

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

USING THE ACCREDITATION OF TRANSFERABLE COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK (ATCF) FOR TRANSFER INTO GENERAL PRACTICE SPECIALTY TRAINING (GPST)

Q1 I have been working in my current specialty for nearly three years. Can I count 12 months experience for general practice training?

A1 The answer is not straightforward, a minimum of 12 months experience in another specialty is required but the GP programme can only be shortened by six months.

ATCF can be applied when the trainee has successfully completed at least 12 months training in an approved specialty. This accredited training experience currently entitles the trainee to a 6 month reduction in general practice training.

Q2 Why is the ATC limited to 6 months?

A2 The amount of time that can be used for ATCF into GP is limited to no more than six months to reflect the shorter duration of the GPST programmes which are normally three or four years whole time equivalent (WTE).

Q3 I am currently in a training programme in Australia and will be applying for general practice specialty training. Can I count any of my experience towards my GPST?

Can I use the ATC system to accredit experience gained in training programmes outside the UK?

A3 No. Accreditation of transferrable competencies only allows trainees to transfer from one UK approved specialty training programme to another.

Q4 I am currently in my first year as a GPST in a four year training programme and would like to use the ATC route to reduce my training time. Am I eligible?

A4 No. ATC allows UK trainees to transfer between specialties moving from training approved for one CCT programme to that approved for a different CCT. You cannot use it to move from one GP training programme into another one.

Q5 If I have completed some time in GP and apply to move region, necessitating starting the training programme again, can I use the ATC System?

A5 No. ATCF cannot be used to transfer within specialty or change region.

Q6 I am a core medicine trainee in the first year of my programme. If I receive an Outcome 2 for my exit ARCP will I be eligible for a shortened programme?

- A6 Your final gateway ARCP from your exiting specialty is an Outcome 1 (i.e. satisfactory progress). Other exiting ARCP outcomes may be considered at the discretion of your local Postgraduate Dean, if it is only for an exam fail.*

Q6a I have completed two years as a psychiatry trainee but resigned and I am currently working abroad. I am keen to count my psychiatry experience towards a shortened programme, am I able to do this?

A6a

Since ATC is a vehicle to move from one GMC approved specialty training programme to another the implication is that the applicant would hold an NTN. However, there may be situations where the NTN has been relinquished recently or was held at the time of application but relinquished after recruitment.

It is not the NTN per se that is a requirement it is the recent engagement with a GMC approved specialty training programme.

To be consistent with the Gold Guide and GMC absence policy, which allows for a maximum period of two years out of programme (sickness, unpaid leave or OOP) before the NTN is relinquished and trainees are required to reapply for specialty training; it would seem appropriate to set the same two year limit.

Therefore, provided trainees have been in a GMC approved specialty training programme within the previous two years (and that would be two years from the planned start of the GP specialty programme) – for example for August 2017 applicants the two year rule could be applied to approved specialty training programmes that ended no earlier than August 2015.

Psychiatry is on the list of five specialty programmes approved for ATC into GPST, provided that the date of leaving the programme was no earlier than two years from the date of entry into a GP specialty training programme then the prior experience may be used under ACTF for a shortened GPST programme.

Q7 Can I use documented experience and competencies gained during LAS/LAT rotations or as a specialty doctor in applying for ATC and if not why not.

A7 *For SASG and Locum as service – LAS the answer is no, as above you need to be in an approved specialty training programme/experience. The correct route for recognition for time as LAS would be the CESR/CEGPR (CP) which is unaffected by the ATCF.*

For Locum as training – LAT provided that the LAT was in a specialty/ specialty training programme approved by the GMC and on the list of specialty programmes approved for ATC into GPST then prior experience may be used. Therefore a LAT in core medicine could be used for ATC but experience as LAT in histopathology could not.

Q8 If I apply for GP training and pass recruitment does that make me automatically eligible for a shortened programme?

A8 *Yes subject to conditions. If you are successful in GP recruitment, you are currently in a specialty training programme and curriculum approved for ATCF and you have declared your intent to use ATC Framework to transfer competencies then you are eligible for a shortened GP programme subject to local capacity and programme availability AND satisfactory progress in the final ARCP in your exiting specialty.*

Q9 I intend to apply for general practice training but I am not sure I wish to go for the ATC route. Can I apply for this after I have the results of GP recruitment?

- A9 *No. You must indicate at the time of applying for general practice specialty training that you are interested in following the ATC route. A retrospective application cannot be accepted.*
- Q10 If I obtain an Outcome 1 from my final ARCP in the transferring specialty programme, pass general practice recruitment but get an unsatisfactory outcome in my first year in GP recruitment, am I still eligible for a shortened programme?**
- A10 *No. If you are successful at your exiting ARCP and GP recruitment you are eligible to start a shortened programme. However, if you fail to demonstrate satisfactory progress in your first gateway ARCP in GP you are likely to receive an outcome 2 or 3 and would be eligible for targeted training or additional time. The period of additional training will be determined by your educational needs and the ARCP recommendations.*
- Q10a If I pass GPST recruitment and am considered eligible for ATC and have an Outcome 1 at the end of my first year of GP training, will I automatically get a shortened programme?**
- A10a *While you may be eligible for a shortened programme it does not guarantee that it will be possible to give you one in your LETB/Region. It will depend on the availability of the posts and the ability to give you a balanced educational programme.*
- Q11 Do I have to go through the full general practice specialty recruitment process even though I have already been selected for my current specialty?**
- A11 *Yes. All applicants using the ATC route into GP specialty training programmes must be successful in the GP recruitment and selection process for the current year.*
- Q12 If I am successful in getting a place for August in GP when will I have the programme shortened?**
- A12 *The programme is normally shortened in year 1 but occasionally in year 2, and reduced by no more than six months. The training programme director will discuss a balanced programme with you which will be agreed before you start and will attempt to avoid repeating previous experience. The ATCF for transfer into GP aims to preserve the principle of 18 months in general practice however this may be subject to local availability. However, a minimum of 12 months in GP in the final year of training is mandatory.*
- Q13 If I apply and I am successful for a shortened programme is it the GP component that will be shortened?**
- A13 *No. It will be a hospital post that will be taken out of your programme. Trainees will normally be expected to do 18 months in a standard general practice specialty training programme even if it is shortened.*
- Q14 If I am successful in achieving a shortened programme does that mean that I will be out of phase with the rest of the trainees in the region/LETB?**
- A14 *Your training will now be 2½ or 3½ years instead of the standard three or four year training programme. It does mean that your GP component may be out of phase with the majority of your peers. The regions/LETB will be aware of this. The increased frequency of the CSA examination means that you will not be disadvantaged in availability of your end point assessments.*
- Q15 I am currently a trainee in emergency medicine and would like to apply for ATC. Is this possible?**

A15 *Yes Emergency medicine and ACCS are now included in the listed specialty programmes for transfer into GPST using the ATCF*

Q15a If I have completed 6 months of a medical rotation and 6 months of an A&E rotation in ACCS ST1, can I apply for ATC to GP Training and if not why not?

A15a *As above yes, however you can only use one approved ATCF specialty and the maximum allowable period for shortening the GPST will be no more than six months.*

Q16 I have done two years in psychiatry and wish to apply for ATC. Does this mean that it will be a psychiatry post that will be taken out of my programme?

A16 *If there is a psychiatry post in the rotation that you are recruited to then it is likely that this will be the post that will be removed. However, not all rotations will have the specialty that you have been working in and it will be a local decision on how your programme can be balanced if hospital posts are removed.*

Q17 How can I demonstrate gaining GP competencies retrospectively from specialty training programmes?

A17 *ATCF are not eligible for retrospective applications. However if trainees are applying for ATCF into GP they are advised to continue gather evidence in your current specialty contextually, that is community facing and includes communication skills and to comment upon it in your current e-portfolio.*

Q18 If I ATC, will I be placed in regions whose training margin is under filled?

A 18 *Eligibility for ATCF is subject to local capacity and programme availability. Therefore, if your chosen locality does not have capacity you may be offered an area which has.*

Q19 If I ATC, will I compete with pre-existing GP Trainees for specific training placements?

A 19 *No. Trainees recruited in the same cohort (rounds 1 and 2 each year) will have their programmes determined by the educational requirement for balanced programmes which will take into account prior experience for ATCF trainees.*

Q 20 At what point in the academic year do I need to decide to ATC?

A 20 *Applications for ATCF into GP have to be declared with the GP NRO application and cannot be applied retrospectively; therefore the decision to use the ATCF should be made when applications open.*

Q 21 If I am an Academic or LTFT Trainee how will I apportion my experience to the ATC criteria?

A 21 *The ATCF will be available to academic and less than full time trainees and programmes would be mapped to the educational requirements for their programme.*

Q 22 What is the appeals process if my application is turned down?

A 22 *Any appeal request should be sent to the LETB who made the decision on your eligibility for ATCF.*

Q 23 I am a BBT trainee, can I use BBT experience for ATCF into GP?

A 23 *Experience obtained during BBT cannot be used to a CCT programme using the ATCF route. BBT trainees that make satisfactory progress and are successful in GP recruitment are able to enter GP specialty training (GPST) programmes at ST2. Experience relevant to GPST in BBT programmes cannot be used to further shorten a GPST programme.*

The GMC requirement for a CCT in GP is, three years in a specialty training programme. It may be shortened by six months using ATCF as the six months in another GMC approved specialty training programmes contributes to the CCT programme. In a similar way, twelve months of BBT may be allowed (applicants enter GPST at ST2 if they have evidence of the competencies) but “double counting” to allow further reductions in GP specialty training time to CCT is not permitted.

Q 24 I am a trainee in Southern Ireland. Am I eligible for ATCF if I am accepted on a programme in the UK?

A 24 *No. The GMC guidance on ATCF only applies to trainees who hold an NTN in Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland or England.*