

## Why Northern Ireland?

Northern Ireland has a great reputation for O&G training. Satisfaction with regional teaching consistently ranks top in the UK and is highly regarded in simulation, ultrasound and laparoscopic skills. Units in NI consistently receive high commendation for O&G training and rank within the top 10 UK training units in the RCOG Training Evaluation Form Report. (<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/careers-training/about-specialty-training-in-og/assessment-and-progression-through-training/training-evaluation-form-tef/>) In NI O&G, there is also an active research culture, locally run training courses and a very friendly group of trainees.

### Key Locations

**Western: Altnagelvin Area Hospital, South West Acute Hospital**

**Northern: Causeway Hospital, Antrim Area Hospital**

**Belfast: Royal Jubilee Maternity Hospital, Belfast City Hospital**

**South Eastern: Ulster Hospital**

**Southern: Craigavon Area Hospital, Daisy Hill Hospital**

### HSC Trust Areas



### Opportunities outside the O&G Programme

iQuest—generic professional skills framework—<http://www.nimda.gov.uk/iQuest/>

ADEPT—clinical leadership fellows' programme—<http://www.nimda.gov.uk/adept>

Leadership Opportunities—<http://www.nimda.gov.uk/specialty-training/information-for-specialty-trainees/leadership-opportunities/>

Trainee Ambassadors Scheme—<http://www.nimda.gov.uk/recruitment/nimda-trainee-ambassadors/>

ENGAGE—clinical leadership and Improvement programme—<http://www.nimda.gov.uk/engage-programme-20172018/>

### Useful contacts:

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### Useful links:

Northern Ireland Deanery O&G—<http://www.nimda.gov.uk/specialty-training/specialty-schools/obstetrics-and-gynaecology/>

Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists—  
[www.rcog.org.uk](http://www.rcog.org.uk)

RCOG: Considering a Career in O&G - <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/careers-training/considering-a-career-in-og/>

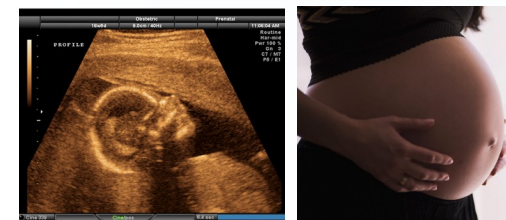
RCOG: About Specialty training in O&G - <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/careers-training/about-specialty-training-in-og/>

Discover Northern Ireland— <https://discovernorthernireland.com/>

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## Train in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in Northern Ireland



## Specialty Training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (O&G)

O&G training offers wide-ranging experience in both medical and surgical aspects of the specialty. The training programme is comprehensive and provides opportunities to explore a number of different career paths. Childbirth is an important event for any woman and obstetricians are central to providing safe maternity care. O&G however extends well beyond childbirth, focusing on women's health at all stages of their lives. It is a career which is both extremely practical and satisfying.

The School of O&G in Northern Ireland (NI) is completely committed to provide training which covers the O&G Curriculum and that meets or exceeds GMC Standards. We aim to provide regular and effective feedback and review to facilitate trainees to progress through the specialty and to become equipped with the skills required for a successful career in O&G.

## Workforce information

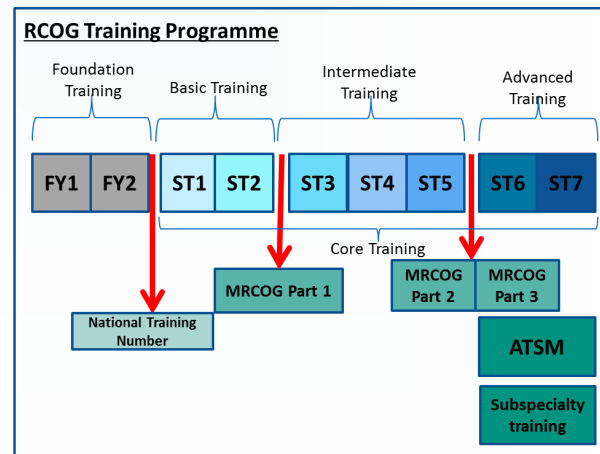
There are over 100 consultants and 60 specialty doctors working in O&G in NI. Services are currently spread across all 5 trusts within 9 in-patient units including 2 tertiary centres (BCH, RJMH). Outpatient and midwifery-led services are also provided across NI. Currently there are 72 trainees within the NI O&G training programme. The O&G training units also accommodate General Practice (GP) trainees and Foundation Year 2 (F2) trainees on O&G rotation.

O&G Training usually requires a minimum of 7 years of specialty training (ST1-7) which is divided into 3 distinct stages. (Detailed overleaf) The programme follows the RCOG Core Curriculum and includes ultrasound training.

## Stage 1 Basic training (ST1 - 2)

Trainees will learn the basics of emergency and elective management of obstetric and gynaecological conditions as detailed within the O&G Core Curriculum. Under senior supervision, trainees will develop practical skills including caesarean section, instrumental delivery, ultrasound and minor gynaecological procedures. Completion of basic competencies along with successful completion of MRCOG Part 1 is required to progress to intermediate training.

Trainees will work on a 1st on-call shift pattern alongside GP trainees and F2 trainees covering wards, attending outpatient clinics and theatre sessions. At least one of these years will be in a smaller district general hospital. There also may be opportunities to 'act up' on the 2nd on-call (registrar) rota in ST2.



## Stage 2 Intermediate training (ST3 - 5)

During intermediate training skills are consolidated, particularly labour ward management and intermediate gynaecological operating skills. Trainees work on a 2nd on-call (registrar) rota with consultant cover from home during pre-defined out of hours periods. Progressing to registrar level is a major step and we aim to place trainees in the same unit for ST2 and ST3 to facilitate them in acquiring the necessary skills and confidence in an environment they are familiar with and where they can

develop a close rapport with the multi-disciplinary team. At least one of the intermediate training years will be in NI's O&G tertiary centres in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. Completion of intermediate competencies along with successful completion of MRCOG Part 2 and 3 is required to progress to advanced training.

## Stage 3 Advanced training (ST6 - 7)

During advanced training trainees will develop the specific skills needed for the areas in which they wish to practice as a consultant by choosing Advanced Training Skills Modules (ATSMs) or by applying for subspecialty training. A trainee's ATSM choice will largely affect where they are placed for ST6 and 7. Successful completion of Advanced or Subspecialty training will result in the award of Certificate of Completion of Training which qualifies the doctor to practise as a consultant in the NHS.

## Subspecialty training (SST)

NI currently delivers the complete Gynaecological Oncology SST and one of the two years of Maternal Fetal Medicine SST. It is anticipated that the Urogynaecology SST will be delivered in NI in the future. We try to support requests from trainees who wish to complete SST in another deanery.

