Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) ST3 Application Process

The application

The written application for ICM ST3 is online using Oriel and is coordinated by Health Education West Midlands (HEWM). You will need to create an account before you can apply to a vacancy.

The application consists of personal information, employment history, referee details, uploading of documentary evidence and declarations of validity to apply. These sections can take up to a few hours depending on how well you have filed your foundation competency documents and how long your employment history is. This information can be copied through to other applications on Oriel.

The ICM specific sections include a self-scoring section against several domains such as research, teaching, courses etc. How you rank yourself in these questions will require evidence at the portfolio station in the assessment day. This is a good opportunity to dig out any certificates and paperwork and ensure your portfolio is in order. There is guidance from HEWM on how to order your portfolio.

There are several questions that ask for evidence of teaching, research, management, leadership, communication skills and commitment to the speciality. Most of the questions have a limit of two or three hundred words for the answers. The answers you give will be marked against the person specification, so ensure your answers cover all the listed domains. Consider copying your answers to another document for checking with a spellchecker and persons familiar with ICM and the application process.

Once you are satisfied, submit your application and await a response. The assessment day dates are published in advance so ensure your rotamaster knows you will likely require leave.

The assessment day

The assessment day is held at West Bromwich Albion football ground. Be sure to be smart, punctual and ensure you have all the required ID and professional documents specified on the West Midlands deanery website.

You will be held with a cohort in some ante rooms prior to sitting the written component of the assessments. You will be required to write a reflection of a case in your portfolio, complete a task prioritisation exercise, prepare for a clinical scenario discussion and prepare a presentation.

After the written sections you will be taken with a small group to attend the interview stations. There will be a portfolio station which will validate your score on the written application. There is a clinical scenario which you will have had preparation time for. There will be a presentation station followed by questions which may not be related to your presentation. The order of the stations will vary and you may have a rest station.
Routinely there will be two assessors in each station but there may be a third person observing the interview.

**And then….**

After the assessment breathe a sigh of relief and try to forget about it! Make a note in your diary of the date that offers are posted. You only have 48 hours to respond to the offer, so ensure you have access to the internet at this time.

Good luck!

Dr Hywel Garrard