

CERTIFICATION AS CLINICAL OR SURGICAL ANATOMIST

'Training the Clinical Anatomy Trainer' Courses

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why was this course and certification developed?

Essential knowledge of clinical anatomy is useful to doctors in all specialities. It is particularly useful for those intending to pursue a career in surgery, radiology, trauma or emergency medicine. A number of factors have led to a reduction in traditional anatomy teaching in medical schools and, consequently, many students and newly qualified doctors are less confident in their knowledge of applied anatomy. The aim of these courses and the subsequent certification is to address these shortcomings, and to produce trainers who are able to confidently teach anatomy to their junior colleagues in their place of study or work. In addition, the advanced course (Level 3) will enable interested professionals to attain a certification as a clinical or surgical anatomist which, in turn, will allow them to take up higher teaching positions within universities, medical schools, places of work and hospitals.

Who is a clinical or surgical anatomist?

A clinical anatomist is a professional who has a medical degree (MBBS, MBCh, MBChB, MD) and a postgraduate science/research/doctoral degree (MSc/MPhil, PhD) or a doctoral degree (PhD) in anatomy, complemented by appropriate clinical exposure, training or attendance at courses. A clinical anatomist teaches anatomy at both an undergraduate and postgraduate level. A surgical anatomist is a professional who has both an undergraduate medical degree and a postgraduate surgical degree (doctorate/teaching/research degrees are optional) as well as the required competency and teaching experience to deliver surgical anatomy to undergraduate medical students, postgraduate surgical trainees and consultants (surgeons, radiologists, trauma physicians, anaesthetists).

What does certification as a clinical or surgical anatomist mean?

This is a structured educational and training programme comprising of three stages of 'Training the Clinical Anatomy Trainer (TCAT)' courses. These courses have been developed as an innovative concept with the intention of providing senior medical students, doctors (foundation years to consultants) and anatomists with a sound understanding of applied clinical anatomy pertinent to everyday clinical practice. TCAT 2 and 3 are available only for doctors and adequately qualified anatomists. Successful completion of TCAT 3 is required for certification as a clinical or surgical anatomist.

What are the three levels of the course?

The Level 1 course uses imaginative artwork to identify important surface anatomy landmarks pertinent to clinical or surgical procedures and trauma. This is complemented by and interspersed with short interactive presentations. The formal assessment comprises of PowerPoint based spotters and a viva. The Level 2 course provides further understanding of applied clinical anatomy which is essential for qualified doctors and anatomists. The course will include teaching and assessment using prosections and osteology. Additionally, it will comprise of a series of assessments centred on teaching techniques which will be interspersed with short interactive lectures over the two days. The Level 3 course is an advanced course that will offer a detailed understanding of prosection, osteology, radiology and clinical application. There will be a stringent assessment of various methods of delivery of teaching before an attendee becomes certified as a clinical or surgical anatomist.

Why does this course consist of three levels?

The course consists of three levels to ensure that it meets the needs of attendees with different levels of clinical experience. The salient features of the three levels are as follows:

Target Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Senior medical students, foundation year 1 and 2 doctors, anatomists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Doctors who have completed Level 1 TCAT course and have the part A or part 1 of a membership exam from one of the UK Royal Colleges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Doctors who have passed a PG membership exam from one of the UK Royal Colleges and have obtained TCAT2.
Course content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Essential clinical anatomy. ● Surface anatomy as applied to surgery (incisions; anatomical relations) and trauma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prosection-based teaching and assessment. ● Osteology-based teaching and assessment. ● Teaching methodologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Core anatomy knowledge ● Essential prosection-based teaching ● Radiology/Imaging ● Various teaching methodologies and assessments.
Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spotters and Viva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knowledge assessment using spotters and presentations. ● Demonstration of teaching ability to small groups, large groups and using prosection/osteology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Knowledge assessment using spotters, presentations and short essays. ● Demonstration of teaching ability to small groups, large groups and using prosection/osteology. ● Assessment in radiology and clinical scenarios.
What is achieved on completion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Anatomy Trainer Level 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Anatomy Trainer Level 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical Anatomy Trainer Level 3 and Certification as a Clinical or Surgical Anatomist

Why should I attend this course?

- On completion of each level, you will be presented with a teaching certificate.
- Completion of all three levels at appropriate stages in your career will lead to certification as a clinical or surgical anatomist.
- You will be provided with ample opportunities to teach and to improve your own knowledge of anatomy, as well as that of others.
- You will be placed on a list of 'Clinical Anatomy Trainer' faculty. This means that you will be contacted should opportunities arise to practise and teach at our future courses.
- At the appropriate stage of your training and career, you may be asked to teach trainees preparing for postgraduate exams, such as the MRCS, the MCEM or the FRCR.
- You will join a network of keen faculty members. This will provide you with numerous opportunities to teach at and facilitate other courses and conferences, as well as to publish.