



BRITISH  
PHARMACOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

**Could a career in Clinical  
pharmacology be for you?**



## What is clinical pharmacology?

Clinical pharmacologists specialise in the science of drugs. They play a vital role in developing new drug treatments and ensuring that patients take the best medicines to treat their medical conditions.

Clinical pharmacologists:

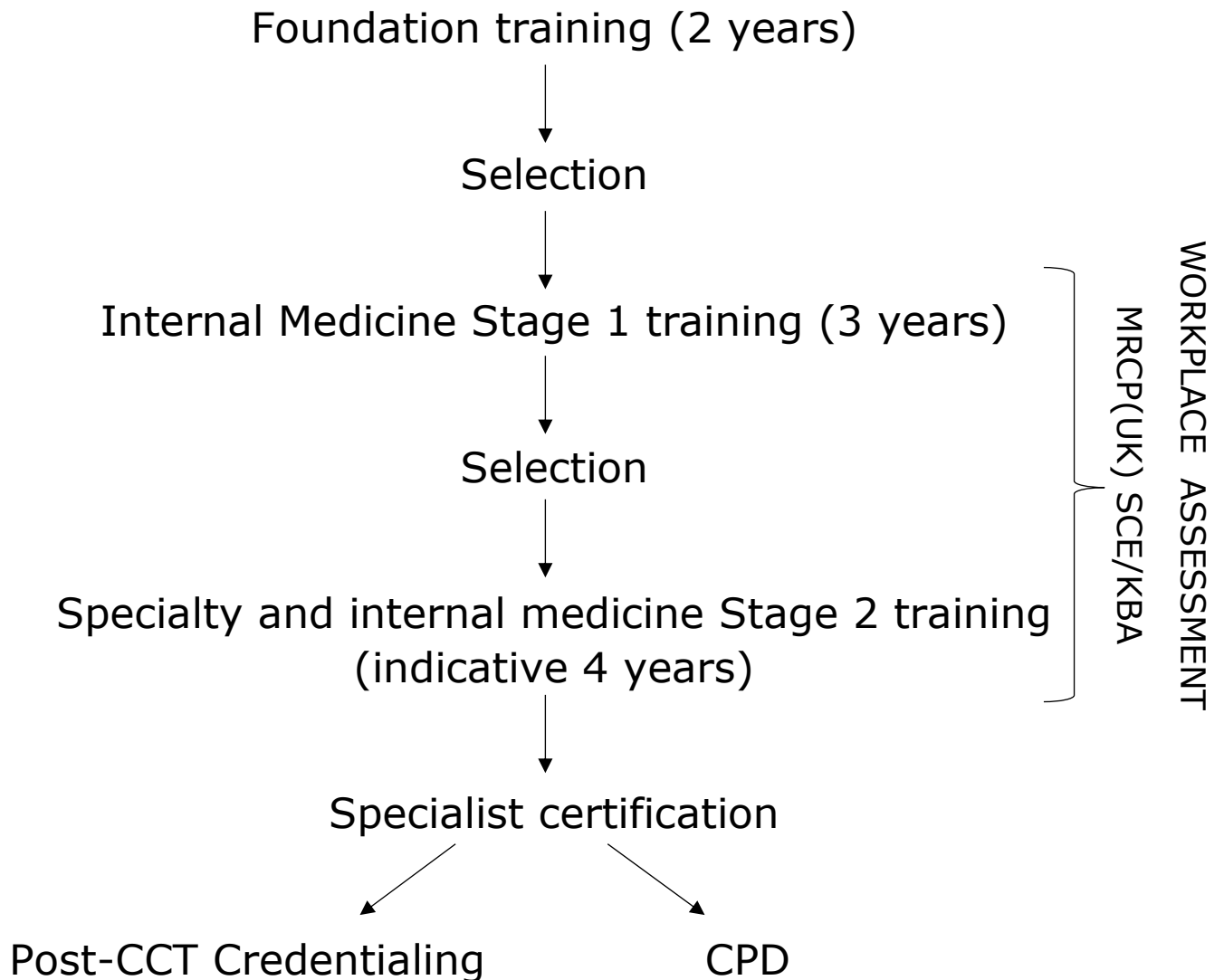
- test drugs in clinical trials to find the best treatments for conditions such as heart disease, cancer and COVID-19
- treat patients who have been poisoned by medicines
- teach doctors and other healthcare professionals to be able to prescribe safely and effectively
- advise NHS leaders about the safe and effective use of medicines

Clinical pharmacologists enjoy a great deal of diversity throughout their careers. Some choose to focus on a specific area of medicine, such as acute medicine. Others combine a broad range of work such as teaching or healthcare leadership to forge a unique career path.

To understand more about clinical pharmacology and the different career paths open to you, visit **[bps.ac.uk/clinicalcareers](https://bps.ac.uk/clinicalcareers)**. Here you'll find information and resources as well as first-hand accounts of different opportunities and career paths.



## Pathway



After graduating from medical school, you will need to complete two years of Foundation Training before you can choose your specialty.

Foundation Training is a work-based programme that bridges the gap between medical school and specialty training. Applications begin around October each year, with a start date the following summer. From August you will be able to view available Academic Foundation Programmes (AFP) on Oriol.



To take up an offer of a Foundation Training place, you must have:

- Applied to the General Medical Council (GMC) for registration with a licence to practise
- Passed the Prescribing Safety Assessment (PSA) exam

Once you have accepted an offer and know where your programme will be, get in touch with us so we can connect you to local clinical pharmacologists. Arrange to spend some time with them to get a taste of the specialty – they don't have to be at your hospital.

After your training you will be awarded the Foundation Programme Certificate of Completion (FPCC). You can then go on to your Internal Medicine Training (IMT).

Towards the end of your Foundation Training, you will need to make decisions about where to complete the first stage of your IMT. If you are interested in Clinical Pharmacology, it can be worthwhile researching which schools might give you the best experience that will be relevant to specialising in CPT later.

To find out more about Internal Medicine Training and the UK Foundation Programme visit **[foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/](https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/)** and **[jrcptb.org.uk/imt](https://jrcptb.org.uk/imt)**



If you are currently studying medicine and considering which area to specialise in, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (CPT) can open the door to a wide range of potential careers.

There are many possible roles for clinical pharmacologists. You can choose to work within, or alongside, multiple medical and scientific disciplines.

These can include:

- Clinical medicine
- Toxicology
- Clinical trials
- Paediatrics
- Clinical academic pharmacology
- Medicines policy and regulation
- Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology



BRITISH  
PHARMACOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY

## Support from the Society

The British Pharmacological Society provides support for clinical pharmacologists around the world. To find out more about the support available to you as a member, visit [bps.ac.uk/membership](https://bps.ac.uk/membership).

If you have specific questions about training in CPT that aren't answered by visiting [bps.ac.uk/clinicalcareers](https://bps.ac.uk/clinicalcareers), you can also email [education@bps.ac.uk](mailto:education@bps.ac.uk) to speak to one of the team.