**Specialty:** General Surgery

**GMC:** NOS/464

**Deanery sponsoring programme:** North of Scotland

**Postgraduate Dean:** Professor Gillian Needham

**Responsible Associate Dean/GP Director:** Mr Ken Walker

**Programme Type -**
- Deanery-based or National: Deanery
- Specialty or Sub-specialty: Specialty

**Date of GMC recent approval:** August 2010

**Associated Royal College / Faculty** Joint Committee on Surgical Training

**Web address** Link

**Curriculum and Associated Assessment System** Link

**Date programme information last updated** December 2010

**Recognised Programme Locations and Environments**

**This programme involves placements in some or all of these Health Boards and hospitals:**

- North and North-East Scotland – placements in hospitals in Aberdeen, Inverness, Elgin and Fort William
- Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen
- Royal Aberdeen Children’s Hospital, Aberdeen
- Dr. Gray’s Hospital, Elgin
- Raigmore Hospital, Inverness
- Belford Fort William

**Programme Director** Ms Aileen McKinley

**Contact**
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**Programme Description**

**Why choose this programme**

This programme offers a broad and thorough training in all aspects of general surgery and the sub-specialties. Placements are provided in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, in Royal Aberdeen Children’s Hospital and in the District General Hospitals of Dr Gray’s Hospital in Elgin and Raigmore Hospital in Inverness. ST 1 level experience is available in the Belford Hospital (Fort William).

Aberdeen Royal Infirmary (ARI) is NHS Grampian’s largest hospital, situated at Foresterhill, Aberdeen. Royal Aberdeen Children’s Hospital (93 beds) and Aberdeen Maternity Hospital (125 beds) are also housed on the same site. Aberdeen Royal Infirmary is the main hospital for the Grampian Area and is the University Teaching Hospital. ARI is a tertiary referral hospital with an official bed complement of 980 beds. It provides most of the specialist...
medical and surgical services for the Grampian region, serving a population of over 600,000 across the North of Scotland. It offers all surgical specialities with the exception of transplantation surgery. There are close links with the University of Aberdeen’s medical school where there has been pioneering research in many fields, including the development of MRI and PET scanning. There are excellent facilities for collaborative research with the clinical and basic science departments of the University of Aberdeen and the medical school library is on site.

Dr Gray’s Hospital is the district general hospital based in Elgin, Moray. Dr Gray’s Hospital has 178 beds of which 48 are for General Surgery.

Raigmore Hospital is a clinical teaching centre, providing the University of Aberdeen’s (UofA) second undergraduate medical teaching site. The hospital has a total of 577 beds. All the main General Surgical specialties are represented. There is an established academic teaching and research unit (the Highlands and Islands Research Institute) on site jointly with the University of Aberdeen. The North of Scotland Institute of Postgraduate Medical Education and the University of Stirling department of nursing and midwifery (Highland Campus) are also based on the Raigmore site.

Formal audit and educational meetings take place in all placements and each hospital has good support from radiology and other specialties. There is an established monthly teaching programme for the surgical trainees.

Aberdeen

With a population of approximately 250,000 Aberdeen stands between the Rivers Dee and Don. The historic old city has many buildings of architectural interest and the use of the sparkling local granite has earned Aberdeen the name of the Silver City. As well as being an international centre for the oil industry, Aberdeen retains its old charm and character making it an attractive place to live, with a good quality of life. There are good national and international transport links by air, rail, road and sea and a wide choice of housing in the city and in rural villages within easy commuting distance to the hospital.

Education facilities are excellent, with two girls’ and one coeducational independent school, and an international school.

Amenities are first class, with restaurants, night clubs, theatres, music hall, exhibition centre, art galleries, museums and sporting facilities. The city is close to some of Scotland’s best countryside with easy access for hill-walking, mountaineering, skiing, fishing and golf.

Inverness

Inverness stands on the River Ness and has a population of nearly 70,000. It was granted city status in 2000. It is an attractive city with a mild climate and offers access to the highlands, Loch Ness and the West Coast. There are good transport links by road, rail and air to all parts of Scotland and the UK.

Additional information:

University of Aberdeen: http://www.abdn.ac.uk/
NHS Grampian: http://www.nhsgrampian.org/
NHS Highland: http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/
Aberdeen City: http://www.aberdeen-grampian.com/
Inverness: http://www.inverness-scotland.com/
From August 2011, general surgery will recruit at ST3 level, due to the introduction of Core Surgical Training Programmes in Scotland from this date.

All trainees will complete placements in surgical units in Aberdeen and either Inverness or Elgin. The distances involved are such that relocation during the programme will be necessary for placements outside Aberdeen. There is good provision of on-site accommodation at the relevant hospitals.

Placements are provided in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary in six surgery subspecialty units, providing training in colorectal, upper GI, bariatric, hepatopancreaticobiliary, laparoscopic, endocrine, vascular and breast surgery. Attachments to Paediatric Surgery and to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) are also available.

The intention is to give a good grounding in the full spectrum of general surgery and then to build on this to equip the trainee with all the skills required to manage acute general surgical patients while developing a subspecialty interest. If a trainee has an interest in transplantation then this would be accommodated by arrangement with the South East or West of Scotland Deaneries once basic general surgery training was completed.

The North of Scotland training programme also provides a Remote & Rural training programme in Surgery.

The trainee will participate in acute and elective general surgery throughout the programme. After Core Surgical training the ST3 and ST4 levels of the programme would usually be spent consolidating surgical skills and gaining experience in a range of sub-specialties, before continuing with years 5 to 8 when subspecialty skills and preparation for an independent acute general surgical practice would be completed.

Further information on the curriculum in general surgery is available on the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme website (www.iscp.ac.uk).

**How to apply**

http://www.scotmt.scot.nhs.uk/

**Deanery Administrative Contacts**

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**Quality of Training**

**GMC Trainee Survey Information (2010)**

[Link](#)