

GMC National Training Survey 2020 – Frequently Asked Questions

What is the GMC Training Survey?

The annual General Medical Council (GMC) National Training Survey (NTS) has been developed to monitor the quality of postgraduate medical education and training in the UK. It asks specific questions about the programme every doctor in training is following on the **census date**, which this year is Tuesday 24th March 2020.

The GMC has been provided with information about the programme, post, grade and local education provider (LEP) doctors are in on this date. All questions should be answered with regard to this census date. **Even if you have rotated into another role by the time of the survey, the answers should be about your experiences in the post you were in on 24th March 2020.**

When is the survey?

Both the trainee and trainer survey open on Tuesday 24th March 2020 and run for 6 weeks until closing on Tuesday 5th May 2020.

Is the trainee survey mandatory?

All eligible doctors should complete the GMC survey. It is considered a professional obligation of all trainee doctors to provide this vital feedback on education and training experiences. A unique code is provided at the end of the survey to provide evidence of completion.

Who needs to complete the trainee survey?

You **are** required to complete the survey if, on the census date, you are:

- In foundation, core, broad based, specialty, or general practice training
- In fixed term (FTSTA) or locum (LAT) appointments
- In military, clinical lecturer or academic clinical fellowship training posts
- Working either within the NHS or in a non-NHS organisation
- F2 trainees completing additional General Practice training

You are **not** required to complete the survey if, on the census date, you are:

- Past your CCT date but not on sub-specialty training
- On parental or adoption leave
- Out of programme training outside of the UK (OOPT trainees within the UK are required to complete it)
- Out of programme on research, experience or a career break
- On long term sick leave
- A Dentist
- A non-medical public health trainee (a separate survey is run)
- A Doctor who is NOT in training posts e.g. locum appointment for service (LAS) and trust grade doctors
- Following a Medical Training Initiative (MTI) programme

How should the survey be completed?

From 24th March, your survey should be available via <https://www.gmc-uk.org/registration-and-licensing/managing-your-registration/gmc-online>. You should complete the relevant survey as early as possible in the survey period.

The first step is to **validate** the census information that HEE NW has provided to the GMC. If a change is necessary, this will result in a short delay whilst we confirm the details.

What if you are unable to login?

If you are having trouble logging in to GMC online then you can contact the GMC online team on **0161 923 6602**.

If, after logging in to GMC online, the survey is not available please contact Tom Connell on northsurveys@hee.nhs.uk or **0151 479 2572**.

How are HEE Involved?

HEE will provide data to the GMC before the survey starts. We will be sending the GMC a list of all trainees eligible to complete the survey, as well as their placement details for 24th March 2020. We will not provide email addresses, as the GMC will use the email you provide to login to GMC online.

During the survey, we will prepare summary reports for the Dean, Heads of School and Training Programme Directors, Directors of Medical Education and Medical Education Managers so that they are aware of trends and progress. We will also prepare lists indicating the individuals who haven't completed the survey yet, and share these with the same people who can support you in completing. We will send out reminders each week to those who have not yet completed the survey.

What is the format of the survey results?

Indicator	Outcome		
	2017	2018	2019
Adequate Experience	Green		
Clinical Supervision		Pink	
Clinical Supervision out of hours	Light Green		Green
Curriculum Coverage			
Educational Governance	Grey	Red	
Educational Supervision			
Feedback		Green	
Handover			Green
Induction			
Local Teaching	Grey	Pink	
Overall Satisfaction			Red
Regional Teaching	Red		
Reporting systems			Light Green
Rota Design	Light Green		
Study Leave	Yellow	Yellow	
Supportive environment			
Teamwork			Green
Work Load	Pink		

The survey results will be published in July 2020. The GMC publish outliers, should the scores in your programme or LEP differ significantly from the national average. Positive (green) outliers represent scores in the upper quartile nationally where the lower confidence limit of the score is above the upper confidence limit of the national mean score. Negative (red) outliers represent scores in the lowest quartile nationally where the upper confidence limit of the score is below the lower confidence limit of the national mean score. Light green and pink colours indicate areas which are not outliers, but which are in the highest and lowest quartiles respectively.

The example shows how responses are collated and grouped into eighteen useful indicators. The outliers are quality indicators of potential problems or areas of good practice; they are rapidly followed up. Individual comments relating

to patient safety and bullying or undermining are also taken very seriously and will be investigated.

The results of the survey are only released to HEE in **anonymous** summary form. Individual comments are always anonymised and are never attributable.

How will the survey affect training?

The survey results inform our quality management processes. HEE's monitoring visit process investigates areas of concern, and we ask for responses where areas of concerns are highlighted, particularly where the GMC survey is supported by interviews, local surveys or local intelligence.

We will use the survey results to monitor the quality of training for each LEP and programme, against the GMC's standards for education and training. The GMC Standards are grouped into five themes:

- Theme 1: Learning Environment and Culture
- Theme 2: Educational Governance and Leadership
- Theme 3: Supporting Learners
- Theme 4: Supporting Educators
- Theme 5: Developing and Implementing Curricula and Assessments

When will the results be available?

The results from the surveys this year will be added to the GMC's online reporting platform in July 2020, summary reports from the GMC will also be published from then onwards.

Further Information

GMC Survey Documentation:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/nts_documents.asp

GMC Trainee survey:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/national_trainee_survey.asp

GMC Trainer survey:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/national_trainer_survey.asp

GMC Standards for Education and Training:

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/standards.asp>

Survey Results:

<https://webcache.gmc-uk.org/ntsportal/Account/GuestLogin.mvc>

Quality Improvement Case Studies:

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/casestudies.asp>