

Housekeeping for this session

Your camera and microphones are disabled for this session

Q&A has been activated and is the only way to ask a question during this session

These slides will be delivered first and the questions will be answered at the end. This session WILL NOT be recorded, and slides will be made available on website after the event

If you have a person specific question you should email: sfas@nes.scot.nhs.uk
do not ask these in this session

Please see our webpages and FAQs - [Foundation | Scottish Medical Training](#)

Welcome to the Groups and Programmes Session

13 March 2026

What we will cover in this session

- Stage 1 – Groups
- Stage 2 – Programmes
- Timelines and Deadlines
- Specialist Foundation Programme (SFP) process
- Brief SCOTMT demonstration

All information, dates and links explained in this session are available on our webpages - [Foundation | Scottish Medical Training](#)

Stage 1 – Group Matching

The term ‘Group’ is used to refer to a set of Foundation programmes in a region.

- East – groups beginning with E
- North – groups beginning with N
- South-East – groups beginning with S
- West – groups beginning with W

Do not rank the SFP groups E07, N11, S12, S19, S20, W32 or W39 in Oriel (SFP process will be covered later in this presentation), ranking will only be done through the MS Form (see slide 11)

You **MUST** rank the Groups in order of preference through Oriel. Failure to rank the Groups by the deadline will result in you being randomly allocated to a Group. With SFP and Placeholder at the bottom on your preferences.

NOTE: any groups with a 0 (zero) means that there are no programmes/ posts in that group, therefore do not rank

Stage 1 – Pre-allocation applicants ONLY

- If you have been pre-allocated via the national UKFPO process
- You **MUST** rank the groups in the same order as provided to the Foundation School. This allows the Foundation School, to verify your pre-allocation application. If you rank differently to what you initially indicated the Foundation School will contact, you direct.

Stage 1 – Placeholder Group (Oriel)

- All Foundation Schools have a group in Oriel called 'Placeholder' the group contain training programmes which are still being finalised
- Applicants don't need to preference the placeholder group
- Applicants should either:
 - ignore the placeholder group, or
 - ensure that they are ranked at the bottom of their preference list
- We would advise that applicants not to positively rank this group any higher than at the bottom of their list because this will increase their chance of a match to this group
- **This does not guarantee that an applicant will not be matched to the placeholder group in Oriel**

Stage 1 – Groups

- Groups preferencing opens
 - 12/03/2026 at 12:00 midday (GMT)
- Deadline for Group preferencing
 - 23/03/2026 at 12:00 midday (GMT)
- Group match released via Oriel
 - 01/04/2026

Stage 2 – Programmes

- The term ‘Programme’ is used to refer to a series of posts which make up a two-year programme.
 - 6 x 4 months
 - 3 x 4 months
 - 3 x 8 months
- You **MUST** rank all Programmes in order of preference in Oriel. Failure to rank all Programmes by the deadline will result in you being randomly allocated to a Programme in your allocated group

NOTE: any programme with a 0 (zero) means that there are no programmes/posts in that programme therefore do not rank

Stage 2 - Programmes

- Programme preferencing opens
 - 01/04/2026 at 15:00 (BST)
- Deadline for Programme preferencing
 - 14/04/2026 at 12:00 midday (BST)
- Match to Programme released via Oriel
 - **22/04/2026**

**All allocations are Final and there is
a strict NO swaps policy**

SFP Process

Specialist Foundation Group

SFP Process

The MS SFP preference form will be the only way to apply for a SFP Group in Scotland. There are 7 Groups, 60 Programmes.

SFP Preference Form opens

- 12/03/2026 at 15:00 (GMT)

SFP Preference Form closes

- 16/03/2026 at 12:00 midday (GMT)

SFP Process

1. Complete the White Space Question (WSQ)
2. Ranking of SFP Groups (either all or some)
3. Linked applicants can apply but note your link maybe broken if only one of you applies and is matched to a SFP group
4. Submit MS Form by the deadline – no late submissions will be accepted

You MUST rank all standard FP Groups in Oriel as not all applicants will be allocated to a SFP group

SFP Process

Allocated to an available Group based on WSQ score and group preference(s)

- WSQ scored by clinical academics from the Scottish Medical Universities
- Highest score (from WSQ) will get first choice of group
- Once all groups in a region are full, second choice of group will be allocated

Group match released on national date, then you move to Programme preferencing

Applicants who have not been allocated to a SFP Group will be allocated using the PIA algorithm within Oriel to a FP group

Finally

- You must rank all groups and programmes using Oriel even if you have applied for a SFP Group you have been pre-allocated
- All allocations are Final
- The Scottish Foundation School does not have a mechanism or process to allow applicants to change or swap their programmes
- Scottish Medical Training - SCOTMT for groups and programmes: [Foundation | Scottish Medical Training](#) including a number of helpful FAQs topics
- Scottish Foundation School contact email address: sfas@nes.scot.nhs.uk

FAQs

What if I am allocated to a Placeholder Group?

- **More information will be available after the Group allocation on 01/04/2026. The Scottish Foundation School will contact placeholders directly with invitation to a webinar on 02/04/2026 (time to be confirmed)**
- All applicants who have been allocated to the Scottish Foundation School will be assigned a 2-year Foundation Programme, and the Foundation School Team will work with you to confirm these programmes in a timely manner.

FAQs

What are the next steps after allocation?

- **We understand that you will have many questions about employment, Visas, PVG, accommodation etc and more information will follow in a series of emails from sfas@nes.scot.nhs.uk that we will send to you in late April and early May. This will include information about less than full time and occupational health and the lead employer contact.**

FAQs

What if I have been pre-allocated through the national process, what do I do?

- **You must still rank the Groups in the order you previously provided to all the School Team to confirm your Group, then follow the programme preferencing timeline.**

FAQs

What if am a linked applicant, what do I do?

- **You both must rank the Groups in the same order otherwise the link will be broken. If one of you wishes to apply for SFP and the other does not the link will be broken.**

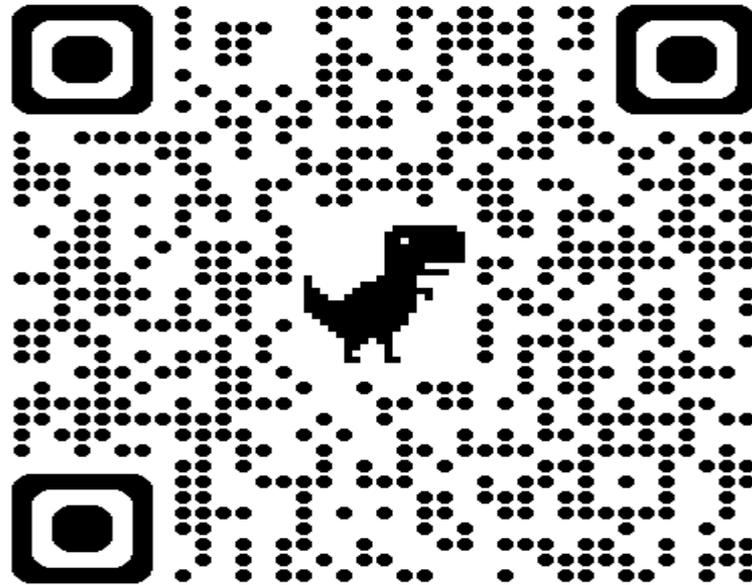
FAQs

How will you contact us and keep in touch during the allocation process?

- **The Foundation School only has access to the email address you are registered in Oriel, therefore please ensure you have updated this to an address you check regularly. This email will also be transferred to our system on allocation day 22/04/2026 and will be how the employer will contact you.**

Brief SCOTMT Demonstration

QR Code for SCOTMT – Foundation



This resource may be made available, in full or summary form, in alternative formats and community languages. Please contact us on **0131 656 3200** or email **altformats@nes.scot.nhs.uk** to discuss how we can best meet your requirements.



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