



Histopathology Training in Wales

Histopathology involves the diagnosis and study of disease. Those practising it, or histopathologists, typically engage in the examination of diseased tissue in microscopic detail to allow them to make diagnostic and prognostic judgements.

As a clinical specialty, histopathology relies on great analytical and interpretive skill to progress each individual case.

And as many written reports are produced in the role, communication is another skill you'll need to go far – especially as you'll be required to discuss cases at multidisciplinary meetings attended by a range of other specialists.

This is Training.

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Histopathology training in Wales is based within four health boards, all located in the south of the country. As a trainee histopathologist, you'll enter at ST1 level and get to work in cutting-edge facilities, receive support from experienced doctors and take advantage of our flexible training options.

During your first year, you'll receive a general introduction and get the opportunity to attend shared teaching sessions put on by other LETBs across the UK as part of a structured curriculum. Then from your second year, you'll begin to hone in on subspecialties within the field of cellular pathology.

Many histopathology trainees in Wales take a three-month autopsy module, leading to a Certificate in Higher Autopsy Practice, and are often required to present their findings in a coroner's court or at hospital mortality meetings.

Key locations

Training is centred in South Wales at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, with frequent rotations to Morriston and Singleton Hospitals in Swansea, the Royal Glamorgan Hospital in Llantrisant and the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport. Between them, these hospitals will provide you with a solid grounding in histopathology and allow you to sample the areas of subspecialty within cellular pathology.

Exciting training to suit your needs

Histopathology involves a mixture of clinical and laboratory diagnostic work – and you'll maintain close contact with pathologists and other specialists through regular multidisciplinary sessions. The programme includes detailed training in histopathology, cytopathology, autopsy, pathology and frequent exposure to areas of molecular pathology. If you're interested in going down a research-oriented route, you'll receive our full support to do so.

All of our training is designed to help your work-life balance by offering the flexibility you need – and wherever you're based, you'll experience the strong sense of community that connects the country and makes Wales such a rewarding place to train, work and live.

A rich history of histopathology

When you train as a histopathologist in Wales, you'll be doing so in a country with a proud record of achievement in this specialty. For example, Wales is known for world-class expertise in industrial lung disease, gastrointestinal pathology and immunohistochemistry; Cardiff is the base for the Wales Institute of Forensic Medicine, and FRCPath exam pass rates in Wales exceed the UK average. Our histopathology programme scores consistently well in the annual GMC Trainer Survey and many trainees stay on in Wales to work as consultants.