Programme Objectives

The Diploma in Neurosurgery 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 neurological problems, disorders of the nervous system, emergency neuro-trauma and multiple system trauma. Trainees will acquire competencies in clinical practices and surgical procedures, good clinical judgments and decision making, effective communication and ethical knowledge associated with Neurosurgery. At the end of the programme, trainees will also gain knowledge in ethical expectations that impact on medico-legal issues and be aware of current legal aspects of informed consent and confidentiality, so as to be accountable for their patients.

Programme Director

A/Prof Seow Wan Tew
Head and Senior Consultant
Department of Neurosurgery
Deputy Medical Director, National Neuroscience Institute

Application procedures

Candidates are required to fill up the following items:

- Obtain endorsement from their Head of Department and their Human Resource Department.
- Attach the supporting documents (certified as true copies) as indicated in the application form and mail to:
  Academy of Medicine, Singapore
  Education & Training Department
  81 Kim Keat Road
  #11-00 & #12-00, NKF Centre
  Singapore 328836

Fee structure

*Registration fee: $500 (non-refundable one-time payment)
*Course fee: $7,250 per year
*Examination fee: $800 (academic year 1&2); & $1,000 (academic year 3)

*Prevailing rate of Goods and Services Tax (GST) is not inclusive in the fees and is collected on top of the above fees. All fees are non-refundable upon commencement of training.

Contact details

Contact person: Ms Era Syairah
Designation: Executive, Education and Training
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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:
• Foreign-trained doctors to possess a basic medical degree from home country and have 1-2 years of clinical experience in Neurosurgery in which at least 1 year must be in a Neurosurgery department in Singapore that doctor is currently employed in.
• Locally-trained doctors should have obtained a MRCS Part 1 accreditation or equivalent and currently working in Neurosurgery department and have completed at least ONE year of clinical work in Neurosurgery in the same local restructured hospital in Singapore;
• Have a sponsoring unit, department or institution;

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 shall focus on developing competencies in the aspects of clinical practice, technical expertise, judgment, communication skills and professional practices. The training which will be conducted by Neurosurgery specialists will broaden the trainees’ experience and skills in the care of neurosurgery patients and the management of diverse and acute neurosurgical conditions/problems.

Syllabus
The topics that are taught and examinable during the 3-year training programme include:
1. Neuroanatomy & Neurophysiology
2. Basic Neurology
3. Neurotrauma
4. Cerebrovascular Diseases
5. Peri-operative & ICU Care
6. Neurosurgical Emergencies
7. Neuro-oncology
8. Paediatric Neurosurgery & Developmental Neurology
9. Spinal surgery
10. Pain and functional Neurosurgery
11. Peripheral Nerve Disorders

Examinations
Trainees will be assessed in the following manner:
End of Year 1 - MCQs and Written Examination
End of Year 2 - Appraisal by supervisor
- MCQs and Written Examination
End of Year 3 - Appraisal by supervisor,
- MCQs, VIVA and Written Examination
- Clinical Examination (both long and short cases, X-Rays and Pathology stations)