

# A Guide to Training in Dermatology

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British Association  
of Dermatologists

*healthy skin for all*

# A Career in Dermatology

Dermatology is a medical specialty involving the management of skin conditions. It is one of the most diverse specialties treating patients from all age groups with inflammatory, inherited, environmental, occupational and malignant skin diseases.

Dermatology is predominantly outpatient based, with clinics in secondary care as well as in community hospitals. However, some patients with acute systemic upset or severe inflammatory skin disease may require specialist nursing input and inpatient facilities.

Within the hospital setting, dermatologists will frequently be called to consult on referrals from other specialties. In addition, a number of general medical conditions present first to the dermatologist necessitating joint management (e.g. rheumatology, haematology, paediatrics, gynaecology and infectious diseases). With the large volumes of skin cancer patients, dermatologists also work closely with plastic surgeons, otolaryngologists, maxillofacial surgeons and oncologists.

Dermatology training includes subspecialty experience in areas such as paediatric dermatology, phototherapy/photobiology, dermatopathology, allergic disorders and dermatological surgery. Participation in dermatological research is encouraged and there are many opportunities in dermatological science (e.g. in skin cancer, inflammatory dermatology, photobiology), public health, medical education and management.

# Pursuing Your Interest

Dermatology is a competitive specialty, so career planning is crucial, and you will need to demonstrate your interest in the specialty. There are a variety of ways to achieve this at various stages of training.

## Clinical Experience

Gain as much dermatology experience as possible before pursuing Higher Specialty Training. This will give you a realistic insight into the specialty and whether it is suitable for you as a career.

At the undergraduate level, this can be during Special Study Modules (SSMs) and Electives. During Foundation or Core Medical Training, there may be opportunities to choose rotations in Dermatology or related specialties (e.g. rheumatology, GUM, haematology, paediatrics and infectious diseases). You could also arrange taster sessions or work placements in Dermatology.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a number of ways to pursue your interest in Dermatology outside clinical training. During undergraduate training get involved with or set up your local DermSoc. Support and advice is available from the UK National DermSoc Committee: [dermsocnational@gmail.com](mailto:dermsocnational@gmail.com).

Students and junior doctors can apply for BAD membership which will include a free subscription to the British Journal of Dermatology & Clinical and Experimental Dermatology. Dermatology courses will further enhance your knowledge and skills. Look out for dermatology events on the BAD calendar page. The BAD organises an annual DermSchool educational conference for medical students and Foundation Doctors interested in dermatology. The DermSchool Sub-Committee also hosts two National Teaching days every year for students and junior doctors interested in the specialty.

## Research and Audit

Find opportunities to get involved in research and audit projects related to dermatology during your undergraduate and postgraduate training. If you are interested in research, seek advice from dermatologists and academics and consider pursuing an intercalated degree, academic training or taking time out to undertake a postgraduate degree.

# The Training Pathway

## Undergraduate Training

