offered in SESSA	email TPD for further advice	
Anaesthesia for Complex Orthopaedic Surgery	David Coad	david.coad@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2 (including Regional Anaesthesia)
Anaesthesia for Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery	Craig Beattie	craig.beattie@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2
Anaesthesia for Major General Surgery	Faisal Jafar WGH Ross Simmons Fife	faisal.jafar@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk Ross.Simmon@nhs.scot	2
Anaesthesia for Ophthalmic Surgery	Marc Janssens	marc.janssens@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	1
Anaesthesia for Patients with Complex Airway	Claire Gillan	claire.gillan@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	1

SIA	Lead Trainer	email	Max no. Stage 3 SIA AiTs/month
Anaesthesia for Plastic Surgery and Burns Mx.	not currently offered in SESSA	email TPD for further advice	
Anaesthesia in Resource Poor Environment	see https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/about-us/global-partnerships/working-low-middle-income-countries/opportunities-anaesthetists	email TPD if considering applying for a Fellowship linked to RCOA's Global Partnership programme	
Anaesthesia in Thoracic Surgery	Emma McLaughlin	emma.mclaughlin@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	2 (incl Anaesthesia for Cardiac Surgery)
Anaesthesia for Vascular Surgery	Euan McGregor	euane.mcgregor@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	1
Military Anaesthesia	for Military AiTs only		
Perioperative Medicine	Gary Morrison	gary.morrison@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk	1
Regional Anaesthesia	David Coad RIE Simon Bolton VHK	david.coad@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk ; simon.bolton@nhs.scot	2 in RIE (incl Anaesthesia for Complex Orthopaedic Surgery) 1 in Fife
Simulation and Medical Education	Ed Mellanby, SJH	Edward.Mellanby@nhs.scot	1
Transfer Medicine	for those undertaking EMRS/HEMS Fellowships or on a PHEM Training Programme		
Trauma & Stabilisation	or those undertaking EMRS/HEMS Fellowships or on a PHEM Training Programme		

Navigation and Delivery

Detailed information including the higher level learning outcomes, key capabilities and HALO assessment guides for all the Stage 3 SIAs can be accessed <https://rcoa.ac.uk/documents/2021-curriculum-learning-syllabus-stage-3-special-interest-areas/introduction>.

Success in navigating an SIA will be grounded in the initial, middle of attachment and final meetings with the corresponding lead trainer. The initial meeting will map out the route to acquire the key competencies required, the middle meeting will review if an AiT is on track and if required offer a route map to get back on track and

the final meeting will then determine if an AiT has met the HALO requirements with a view to achieving an unit of training signed off. This framework should ensure that the outcome, in terms of a HALO approval, at the end of their SIA attachment should be anticipated not unexpected.

On reviewing the curriculum or HALO Assessment guides, you will note all the key capabilities are highlighted in one colour, denoting that they represent one cluster. The idea behind a cluster is to recognise that one piece of evidence may be generalisable and so used to demonstrate attainment across all or some of the key capabilities in a unit of training. This concept has been incorporated to help rationalise and ease the burden of assessment.

Suggested supervision levels have been designated for all Stage 3 SIAs. The supervision levels for some key capabilities have caused some concern since publication and it seems likely that these may be revised in time. However, being **suggested** supervision levels allows some degree of discretion to be exercised at a local level. Consequently, you may find at your initial supervisor meeting that part of the discussion involves resetting expectations on the expected supervision level for a particular key capability.

Another feature of local discretion may be that, at your initial supervisor meeting, you are advised of a particular type or level of evidence that will be required to achieve a Stage 3 SIA HALO not listed as an example of evidence in the RCOA's curriculum or assessment guidance. This should be clearly sign-posted to you at the outset and should be SMART in nature (ie; specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely).

At your final ARCP, you will be expected to provide **a minimum of 2 Stage 3 SIA HALOs** alongside your other required evidence as described in the RCOA's National ARCP Checklist (<https://rcoa.ac.uk/training-careers/training-hub/2021-curriculum-arcp-checklists-guidance>) **unless you have spent 12 months in just one domain in which case only one Stage 3 SIA HALO will be required.** Those seeking a more general clinical experience in their SIA year may wish to focus on pairing Perioperative Medicine with another clinical entity such as Anaesthesia for Major General or Regional Anaesthesia.

If your Stage 3 SIA supervisor has indicated that there is a risk you may not reach the level required for a unit of training sign off, please highlight this to the Stage 2-3 TPD at the earliest opportunity. It is unlikely you will be given additional training time in your Stage 3 SIA unless there have been mitigating circumstances which led to you missing a significant amount of training time. More likely, an alternative strategy will be agreed with you, which will allow you to progress to your final ARCP with the core requirements needed to be awarded a CCT.

Summary

This guide and the attached appendix hopefully help alongside the RCOA's resources to successfully plan and complete your Stage 3 SIA attachments. All these attachments offer you the opportunity to immerse yourself in an area of interest and demonstrate the clinical and professional skills which will support your transition successfully to independent practice post-CCT. Understanding what local, regional or national opportunities there are likely to be for you post-CCT and deciding whether or not you will be aiming to secure a post-CCT Fellowship are just some of the many factors to take into consideration when planning your Stage 3 SIA choices and consequently having a early conversation with your Educational Supervisor to determine your approach to planning the final stages of your training programme and submitting your SIA choices at the earliest opportunity is likely to pay dividends

Appendix 1. Summary of local training opportunities

SIA	Brief Summary of Local Training Opportunities
Group 1: 6-12 months	
Anaesthesia for Cardiac Surgery	Excellent exposure to anaesthesia for cardiac surgical interventions including minimal invasive techniques, attend high risk preop clinics, gain experience of TOE, gain skills in adv vasc access (incl PA catheters), get involved in QI, present an lead local M&M meetings and attend national subspecialty meetings
Anaesthesia for Neurosurgery	Clinical experience in elective and emergency anaesthesia for neurosurgical and neuroradiological intervention, learn how to perform a scalp block, further experience in advanced airway management in patients presenting with unstable fractures of the cervical spine, attend and lead patient care in pre-admission clinic, present locally at M&M meetings, involvement in QI, present nationally at annual NACCS meeting, support weekly trainee list allocation and have opportunity to visit another Neuro centre
Obstetric Anaesthesia	See Med Ed website for full description. Includes opportunities to attend and lead High Risk Obs clinic, attend joint specialty/MDT planning meetings, teach, undertake audit/QI, contribute to guideline writing and arrange visit to another Obs unit
Paediatric Anaesthesia	TBC
Pain Medicine (12 months; similar to prev Adv Pain Training)	Working as part of the MDT Lothian Chronic Pain Service working towards independent practice in Outpatient Clinics & Radiologically Guided Interventional Procedures. Experience of Specialist Clinics in Paediatric Pain, Pelvic Pain and Pain and Dependency and sessions in Palliative Medicine and a Hospice Placement. Inpatient Pain sessions also desirable. Opportunity to visit Glasgow or Dundee for a month of Specialist Pain e.g. SCS or Paeds Pain. Opportunity to engage in research and QI when available. Engage in a national network of SIA Pain Trainee's with support to pass the FFPMRCA exam. Weekday working - Pain sessions only. Out of hours commitment - based at RIE
Group 2: 3-6 months	
Advanced Education and Simulation	This supervised and well supported post would give you the opportunity to gain expertise in medical education, including simulation scenario design and debriefing, clinical debriefing and team training and mastery learning strategies. Due to the supervision, infrastructure and projects already in development, there will be an opportunity to produce academic output. Your post will include out of hours clinical work at St.Johns. Daytime clinical shifts can be flexible and based around your educational projects, but will aim to be around 1 clinical day a week, and allow you exposure to supervising and

SIA	Brief Summary of Local Training Opportunities
	<p>coaching more junior trainees in technical and non-technical skills. Potential projects will depend on clinical and educational interest, but could include:</p> <p>Anaesthetic new start training, Initial Anaesthetic Competency Simulation days, Initial Obsteric Anaesthesia Competency Simulation days, Theatre critical incident team training sessions, PROMPT faculty, mastery sessions in epidurals and invasive lines, TIVA simulation days, transfer training and simulation for procedural sedation.</p> <p>You would receive recognised training and coaching in simulation and medical education to support you in making the most of this opportunity.</p>
Anaesthesia for Inpatient Pain (6 months)	<p>Experience in Inpatient Pain across Lothian, Fife and the Borders. Regular ward rounds in Adult, Paediatric and Palliative Inpatient Pain. Occasional chronic pain clinic experience. Option for Hospice placement and/or out of area placement of 2-4 weeks of subspeciality interest. Opportunities to explore procedural pain procedures such as chest wall trauma, hip and rib fractures as part of the RIE Analgesia service (NB. once this is fully established - currently in development). Practical and formal teaching opportunities for teaching junior trainees and allied health professionals.</p> <p>Weekday working - Pain sessions only.</p> <p>Out of hours commitment - based at RIE</p>
Anaesthesia for Complex Orthopaedic Surgery	<p>Clinical experience in delivering anaesthesia to a wide variety of complex orthopaedic procedures, both elective and trauma. Will include pelvic surgery, scoliosis surgery, major orthopaedic cancer surgery, and experience in managing major haemorrhage. Includes pre-operative assessment of high-risk cases. Development/review of guidelines and policies and the opportunity to attend appropriate management meetings. Experience in the use of a wide range of regional anaesthetic techniques – This SIA is often carried out concurrently with Regional Anaesthesia SIA – if so would recommend 6 months for both combined.</p>
Anaesthesia for Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery	<p>Be involved in Transplants, attend MDTs, support QI, get involved in the BSC programmes run by Dr Mort Kelleher focused on Anaesthesia, Critical Care & Pain Medicine and Transplant and Critical Care and present project work both regionally and nationally</p>
Anaesthesia for Major General Surgery	TBC
Anaesthesia for Ophthalmic Surgery	TBC
Anaesthesia for Patients with Complex Airway	<p>Lead anaesthetic care for major cases, attend clinic and perform nasoendoscopy, contribute to teaching activities, visit another ENT/maxfax centre, attend a Paeds airway list in RHCYP, present (and possibly publish work) locally, regionally and/or nationally</p>
Anaesthesia in Thoracic Surgery	<p>Excellent exposure to anaesthesia for thoracic surgical interventions including robot and video-assisted techniques, learn skills assoc with thoracic wall regional analgesia, get involved in QI, present an lead local M&M meetings and attend</p>

SIA	Brief Summary of Local Training Opportunities
	national subspecialty meetings
Anaesthesia for Vascular Surgery	Excellent clinical experience in managing anesthesia and peri-operative care for elective and emergency open, endovascular and hybrid vascular surgery, attend pan-Scotland and local MDT meeting, participate in comprehensive pre-op assessment and/or optimisation of patients (incl. CPET) presenting for major vascular surgery and contribute to local clinical governance activities
Perioperative Medicine	TBC
Regional Anaesthesia	Clinical experience to gain a mastery of a wide range of RA techniques including catheter techniques and managing surgery under block alone. Provides the opportunity to teach RA to colleagues. Development/review of guidelines and policies and partake in QI projects, with the opportunity to present locally or nationally. Arrange a visit to another centre to experience differences in the delivery of RA between centres.
Simulation and Medical Education	<p>This supervised and well supported post would give you the opportunity to gain expertise in medical education, including simulation scenario design and debriefing, clinical debriefing and team training and mastery learning strategies. Your post will include out of hours clinical work at St.Johns. Daytime clinical shifts can be flexible and based around your educational projects, but will aim to be around 1 clinical day a week, and allow you exposure to supervising and coaching more junior trainees in technical and non-technical skills.</p> <p>Potential projects will depend on clinical and educational interest, but could include: Anaesthetic new start training, Initial Anaesthetic Competency Simulation days, Initial Obsteric Anaesthesia Competency Simulation days, Theatre critical incident team training sessions, PROMPT faculty, mastery sessions in epidurals and invasive lines, TIVA simulation days, transfer training and simulation for procedural sedation. You would receive recognised training and coaching in simulation and medical education to support you in making the most of this opportunity.</p>

Appendix 2 Application form for Stage 3 SIA Choices

Name:		Provisional CCT date:	DD/MM/YYYY
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Stage 3 SIA Choices	Order of Preference@	Requested attachment length (months)*

@maximum number of final choices will be 3 but you can submit>3 on application form *refer to indicative training time for Category 1 and 2 choices		

Please submit form to Jeremy.Morton@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk