

South Thames Foundation School group ranking FAQs

Why does STFS have a two-stage process for ranking programmes? It seems unnecessarily complicated

STFS is a large school, with >800 two-year programmes. Previous students told us that ranking all these programmes was time-consuming and difficult, with the risk of errors.

The two-stage process means that, firstly, 5 groups need to be ranked, and then only about 165 programmes.

What are the five STFS Programme Groups?

GROUP NAME	GROUP DESCRIPTION
Coast and Country	Provides 2 years in trusts in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Many programmes include a year at Brighton and Sussex University Hospital.
Continuity	Contains programmes in which both years are spent at one site or trust, or in two different but geographically close Trusts in London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex
London Link 1	All programmes include at least one year in London, mainly towards the west of the South Thames Foundation School area.
London Link 2	All programme includes at least one year in London, mainly towards the centre of the South Thames Foundation School area.
London Link 3	All programmes include at least one year in London, mainly towards the east of the South Thames Foundation School area

Which is the best group?

The groups differ slightly in composition and geography, but the programmes within them are similar, for example the proportion of programmes including one year in a teaching hospital.

The groups and their popularity change from year to year.

What happens if I don't rank the groups in time?

If you don't do this then you will be allocated to a group to enable you to rank the programmes in that group.

I want to spend my 2 years in London. What is my best chance of doing so?

There are some programmes with 2 years in London in all the groups except the 'Coast and Country' one. Going outside London for one or two years is worth considering, though, as it will give you very complementary experience.

I am worried about ending up somewhere I don't know. What shall I do if that happens?

It is normal to feel some anxiety about starting as an F1, however well prepared you are.

All STFS trusts are aware of this and are friendly and welcoming. During the 4-day shadowing and induction period before you start you will get to know your new colleagues.

Often our incoming doctors contact each other before July via social media and may even arrange to share accommodation with others going to the same hospitals.

How can I find out more about the various hospitals?

Come to our Programme Fair on the 20th March. Representatives from all our trusts will be there and will be delighted to meet you and tell you about what they have to offer.