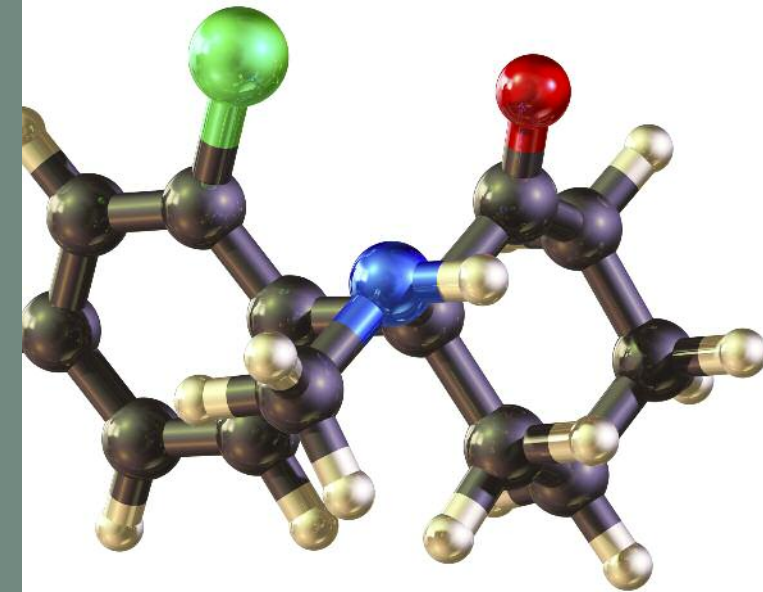




## A CAREER IN:

# Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS)



## Useful Contacts:

### Wales Deanery

[www.walesdeanery.org](http://www.walesdeanery.org)

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Find out more about  
Medical Careers in Wales  
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[#TrainWorkLive](https://twitter.com/TrainWorkLive)



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## What is ACCS?

ACCS stands for *Acute Care Common Stem*, which is a multi-specialty Core Training scheme. It is the only entry route for Emergency Medicine, but an alternative route for Anaesthetics, Medicine and Intensive Care Medicine. Entry to the training scheme is via a parent specialty and therefore an application to Emergency Medicine, Core Medical Training or Anaesthetics.

## What is the Training Scheme Comprised of?

The first 24 months are comprised of four 6-month rotations through Anaesthetics, Intensive Care Medicine, Emergency Medicine and Acute Medicine. This will provide a solid foundation of knowledge and practical skills, including completion of the Initial Assessment of Competence (IAC) in Anaesthesia. In the third year, trainees will focus on their parent specialty with a 12 month placement of pure Acute Medicine, Emergency Medicine or Anaesthetics.

## Who Can Apply?

Most trainees enter ACCS following Foundation Year 2, but more experienced doctors who have further experience after the Foundation Programme may also apply.

## What Examinations are Required?

No examinations are required before entry, but ACCS trainees are expected to work towards their parent specialty Postgraduate examinations.

## Where Can ACCS Take Me?

Most ACCS trainees complete three years in ACCS and then apply for Specialty Training in Anaesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Intensive Care Medicine or one of the medical specialties. However, ACCS training is also the ideal foundation for trainees considering dual accreditation in Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine.

## Is the Training Flexible?

The Wales Deanery has excellent family-friendly policies and has a very supportive LTFT service. The first 24 months of ACCS training are generic, with the same workplace-based assessments throughout. This allows an element of flexibility if a trainee wishes to change specialty within the ACCS subspecialties. The trainee would have to apply competitively at interview and be successful for a switch to be verified. This is not an unusual request and the Wales Deanery has facilitated many changes between the ACCS specialties.

## Why Choose ACCS?

ACCS will train you to approach the sick patient with confidence – wherever you encounter them. Some trainees choose ACCS because they are sure they want to specialise in one of the parent specialties, and believe this to be the best introduction. Others choose it because they know they want to work in an acute specialty, but are not yet sure which they will choose. Trainees interested in pursuing a career in Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) often choose ACCS. It allows them to experience what it is really like to work in the Critical Care environment, and provides the clinical experience necessary to apply for a Specialist Training post in ICM.

One of the advantages of ACCS training is that most Welsh ACCS rotations are within the same Health Board therefore a new specialty does not mean a new computer password, new paperwork, delays in payroll etc. This allows trainees to concentrate on learning new skills rather than on new systems.



## Where is it Available?

The Welsh hospitals currently providing ACCS schemes are:

- ▶ University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff
- ▶ Morriston Hospital, Swansea
- ▶ Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport
- ▶ Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor
- ▶ Wrexham Maelor Hospital
- ▶ Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny
- ▶ Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil

## ACCS in Wales

The ACCS training scheme offers placements in a wide range of secondary and tertiary centres in both South and North Wales. ACCS in Wales provides an exciting opportunity for quality training within a beautiful part of the UK. From walking in Snowdonia to surfing in Pembrokeshire or exploring the vibrant capital city, Wales provides a varied landscape with a wide range of activities available on your doorstep.



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