Programme Objectives

The Diploma in Cardiothoracic Surgery programme is designed for doctors aspiring to be a Staff Registrar who has attained knowledge and technical skills in diagnosing, treating, monitoring and managing patients with diverse and acute cardiothoracic conditions or problems.

Trainees will acquire competencies in clinical practices and surgical procedures, good clinical judgements and decision making, effective communication and ethical knowledge associated with Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Programme Director

Assistant Professor Ooi Oon Cheong
Consultant, Department of Cardiac, Thoracic and Vascular Surgery, National University Heart Centre Singapore

Jointly awarded by the
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE and the
CHAPTER of CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEONS, COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, SINGAPORE
Admission Criteria
This programme is open to all medically-trained doctors who possess Temporary registration (Service), Conditional registration or Full registration with the Singapore Medical Council (SMC). However, applicants must also satisfy the following criteria for admission into this programme:

- Possess a basic medical degree from their home country and have at least 2 years of clinical experience in a Cardiac Surgery Department in an accredited public/restructured hospital in Singapore.
- Locally trained doctors should have obtained a MRCS part 1 accreditation or equivalent.
- Locally trained doctors should possess at least 2 years of clinical experience in a Cardiac Surgery Department in an accredited public/restructured hospital in Singapore.

Programme Duration
This is a structured training programme which will be carried out under supervision over a 3-year period.

Assessment Criteria
Regular 3-monthly reviews by the supervisor will be conducted to ensure the trainee reaches a satisfactory level of competence. Interim assessments will be in the form of 6-monthly log book assessments, annual appraisal reports and annual examination.

Training Structure
Training will be in the form of apprenticeship, lectures, tutorials and workshops. The programme focuses on developing competencies in the aspects of clinical practice, technical expertise, judgment, communication skills and professional practices. Trainees are also required to maintain a log book which will detail the clinical and surgical procedures performed, cases, conferences, and seminars and it will be countersigned and graded as appropriate by their supervisors to confirm satisfactory fulfillment of the required training structure and topics as stated in the syllabus.

Syllabus
The topics that are taught and examinable during the 3-year training programme include:

1. Cardiovascular, Pulmonary Anatomy and Physiology
2. Thoracic Trauma
3. Coronary Artery Diseases
4. Valvular Heart Diseases
5. Peri-operative and ICU care
6. Acute Cardiovascular Emergencies
7. Paediatric Cardiac Surgery
8. Cardiac and Pulmonary Transplantation
9. Ventricular Assist Devices
10. Assessment and post-operative management of patients
11. Specific surgical and ICU procedures
12. Communication skills and ethical principles
13. Judgment - Clinical Decision-making
14. Professionalism

Examinations
Trainees will be assessed in the following manner:
- End of Year 1 - Viva (Oral examination)
- End of Year 2 - Appraisal by supervisor & Viva
- End of Year 3 - Appraisal by supervisor, Viva & presentation of clinical case studies (both long and short).