

## Equivalence of categories of Physicians in the United Kingdom and Spain

The training system of doctors in Spain and the UK are different. To establish an approximate equivalence of doctors grade or categories, we have to understand how these are set in the UK. This is especially interesting and important as job offers are different depending on these categories. Below, the old and the new classification system in the UK.

### NHS Medical Career Grades

	Old System	New System ( <i>Modernising Medical Careers</i> )	
<b>Year 1:</b>	Pre-registration House Officer (PRHO) 1 year	Foundation Programme: 2 years	
<b>Year 2:</b>	Senior House Officer (SHO) a minimum of 2 years, although often more.		
<b>Year 3:</b>			
<b>Year 4:</b>	Specialist Registrar: 4–6 years	GP Registrar: 1 year	Specialty Registrar (StR) in general practice: 3 years
<b>Year 5:</b>		Specialty Registrar (StR) in a hospital specialty: 6–8 years	
<b>Years 6-8:</b>		General Practitioner	General Practitioner
<b>Year 9:</b>	Consultant total time in training: minimum 7–9 years	total time in training: 4 years	Consultant total time in training: 8–10 years*
<b>Optional</b>	Training may be extended by pursuing medical research (usually two-three years), usually with clinical duties as well	Training may be extended by obtaining an <i>Academic Clinical Fellowship</i> for research, or a <i>Clinical Fellowship</i> for sub-specialisation. *due to competition for consultant posts, it may take longer than 8 years to gain Consultant status .	

### Explanation and equivalents in Spain.

A medical student in England graduated "**Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery**" (MBBS) when finished his/her Primary Medical Education. This is equivalent to the title of "**Licenciado en Medicina y Cirugía**" granted in Spain.

- Then, he has to complete a 2-year program called "Foundation Program" (FY1 and FY2). This does not exist in Spain. These doctors are the "rookies" in the UK.
- Then (and up to three years after completing this Foundation Program), he can apply to start a specialization or "Specialty Training" of 6-8 years are the "**Specialty Register**" (ST1 to ST6) and to be a Consultant . These are the equivalent of the **MIR** of Spain.
- At the end of the Specialty Training and having approved a test of the "Royal Medical College" (MRC) in the UK, he becomes a **Consultant**, a hospital specialist able to make autonomous decisions independently. It is the top category in the British system. Depending on their experience, some Consultants may assume a leadership task. A Consultant manage the service including Registrars (ST's) and juniors (FY's) working under his supervision as part of his team. Its equivalent In Spain is the "**Adjunto**" when finished the MIR specialization training.

- The **Associate Specialists**. In England, they are physicians who have not made the "Specialty Training" and have taken what is called a "non-consultant career path" and abandoned the line that would take them to be Consultants. This hospital specialist assumes full functions of Consultant and makes decisions autonomously and independently. They unlike the Consultants are not responsible of the teaching or training of medical students and junior doctors. These doctors have made the 2-year Foundation Program, after which they become **Staff Grade**. Then and depending on years of service become **Specialty Doctor** and finally **Associate Specialist**. They are usually hired to see and/or treat a list or groups of patients with a specific type of pathology. The closest equivalence in Spain would be the "Mestos".
- In the UK as well as in Spain, there are doctors who after graduation do not follow any subsequent formation training but start working in private hospitals or Centers. They are called "**Resident Medical Officer**" or RMO's
- **General Practitioners** or GPs, are not medical specialists despite their training it is similar to that of a Consultant. They do three years of Specialty Training. Are the equivalent of **Médicos de Cabecera** in Spain but in England, because of their similar training, autonomy in practice and level of responsibility, they are comparable to those Consultants.

There are still jobs that use terms of the old classification system, so it is important to take them into account.

There are offers concerning specialists "**Middle Grade**". With this term, they refer to both the Staff Grade doctors Specialty and Specialty Register.