

Oxford Foundation School

Study Leave Guidance for F2 Trainees

Changes to study leave (SL) in England came into force in April 2018 in response to concerns expressed by doctors about the high financial costs of some of their training, and the inequities of the old system.

The allocated individual study-leave budget system was replaced with one that funded the following:

- all elements of curriculum delivery for trainees on approved training programmes in secondary care (Advance Life Support - ALS - is the best example of this sort of leave in the Foundation Programme, and is now fully funded)
- discretionary courses that add value to the individual and support the wider system (this might include support for courses on generic subjects that offer benefit to the NHS, such as Quality Improvement and Medical Education)

Study Leave for F2 Trainees

There will still be two types of Study Leave:

- Essential (for Foundation Trainees, this is limited to ALS)
- Discretionary (may add value to the individual and/or the wider system). 'Career Development' will now be included in this category.

In addition to Curricular leave (for ALS) **Trainees may be granted approval for a maximum of: One 'Wider system' course plus One 'Career Development' course (OR conference)** in their FY2 year. See below for further information.

Discretionary Study Leave

Two types of Discretionary SL have been identified, those that benefit the wider system and those that aid career development (including presenting at a UK Conference, oral or poster).

For ALL discretionary F2 study leave to be considered/approved, trainees **MUST** be making satisfactory progress and on track for a positive ARCP outcome.

Examples of 'Wider System' courses

- Quality improvement
- Medical education
- Leadership/management
- Development of research skills
- Resilience

Examples of 'Career Development' Courses

Study Leave to prepare for future training posts (including applications), typically the sort of courses taken in early specialty / run-through training (must do local course if available)

- Part 1 Membership Revision course (must do local course if available)
- Basic Surgical Skills Course
- Radiology Course
- APLS
- ATLS

Conferences

Presenting at national or international conferences within the UK is included in this category of 'Career Development' SL. Educational Supervisors must agree it would be advantageous for the trainee and usual Trust rules about reasonable costs will apply: low-cost accommodation (only if required in terms of distance), cheapest travel options, presentation of receipts etc.

Presenting at conferences held outside the UK generally adds little extra benefit but may be supported on an exceptional basis, at the discretion of the Foundation Training Programme Director as well as the Educational Supervisor. Conference Registration fees will be paid, but travel and accommodation costs will not.

Postgraduate Certificates

Certificated courses of Postgraduate Study (PG Cert, Dip or Masters) will not be supported, as the time commitments involved are not compatible with full engagement in Foundation Programme Training.

Private Study Time

Foundation trainees are not permitted to use study leave for private study, but may book it for sitting exams.