



Pathological Society

Understanding disease

Enhancing the Participation of Pathologists in Research

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<http://www.pathsoc.org>

The People

- Those who will always do research
- Those who will never do research
- Those who might do research
 - Necessary for job/promotion
 - Persuaded by environment
 - Become interested later in career
- All require opportunity

Providing the Right Environment

- Timing
 - Highly competitive sector
 - Early research experience very valuable
 - Focus on acquiring a fellowship a good strategy
- Research culture
 - Like-minded people
 - Interdisciplinary activity
 - Broad range of technologies
 - 'Translational' projects
 - Meetings / Conferences

Providing the Right Environment

- Mentorship
 - Senior figures
 - Research fellows
- Funding opportunities
 - Awareness of funding calls
 - Understanding of time-lines
- Opportunities during training
 - Clinical academic track
 - Encouragement of all trainees

Why Do Research?

Strengths

- Challenging
- Maintains interest
- Contributes to knowledge
- Engenders a more enquiring approach to clinical work

Weaknesses

- Prolongs training
- Can be seen as diluting clinical experience
- Often associated with early specialisation

Opportunities

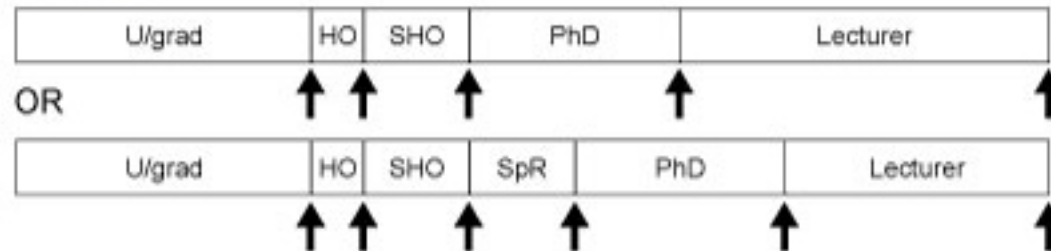
- Push by funders towards translational research
- Political will to maintain and develop an academic training track
- Recognition that clinical academic leaders are essential for future healthcare

Threats

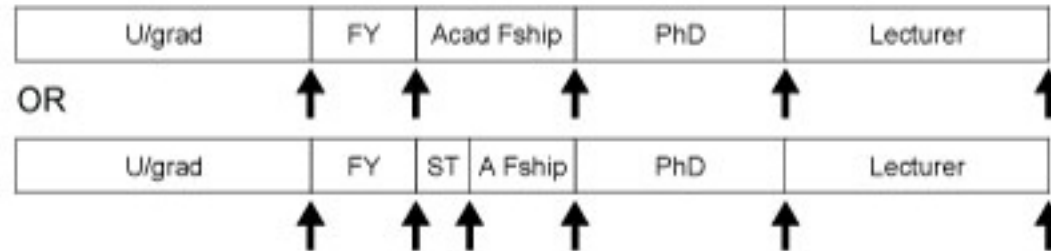
- Market forces
- Prolongation of training
- Delay to attainment of career grade post
- Dearth of career grade posts
- Pressure of clinical work

Clinical Academic Track

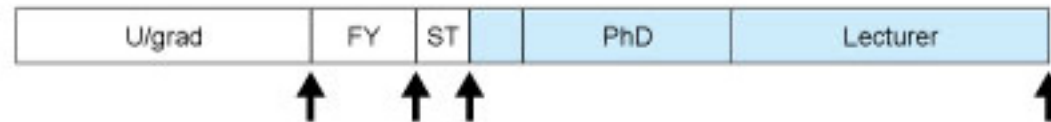
Academic training pre-MMC:



Modernising Medical Careers/Walport report (England & Wales):



Edinburgh Clinical Academic Track (ECAT):



An Example



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

The Edinburgh Clinical Academic Track scheme - ECAT

- » [University Homepage](#)
- » [University Contact](#)
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[Home](#)

[UK academic training](#)

[ECAT scheme](#)

[Applications](#)

[Further information](#)

[ECAT events](#)

JOB DESCRIPTION

[Information for candidates](#)

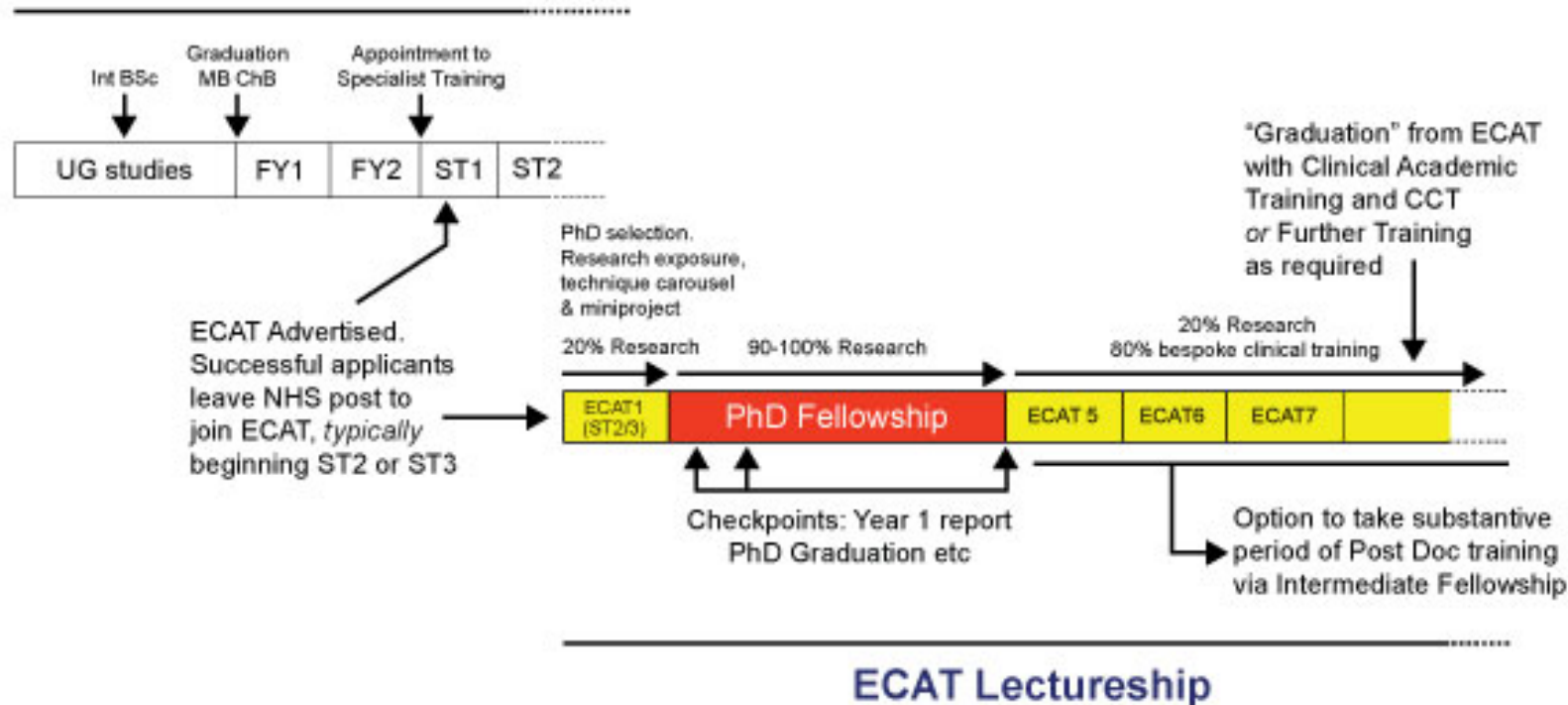
Welcome to ECAT

Novel posts in the post-MMC environment, providing 'run-through' PhD and clinical training for the aspiring academic clinician.

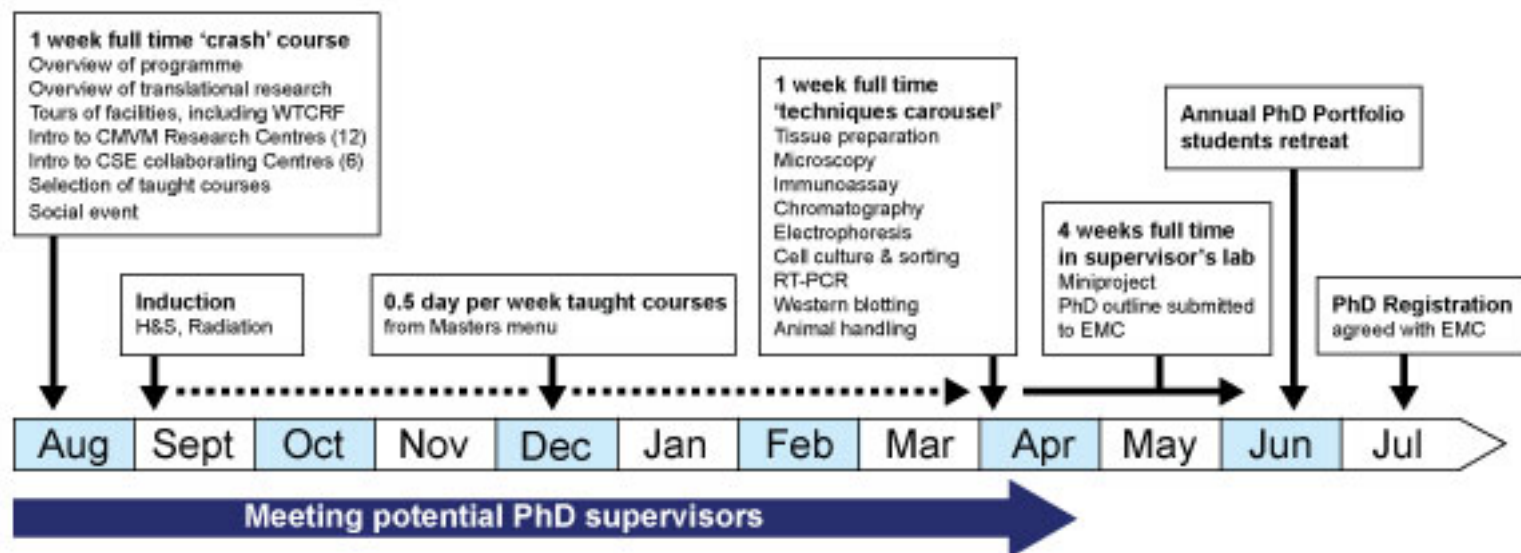


Structure of the Clinical Academic Track (ECAT) scheme

"Standard" Post MMC NHS Specialist Training



ECAT Year 1: Research Training & PhD Project Selection



Conclusions

- There is a sense that clinical academic careers are becoming more attractive
- Financial and personal support will be required
- Respect for the role of clinical academics is essential
- A research culture is also essential and is the key to maximising research involvement