

this point all are eligible for consultant or equivalent posts within the NHS.

How flexible is training?

Training in public health is very flexible and encourages trainees to shape their training around their own interests. This involves identifying their interests and skills, even if embryonic, and finding the best ways to develop them.

Part-time training is also possible and trainees may apply for time out of training to work abroad to gain further experience.

Where and when to apply?

There is one recruitment drive per year, with the application process starting in January for posts to be taken up in August of that year. The process is run through a UK-wide system, the Medical Training Application Service – MTAS (www.mtas.nhs.uk). Advertisements for the posts will be placed on the MTAS website.

Alison Coulter, Trainee

Public health is a very diverse area, and so there is a lot of variety in my work. I really enjoy making links between people and organisations – for example, looking at reducing environmental tobacco smoke involved working with people in the primary care trust and in the city council, and with people from all around the UK.

I chose public health because I wanted to look at how best to keep people healthy, and was interested in evidence for the effectiveness of treatments.

I have a geography degree and a background in physiotherapy and NHS management. My job before becoming a public health trainee was as Cancer Services Manager for an acute hospital trust.



Need more information?

On whether you are suited to a public health career...

- **The Faculty of Public Health**

The Faculty has further information and a list of faculty advisers who can advise you on the speciality.

www.fph.org.uk

On the training programme in your region...

- **The Faculty of Public Health**

The Faculty has further information and a list of training programme directors for the different regions.

www.fph.org.uk

On applying to the training programme...

- **Medical Training Application Service**

www.mtas.nhs.uk

On how specialist training in the UK works...

- **Modernising Medical Careers**

www.mmc.nhs.uk

- **Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board**

www.pmetb.org.uk

Further sources of information...

- **Conference on Postgraduate Medical Deans**

A source of links to all deaneries

www.copmed.org.uk

- **General Medical Council**

www.gmc-uk.org

Illustrations © Moneim Elhassan 2006

Text © Faculty of Public Health 2006

Registered Charity No: 263894

ISBN 1-900273-23-3