

Applying to the 2027 Foundation Programme



Foundation Schools across the four nations

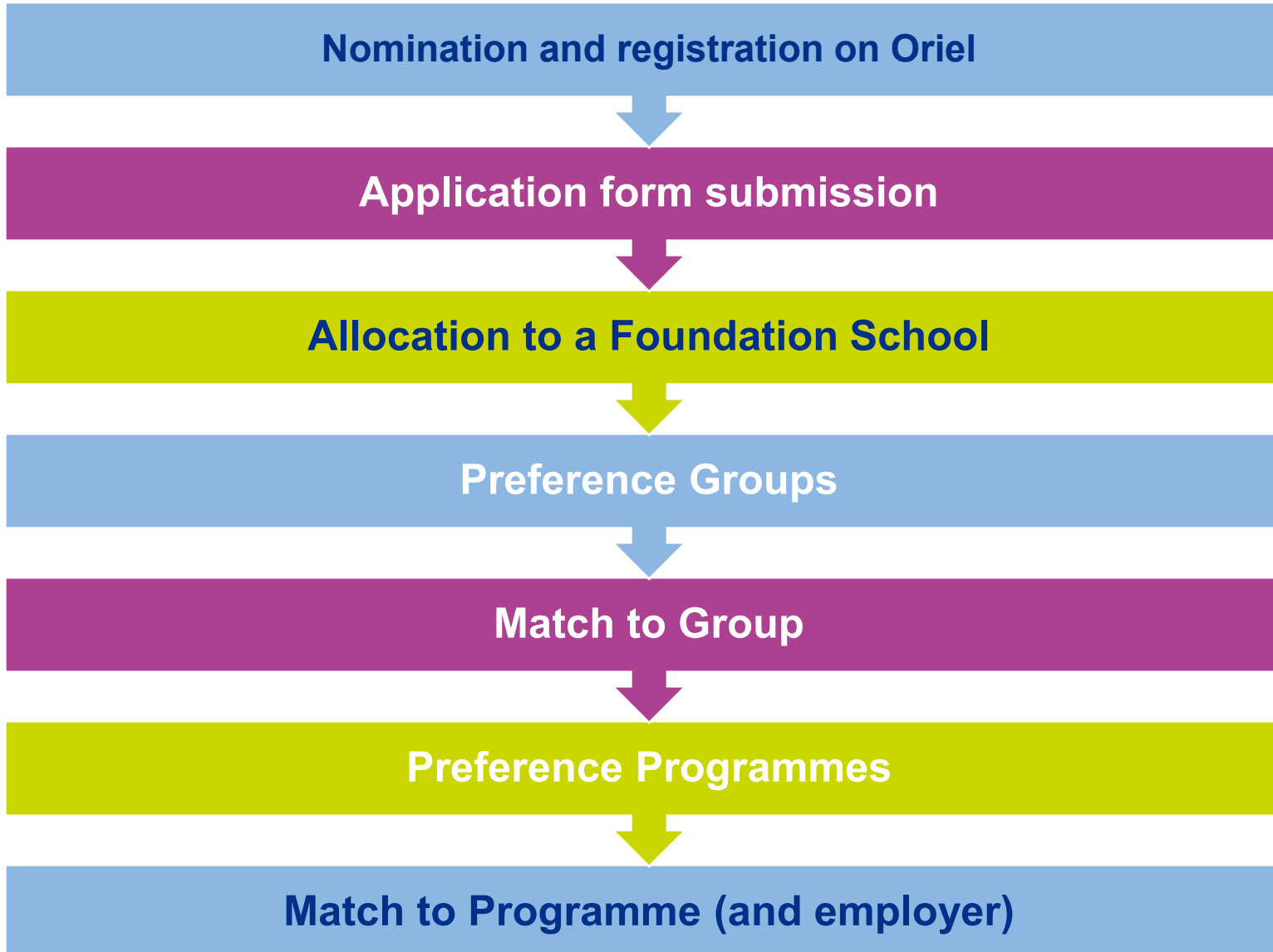
There are 18 Foundation Schools across the UK

NHS England (NHSE) Foundation Schools in England	
East of England	Severn
Kent, Surrey & Sussex	Trent
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Rutland	Wessex
London	West Midlands Central
North West of England	West Midlands North
Northern	West Midlands South
Oxford (Thames Valley)	Yorkshire & Humber
Peninsula	

Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW)
Wales Foundation School

Public Services Delivery Scotland (PSD Scotland)
Scotland Foundation School

Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (NIMDTA)
Northern Ireland Foundation School

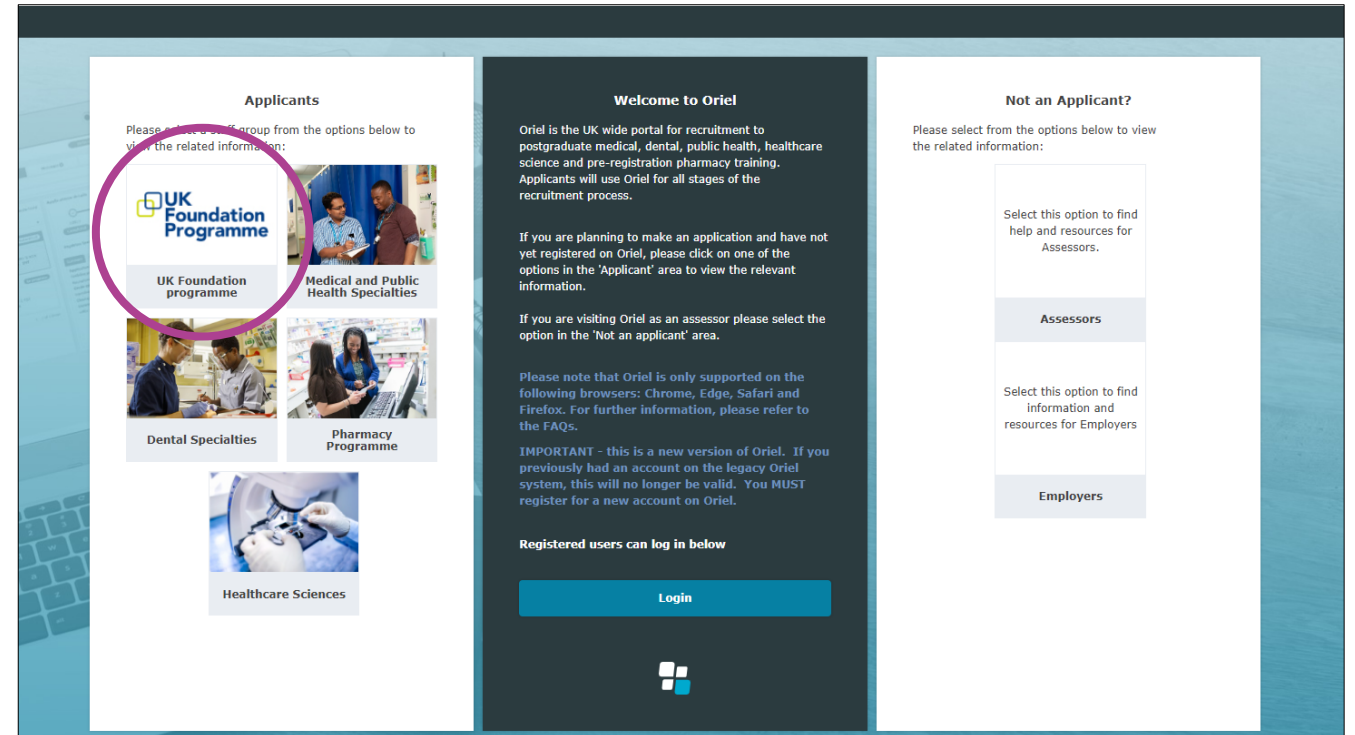


National application process

Oriel

Oriel is the UK wide portal for recruitment to postgraduate medical, dental, public health, healthcare science and foundation pharmacy training.

The application system is used to manage applications and the allocation process for the Foundation Programme.



www.oriel.nhs.uk

Application Dates

UK medical school applicants will be nominated to apply, and applicants **MUST** first confirm their nomination in Oriel **before** they can begin their application.

Nomination and registration on Oriel

- From **15 September 2026 (09:00 BST)**
- Nominated UK medical school applicants will receive an email with a link to confirm their nomination on Oriel.

UK medical school applicants **must not register and create an account on Oriel in advance.** Please **only use the link emailed to you to for nomination and registration on Oriel.** (You will otherwise end up with two accounts which causes confusion).

National application window

- **Opens 23 September 2026 (09:00 BST)**
- **Closes 07 October 2026 (12:00 midday BST)**

UK Medical School Nomination

UK applicants will be nominated by the medical school

- Applicants who are expecting to qualify from a UK medical school **by 03 August 2027 will be nominated by their medical school** as eligible to apply for the UKFP.
- Applicants who qualified **on or after 04 August 2025** can also be re-nominated by their medical school as eligible to apply for UKFP 2027. This also applies to applicants who were withdrawn from a previous application (or chose to withdraw) and did not begin their foundation training programme.
- Applicants who wish to be re-nominated **must inform their medical school**, so that their details are included during the nomination process.
Re-nomination is not automatic.

UK Medical School Nomination

UK applicants who **WILL NOT** be nominated by the medical school

- Military applicants are **not required** to apply via Oriel and therefore do not need to be nominated for the application process. Training programmes are organised separately by the Defence Deanery.
- If you have qualified from a UK medical school **on or prior to 03 August 2025**, you must apply via the [Eligibility application process](#) first (you cannot be re-nominated by your medical school).

Eligibility Application Process

This is a pre-application process used by the UKFPO to determine if an applicant is eligible to apply to the 2-year FP

- The only UK graduates who are required to apply via this route are those who have qualified from a UK medical school **on or prior to 03 August 2025**.

Please do not submit an eligibility application if this does not apply to you.

- Applicants who are studying at or have qualified from a UK medical school campus outside of the UK, i.e. St George's University of London in Cyprus, Newcastle University Medicine in Malaysia (NUMed), or Queen Mary University of London in Malta must also apply via the Eligibility route. (This applies to both non-UK applicants and settled UK nationals).
- The [Eligibility application window](#) is open 01 – 22 July 2026 (12:00 midday BST)

Applicant Guidance

Refer to the UKFPO website for **all guidance** and help with each part of the application process

<https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/programmes/2-year-foundation-programme/ukfp/>

Applicant guidance for the 2-year Foundation Programme		
This guidance provides information about the national application process to the two year UK Foundation Programme. This includes the national application timeline and information about each stage of the process, from completion of the application form on Oriel, to allocation to a Foundation School and training programme. These pages will be updated on an annual basis, ahead of the application window.		
<u>Introduction</u> An overview of the UK Foundation Programme	<u>Key changes for UKFP 2027</u> What's new for 2027?	<u>Application timeline</u> Important application dates for your diary
<u>Foundation Schools</u> Geography and information about foundation schools	<u>Foundation Priority Programmes</u> Information about FPP	<u>Specialised Foundation Programmes</u> Information about SFP
<u>Pre-allocation to a Foundation School</u> Criteria and application forms	<u>Application process</u> Key information about stages of the application process	<u>How to apply on Oriel</u> Completing the application form on Oriel
<u>Resources</u> Links to other useful information	<u>First preference ratios</u> First preference ratios for UKFP recruitment rounds	<u>Appeals</u> Information about the appeal process

How To Apply

Refer to the “How To Apply” web pages for guidance with the **Oriel application form process**.

Each section represents a section of the application form.

<https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/programmes/2-year-foundation-programme/ukfp/how-to-apply-on-oriel/>

How to apply on Oriel		
Applications for the two-year Foundation Programme are managed through the Oriel application system. Oriel is the UK wide portal for recruitment to postgraduate medical, dental, public health, healthcare science and foundation pharmacy training. Applicants must submit their application through the national Foundation Programme vacancy on Oriel during the national application window. The following webpages detail the information that applicants will be expected to provide within their Foundation Programme (FP) application form on Oriel. Each section represents a section of the application form on Oriel.		
Registration and Oriel Registering and confirming nomination on Oriel	Personal Guidance for the personal section of the Oriel form	Eligibility Guidance on GMC registration and Right to Work in the UK
Fitness to Practise What to declare, including contact details for the DBS	References Guidance on the references section of the Oriel form	Competences Providing details of your Primary medical qualification
Equality Information on monitoring equal opportunities	Declarations Information about the declaration page	Supporting information Pre-allocation and linking

Preferencing Foundation Schools in Oriel

You are required to preference **ALL** foundation schools in your application in your order of choice using a drag and drop process

- **Your preferences do not have to be finalised at the point of submission - you can amend the order in which you have preferred foundation schools after submitting your application.**
- **The deadline for amending foundation school preferences will be in early 2027 and will be confirmed in the application timeline.**

A list of the geographical areas that each foundation school covers can be found on the [Foundation Schools webpage](#). Refer to local foundation school websites for details of trusts, health boards and other employing organisations in each region.

Key Changes for 2027

The following changes have been to the application process for 2027:

Foundation Priority Programme (FPP)

There will not be a separate recruitment process for FPP. As was the case for UKFP 2026, there will again be no separate FPP vacancy on Oriel and therefore no separate offers process for FPP.

FPP programmes will be recruited to as part of the main FP application process. Foundation Priority Programmes will be added into the main FP allocation vacancy on Oriel and applicants will be allocated to these via Preference Informed Allocation (PIA) after allocation to a foundation school has taken place.

This is due to the introduction of the [Medical Training \(Prioritisation\) Act](#) and the delivery of the application process within the national Oriel application system.

<https://foundationprogramme.nhs.uk/programmes/2-year-foundation-programme/ukfp/ukfp-2027-key-changes/>

Key Changes for 2027

The following changes have been to the application process for 2027:

24-hour Helpdesk deadline

The UKFPO helpdesk (helpdesk@foundationprogramme.nhs.uk) will not answer application queries from 24 hours prior to the close of the Foundation Programme application window in October 2026. This includes (but is not limited to) queries which relate to the following list below. The **only exception** to this is that during this 24-hour period, email **requests to unlock Oriel accounts** will still be actioned by the team. All other email queries will be responded to after the 24-hour deadline has passed

- Oriel registration issues
- Requests for re-nomination (graduates reapplying)
- Application form submission issues
- Preferencing (of foundation schools) in application
- Errors made in application form
- Pre-allocation related queries
- Reference related queries

The UKFPO and Medical Schools Council strongly recommend that applicants register on Oriel and start their application as early as possible during the 2-week application window, to allow time to contact the UKFPO helpdesk before the 24-hour deadline should there be any issues with their application.

Key Changes for 2027

The following changes have been to the application process for 2027:

Release of Preference Informed Allocation (PIA) ranks

At the **end of the recruitment process** for UKFP 2027, the computer-generated rank used during the PIA process in Oriel will be released (via an email) to all applicants who remain allocated to a foundation school (at the point of release).

Ranks will not be released in bulk to applicants who were withdrawn at any point after allocation took place, nor to applicants who were not allocated, however these applicants can still request their rank if they wish to by emailing the UKFPO and it will be provided via email reply.

Key Changes for 2027

- **Eligibility application process** – a summary of changes can be found on the [UKFPO website](https://www.ukfpo.org.uk/)
- **Pre-allocation application process** – changes to the application process can be found on slides 18-22

Specialised Foundation Programmes

The Specialised Foundation Programme (SFP) provides an opportunity for foundation doctors to develop research, teaching, and leadership and management skills in addition to the competences outlined in the Foundation Programme Curriculum.

SFP Selection

Each of the four-nations manages selection to the Specialised Foundation Programme in a different way. Information about how the selection process will be managed is available on the individual website for each nation.

Queries about the process, selection methods and decision making must therefore be directed to the appropriate contacts within each nation.

- Refer to each nation's website for details of their SFP process. [Links available on this webpage.](#)

Linked Applications

If you wish to be allocated to the same foundation school as another applicant, you can choose to link your FP application to the other applicant on Oriel.

- Both applicants must preference foundation schools in the same order
- Linking is only possible for FP (it is not possible for SFP)
- Links will **not be** honoured if: -
 - a) Either or both applicants accept an SFP programme
 - b) Either or both applicants are pre-allocated to a foundation school
 - c) The PIA algorithm is unable to match both applicants to the same school
- Linked applicants will be allocated to school according to the **lower ranked** applicant
- Local foundation school programme matching policies vary at group and programme level

Pre-allocation Criteria

C1: Parent or legal guardian for child(ren) under the age of 18

C2: Primary Carer

C3: Health condition or disability

C4: Extraordinary Circumstances

C5: Widening Participation

Applicants who need to be in a certain part of the UK due to their **current personal circumstances** which meet one of the nationally agreed criterion can apply for pre-allocation to a specific foundation school.

Applications can only be made under **one** criterion, and supporting evidence must be provided at the time of application.

Pre-allocation Application Changes for 2027

Changes have been made to:

- Criterion 1 Parent or Legal Guardian
- Criterion 3 Health Condition or Disability
- Proof of address acceptable evidence
- Supporting evidence

Pre-allocation Criteria

The following changes have been made to these criterion for FP 2027

Criterion	Change for 2027 ?	Details of change
Criterion 1 Parent or Legal Guardian	Yes	Pre-allocation will now only be to the foundation school local to the medical school.
Criterion 3 Health Condition or Disability	Yes	Pre-allocation will now only be to the foundation school local to the UK medical school.

Pre-allocation Criteria

The following criterion have NO changes for FP 2027

Criterion	Change for 2027 ?	Details
Criterion 2 Primary Carer	No	Pre-allocation continues to only be to the foundation school local to the medical school.
Criterion 4 Extraordinary Circumstances	No	There are no changes to this criterion.
Criterion 5 Widening Participation	No	Pre-allocation continues to only be to the foundation school local to the medical school.

Pre-allocation

Proof of address

The following documentation will no longer be accepted as proof of address:

- TV licences
- Tenancy agreements
- Council tax closing bills/final bills
- GP Patient summary records

Applications which do not include an acceptable proof of address will be unsuccessful.

The updated proof of address list for FP 2027 will be published soon on the [UKFPO website](https://www.ukfpo.org.uk/).

Pre-allocation

Supporting evidence

The following changes will apply to supporting evidence for the following criterion:

Criterion 1 Parental or legal guardian

If an applicant's current surname and/or first name which they have given on their application form is different from their surname/and or first name on the birth certificate of their child(ren) they will need to also provide proof of name change (e.g. deed poll or marriage certificate) as an additional piece of supporting evidence.

All criterion

All supporting signatories used by applicants across all pre-allocation criteria must be based within the UK. Applicants are required to be already living at an address in the UK to be eligible for pre-allocation and their circumstances must be current, therefore the supporting signatory must also be based in the UK if they are supporting the application.

Pre-allocation - general information

- Application is via Oriel (as part of main application form)
 - MS Word application forms for completion and uploading into Oriel
 - Supporting evidence required to be uploaded to Oriel
- **Additional or omitted evidence will not be accepted after the submission of the application (or during the appeals process)**
- Applications will be considered by a national panel

Application submission on Oriel

Important

- Do not leave your registration and application to the last minute!
- **Late applications are not accepted under ANY circumstances, and extensions to finish a partially completed application will not be granted.**
- Applications **cannot be edited** once submitted.
- You will receive an email from Oriel confirming your application has been submitted successfully. You should check separately through the dashboard on Oriel to confirm that you have fully submitted your application. You may also wish to take a screen shot of your confirmed submission.

National Allocation

Preference Informed Allocation (PIA)

Allocation to a Foundation School

- Every eligible applicant who remains in the Foundation Programme application process will be given a computer-generated rank by the Oriel system, when allocation takes place in the system.
- The ranking will not be informed by performance at medical school.
- Further details about how PIA works can be found on the [UKFPO website](https://www.ukfpo.org.uk/)

National Allocation

Preference Informed Allocation (PIA)

The Oriel application system will use an algorithm that will work through the list of applicants in computer-generated rank order. This will happen in two passes through the system:

Pass 1 – First-choice foundation school allocation only

- The algorithm will work through the applicant list in computer-generated rank order. If there are places available in an applicant's first choice foundation school, they will be allocated a place in that school. If no places are available in their first-choice foundation school, that individual applicant will be skipped over and the algorithm will continue to work through the full list of applicants, giving as many as possible their first preference. It will do this until it reaches the end of the applicant list.

Pass 2 – Allocating unplaced applicants

- Next, the algorithm will again work through the applicant list in computer-generated rank order. Any unplaced applicants will be allocated a place in their highest preferenced foundation school which still has available places. It will do this until it reaches the end of the applicant list.

Supporting Transition Entering Practice (STEP)

- Supports transition from medical school to foundation training; two-way transfer
- Health and welfare, educational progress and professional performance, and patient safety
- Students complete STEP form online
- Medical school endorses information
- [Supporting Transition and Entering Practice \(STEP\) - UK Foundation Programme](#)

Mandatory Shadowing and Induction

- All new F1s are required to attend a mandatory period of shadowing and induction. You will shadow the F1 whose job you will be taking up and complete the relevant aspects of employer-based induction prior to the official start of F1 on the first Wednesday of August : **4th August 2027**
 - The exact duration of the mandatory shadowing and induction period varies by employer and foundation school, but it will be a minimum of 4 working days.
- This shadowing period aims to help equip new medical graduates with the local knowledge and skills needed to provide safe, high quality patient care, from their first day as an F1 doctor.
- You should take care not to book holidays or important events (e.g. weddings) during the mandatory shadowing and induction week

References

Your referee

- You must provide the name and contact details of **one academic referee**.
- Ensure you have asked the individual if they are prepared to provide a reference for you before you nominate them.
- Your referee must be from your medical school. This might be a professor, senior lecturer, lecturer, reader, director of clinical studies or a person holding an honorary medical school contract as advised by your medical school.
- The referee should be someone who has **ideally known you for one year, but for a minimum of six months**, and **should be aware of your performance during ALL years** spent at the medical school.

Employment

Employer responsibilities:

- Pre-employment checks, including occupational health and reasonable adjustments
- References
- Pay
- Pension
- Rotas / annual leave queries
- Contract of employment
- Accommodation (if applicable)
- Programme/timetable for mandatory F1 shadowing and induction



Preparing for F1

Education and support

Preparing for F1

- Final-year medical students can access a wide range of resources, guidance and practical advice on our [Preparing for F1 webpages](#) to support their transition into the Foundation Programme.

Webinars

- The [UKFPO webinar series](#) covers key aspects of foundation training. The session “[Beyond the basics: Exploring foundation training pathways and opportunities](#)” (July 2025) provides an overview of the different types of Foundation Programmes (including Specialised Foundation Programme (SFP) and NHS England ‘Enhance’) and how to make the most of training opportunities.

Humans of the Foundation Programme

- Published September 2025, the [UKFP 2024-25 Humans of the Foundation Programme e-book](#) is a resource created by foundation doctors, offering authentic insights into their experiences and reflecting the diversity of programmes across the UK.

National Foundation Doctors Presentation Day (NFDPD)

- Annual UKFPO event highlighting foundation doctors’ projects, with poster and oral presentation opportunities for F1s and F2s. More information is available on the [NFDPD microsite](#) and in the [NFDPD 2026 abstract book](#).

Useful Tips

Ensure you read the [applicant guidance](#) carefully and refer to it at various parts of the application process

Check your Oriel account and registered email address regularly for updates

Refer to the [application timeline](#) throughout the application process

Add important dates to your diary - make a note of deadlines and set reminders

Refer to [Foundation School websites](#) for training programme information

Identify a referee who will be able to submit your reference.
[Referee support](#)

Thank you for listening!

Any questions?

helpdesk@foundationprogramme.nhs.uk

www.foundationprogramme.nhs.uk