



Surgery for medical students and foundation doctors: a resource pack for surgeons and their teams.

Introduction

This pack provides tools to help you encourage students to consider careers in surgery. It provides an introduction to the practical uses of the College's *National Undergraduate Curriculum in Surgery* and explains how this can be used. It can be used by surgeons and their colleagues.

Surgery is competitive and we want to attract and support good future surgeons. This means supporting students from an early stage. Students who go on to become surgeons need consistent access to opportunities to learn the important and urgent things and to honest information. Those who go on to other careers in medicine still need to have a good understanding of surgery.

Every student should be encouraged to scrub in and to practise the key skills, and consider how else they can learn. Foundation doctors also need support, and this approach may help. We encourage links between medical schools, hospitals, surgeons, students and foundation doctors.

Please also refer to:

Introductory document	This document	
Template presentation	Explaining the curriculum and how to use it	
<i>National Undergraduate Curriculum in Surgery</i>		www.rcseng.ac.uk/national-undergraduate-curriculum-in-surgery
Surgical specialty specific: Using the <i>National Undergraduate Curriculum in Surgery</i>	For surgeons to consider in each specialty	
<i>Careers in Surgery</i>	Introduction to surgical careers	https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/careers-in-surgery/careers-support/careers-events-and-resources/resources-and-links/
<i>Learning in Operating Theatres</i>	Ways of learning in surgery	www.rcseng.ac.uk/learning-in-operating-theatres
<i>Avoiding unconscious bias - a guide for surgeons</i>	How to welcome people and focus on the task not the individual	www.rcseng.ac.uk/avoiding-unconscious-bias

<i>Mentoring: a guide to good practice</i>	Simple practical guide to support outside training structures.	https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/library-and-publications/college-publications/docs/mentoring-good-practice/
<i>Surgery: no longer a man's world - film</i>	Surgeon careers case studies	https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/careers-in-surgery/women-in-surgery/research-projects/

Potential activity & sponsorship

As a minimum, we suggest an event in which you introduce the curriculum using the enclosed presentation. Medical students, particularly members of the university surgical societies, are normally keen to work with surgeons and to learn more about surgical careers. You may wish to enhance this with a discussion of your experiences, a general careers talk (explaining how to become a surgeon, how to build a portfolio etc.) or another topic.

The RCS careers support team can provide template presentations, literature (see below) and merchandise to support activities. The careers team also have a limited budget to sponsor events to cover catering / printing etc. Students can apply directly to the careers team for this (max £200). Please note, activities must relate to the generality of surgery, careers in surgery or women in surgery and funds will be allocated on first come, first served basis. Please ask students to contact the careers support team to arrange this.

Medical school surgical societies

There is a student surgical society in each of the UK's 34 medical schools. Their contact details are listed on the RCS website: <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/careers-in-surgery/medical-students/surgical-societies/> or they can be contact via the RCS careers support team.

Useful schemes:

Encourage students to consider participating in:

Affiliate scheme:

<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/careers-in-surgery/medical-students/rcs-affiliates-scheme/>

£15 per year providing a range of benefits including discount on courses, newsletter, and the online *Funky Professor* anatomy teaching resource.

Women in Surgery (WinS)

<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/careers-in-surgery/women-in-surgery/>

Open to medical students, foundation doctors, trainees, SAS and consultants (open to men and women).

Free to join, providing a range of benefits including: access to networking events, news and a directory so that they can contact other members.

Contacts

Regional team:

- Please also discuss your work with medical students with your local regional coordinator - <https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/about-the-rcs/regions-and-devolved-nations/>
- 020 7869 6205 / regional@rcseng.ac.uk

Careers Support Team:

- For information on careers in surgery including career pathways, Women in Surgery (WinS) and flexible working.
- 0207 869 6212 / careers@rcseng.ac.uk