



# BPNA Paediatric Neurology Subspecialist (GRID) Application Support: Written Application 2023-2024

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# Aims and objectives

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To discuss the application process when applying for paediatric neurology subspecialty (GRID) training

Understand how to tailor your application to paediatric neurology

Signpost further support available from the BPNA and regional paediatric neurology centres

(Note: further support available through the BPNA regarding the Grid interviews, not covered in this presentation)

# Paediatric Neurology Applications

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Applications run through Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)

- <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/paediatric-sub-specialty-training-application-guidance>

Annual application process, timeline for each year published around July-September on RCPCH website

# Paediatric Neurology Applications

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Usually have three weeks to complete the online application

Questions and scoring criteria are **very similar each year for each specialty** therefore you can begin thinking about your application answers in advance!

Application questions determine shortlisting for interview

Interview scores will be used to rank candidates to posts

Recording of RCPCH webinar on application (2022):  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBoU-6dcVFU>

# Timeline (for 23/24)

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<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/education-careers/apply-paediatrics/sub-specialty-training>

11<sup>th</sup> October: Adverts (i.e. posts) published on NHS jobs and RCPCH websites

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> October: **applications open** on Oriel website

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November: deadline for confirmation of eligibility forms to be sent to deanery via ePortfolio

- (usually your current Head of School of Paediatrics in the deanery in which you **currently** work)

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November, 12:00: **applications close**

- (note no late submissions allowed, so submit before the final day)

**From** 19<sup>th</sup> December: invitations to interview and shortlisting outcomes released via Oriel

# Eligibility

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Check Grid eligibility criteria:

- [PDF of RCPCH Applicant Guide](#)

No limit on number of applications but there must be time to complete training before CCT date

Must specify in the application if you wish to be considered for LTFT training

- Can also apply during Grid training
- Can apply for whole time posts in ranking

You can apply for a maximum 2 specialties each year

# Preferences

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Will depend upon the rotations available each year

Some centres will have posts every year, others less frequently

Can rank as many or as few as you wish

Only rank posts you are willing to accept- if you are offered a post and you decline it, you will not be offered another

If you only rank 1 or 2 posts and other candidates score more highly than you, they will be offered the post(s) first (if they have indicated these as their first choice) and you may then not be offered a post despite being deemed appointable

# Posts available in 23/24 round

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To start August or September 2024:

- Neurology posts:
  - [https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/paediatric\\_neurology\\_programmes\\_2024\\_0.pdf](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/paediatric_neurology_programmes_2024_0.pdf)
  - 4 posts:
    - London, North East, North West, Yorkshire and the Humber & East Midlands
- Neurodisability posts:
  - [https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/paediatric\\_neurodisability\\_programmes\\_2024\\_0.pdf](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-10/paediatric_neurodisability_programmes_2024_0.pdf)
  - 10 posts:
    - East Midlands North, London (2), North East, North West Manchester/Lancashire (2), North West Mersey, Scotland West, Wales South, Yorkshire & the Humber
- Posts available vary each year- these are released usually in August - October each year



# Application questions

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- Read the scoring criteria beforehand and tailor your answers accordingly! (See later slide for link)
- Always answer the questions with relevance to paediatric neurology
  - If you have presented/published in other fields, these will count in the publication/presentation/posters section
  - If you have an audit/QI project from another specialty that would score highly then use this to illustrate your transferable skills
- If you are ST1-4, you can view the questions and scoring criteria **now** and work on areas to improve your scores. If you need help ask your educational supervisor, the BPNA or your regional paediatric neurology centre

# Application questions

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## Tips:

- Read the questions carefully and plan your answers ensuring you cover **all** the points in the questions
- Mirror the words used in the scoring criteria in your answers
- Critically score your answers against the criteria and revise accordingly

# Questions

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You will be asked questions in the written application on:

- Clinical experience
- Quality improvement/audit
- Management experience
- Research achievements
- Publications/presentations/posters
- Education/teaching
- Statement to support application

Ensure all answers are relevant to paediatric neurology wherever possible, unless other projects would score more highly on the scoring criteria.

Demonstrate what you have learnt and any transferable skills in all answers

Always check your answers against the scoring criteria to maximise your score!

# Longlisting and shortlisting scoring

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Link to questions and scoring criteria:

[https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/Sub-specialty%20shortlisting%20scoring%20criteria%202023\\_2024.pdf](https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/Sub-specialty%20shortlisting%20scoring%20criteria%202023_2024.pdf)

- Always refer to this document when answering the questions! This is how your answers will be scored.

# Scoring criteria- Clinical experience

**Clinical experience** relevant to application level and experience of applicant

Question: Describe your clinical experience to date and the skills you have acquired that are significant and specific to your sub-speciality application including details of transferable skills and your overall approach to patient care in acute/emergency and/or non-acute settings. *800 words maximum.*

No evidence	0
Generic description of training so far with little relevance to the sub-specialty and/or little attempt to explain relevance of skills	1
One significant and specific example of skills, with relevance to the sub-speciality	2
Two significant and specific examples of skills, with relevance to the sub-speciality	3
Two significant and specific examples of skills, with relevance to the sub-speciality and own development clearly explained (e.g. content or transferable skills)	4
More than two specific and significant examples of skills gained throughout clinical training to date, with relevance to the sub-speciality and with own development clearly explained (e.g. content or transferable skills)	5
More than two specific and significant examples of skills gained throughout clinical training to date, with relevance to the sub-speciality and with own development clearly explained with demonstration of a patient-centred approach (e.g. content or transferable skills)	6

# Scoring criteria- QI/Audit

**Quality Improvement/Audit** experience relevant to application level and experience of applicant

Question: Describe your involvement in quality improvement/audits, providing evidence where you have identified an opportunity for quality improvement and subsequently looked to improve clinical effectiveness, patient safety or the patient experience. Be sure to state your specific level of involvement with each stage in any projects mentioned, highlight what has changed as a result of each project and describe what you have learnt about the quality improvement/audit process. *600 words maximum.*

N.B Please note, the scoring below applies to quality improvement/audits that you have designed and led individually or, with the support of a colleague, e.g. senior trainee or consultant.

No projects undertaken	0
Participation in relevant clinical projects, but has not designed or led QIP/audit	1
Evidence of having designed and led a good quality project with clear description of findings and change in practice/local guidelines	2
Evidence of having designed and led more than one good quality project with clear description of subsequent change in local practice/guidelines	3
Evidence of having designed and led more than one good quality project with clear description of subsequent change in local practice/guidelines that has been adopted for one of the examples at a regional or national level	4

# Scoring criteria- Leadership/management

**Leadership/Management experience** relevant to application level and experience of applicant

Question: Describe clearly any leadership, managerial or organisational contributions you have made in your professional life (undergraduate or postgraduate) or outside of work. Be sure to state your exact individual contribution including what you have achieved, and time commitment involved in undertaking this role. This role can also be within a local organisation external to your place of work, provided you can evidence the relevance of skills/qualities/responsibilities gained, to your career in medicine. *600 words maximum.*

- N.B. Teaching/educational experience should be evidenced and scored within the teaching section.

No experience in leadership/management/organising role	0
Leadership/management/organising role within department e.g. rota organisation	1
Leadership/management/organising role at local/regional/national or international level requiring minimal time commitment and minimal responsibility, clearly described	2
Leadership/management/organising role at local/regional/national or international level requiring a moderate amount of responsibility, regular contribution and commitment, clearly described	3
Leadership/management/organising role at local/regional/national or international level with a significant responsibility held, demonstrating regular contribution and commitment, clearly described with evidence of the impact they have made and what they have learnt from this experience	4

# Scoring criteria- Research

**Research achievements** relevant to application level and experience of applicant

Question: Outline the areas of research in which you have been directly involved at an undergraduate or postgraduate level. When describing your research related experience state your role and the level of recognition the research outcomes have achieved. *600 words maximum.*

No research	0
Limited research experience	1
Evidence of a research project of a high standard with some input by applicant	2
Evidence of a research project of a high standard with significant input by applicant	3
Evidence of a research project of a high standard with significant input by applicant, which has achieved regional or national recognition	4



# Scoring criteria- Publication

**Publications/Presentations/Posters** relevant to application level and experience of applicant

Question: Provide details of peer reviewed publications with the requested citations (anonymously) and PubMed number(s) (if available) (using additional details boxes), any other publications (books, letters, abstracts, digital), presentations and posters. Please also state authorships e.g., first author, co-author, etc. Only published or accepted publications will receive points. Submitted publications will not earn any points. Please note that abstracts relating to poster/oral presentations at national and international meetings will be awarded marks for presentations rather than publications.

No publications/presentations/posters	0
At least one of the following: single case report; letter published in peer reviewed journal; oral presentation/first author poster at national meeting or co-author poster at international meeting	1
More than one case report/letter published in peer reviewed journal OR co-author of peer review publication or book chapter OR oral presentation or first author poster at international meeting	2
Evidence of a peer reviewed publication (excluding case report) or book chapter as a first author	3
Evidence of more than one peer reviewed publication (excluding case report) or book chapters as a first author	4

# Scoring criteria- Education

**Education - Involvement in teaching** relevant to application level and experience of applicant

Question: Describe your experience of teaching/educational delivery and different teaching methods you have utilised. Please detail any contributions to the design, and delivery of teaching/education that you have been involved with and describe your exact contribution in these areas. Include details of any formal training in teaching, e.g. 'Teach the Teachers', Generic Instructors Course (GIC) or equivalent, diploma or degree in postgraduate medical education. *600 words maximum.*

No experience of having delivered teaching	0
Evidence of delivering local departmental teaching	1
Evidence of delivering regional postgraduate teaching or undergraduate medical school teaching	2
Evidence of having designed and delivered regional postgraduate teaching or undergraduate medical school teaching	3

- The point for formal teaching is awarded on top of the score for the above criteria - i.e. it does not automatically guarantee a total score of 4 in this area

Completed Generic Instructor Course (GIC), Teach the Teacher's or equivalent, diploma or degree in postgraduate medical education	+1
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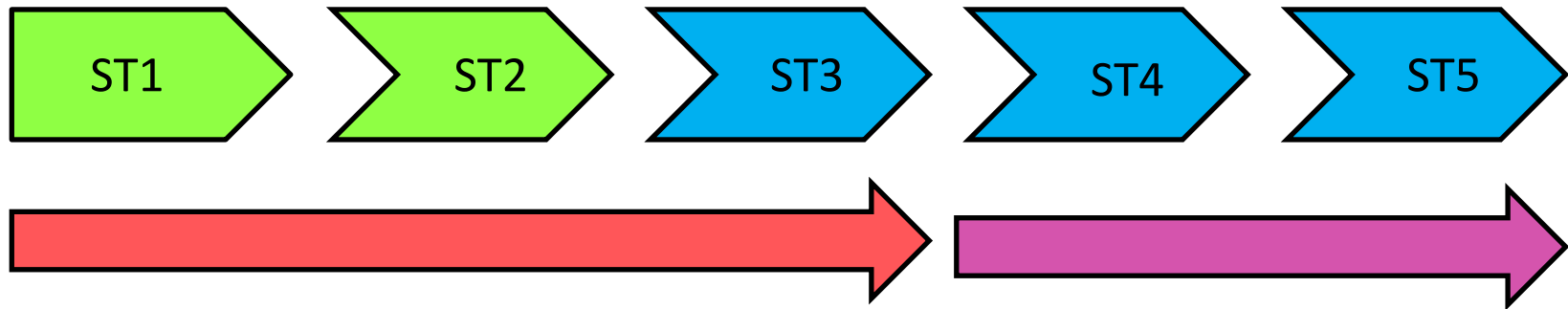
# Scoring criteria- Statement

**Statement to support application** relevant to level of application and experience of applicant

Question: Please outline your career aims and motivations, along with any additional information you would like to provide to support your application, particularly with regard to demonstrating your commitment and any personal attributes particular to the sub-specialty that you are applying for. *600 words maximum.*

Weak statement with unclear commitment to the speciality, career aims and or motivation.	0
Some motivating factors but appears general and unfocussed with no specific examples or understanding of chosen sub-specialty	1
More focused motivation described using some specific, relevant examples but lacking evidence of understanding and commitment to the sub-specialty	2
Clear description of motivation and experiences to date which shows an understanding and commitment to the sub-specialty	3
Excellent description of motivation and experience to date which clearly shows an in-depth understanding and commitment to the sub-specialty and describes their potential career path	4

# How can I maximise my score and show interest in neurology?



Attend clinics

Design local teaching-  
departmental, medical students

Begin planning your application early

Neurology QI/audit projects

Join the BPNA

Instructor/teaching courses

BPNA courses and webinars

Abstracts for BPNA/EPNS  
conferences

Good clinical practice course/  
neurology research projects

Contact the BPNA for support – Recruitment Champions – Centre Leads – Trainee Chairs

# How can I maximise my score and show interest in neurology?

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- Use phrases from scoring criteria to illustrate how your examples meet the criteria for high marks
- Ask to attend paediatric neurology clinics
- Join the BPNA (need nominations from two current members- contact your regional neurology centre or [Philip.levine@bpna.org.uk](mailto:Philip.levine@bpna.org.uk))
- Paediatric epilepsy training (PET) courses- particularly PET1
- Submit abstract to BPNA or EPNS (European Paediatric Neurology Society) conferences
- Undertake an audit/quality improvement project in paediatric neurology- contact your regional neurology centre

# Further support



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Ask your educational supervisor (although remember that projects in paediatric neurology may allow you to show your interest more than those in other specialties- beware doing projects your supervisor wants doing more for their personal or departmental gain!)

BPNA website careers section: <https://bpna.org.uk/careers/>

Your regional paediatric neurology centre will be happy to help support your application- contact them early – They will have projects if you ask!

If unsure, contact the head of department, any GRID trainees in the centre, or the BPNA will be able to advise on consultants in the region

BPNA recruitment champions in each centre -  
<https://bpna.org.uk/careers/index.php?page=recruitment-champions>

# Don't forget

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Start your written application early once the applications open (only have 3 weeks)

Tailor your answers to paediatric neurology where possible (unless other examples score more highly)

Always answer questions using scoring criteria

Ask for your answers to be reviewed before submitting- give people time to do this!

Need to ensure your Head of School completes the eligibility form

- *Do not leave this until the day before the submission deadline. Most deaneries ask for at least 2 weeks notice- they will be doing lots of these forms!*

# Summary

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Paediatric neurology is an interesting and varied career

The application process runs to a similar timeline each year

The questions asked are similar each year and will cover the same general topics

Ask for support with your application- the BPNA and your regional neurology centre will be happy to help you

Dates:

11<sup>th</sup> January – GRID Interview Webinar

Conference 25-27<sup>th</sup> January

Trainee's Meeting 11-12<sup>th</sup> May



# Thank you



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For questions and further support please  
contact Rob, Tom

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