



Education and training TEF awards 2026

What we can learn from our top performing units

October 2026



Introduction

For the eighth consecutive year, the RCOG has recognised the top training units in obstetrics and gynaecology across the UK. These awards are based on the 2026 Training Evaluation Form (TEF), where trainees assessed units in four evaluation categories – professional development, obstetric training, gynaecological training, and overall performance. All responses are averaged for each eligible hospital, and this year we introduced new categories to ensure that the awards are based on hospital size.

The award winners receiving top rankings were:

- Small hospital category: **West Suffolk Hospital** – Overall, Professional Development and Obstetrics Training
- Medium-sized hospital category: **Royal United Hospital Bath** – Overall, Professional Development, Obstetrics Training, and Gynaecological Training
- Large hospital category: **Queen Elizabeth University Hospital** - Overall, and Gynaecological Training

Additionally, this year we are recognising the hospital that has shown the greatest improvement in scores compared with the 2025 TEF results, where the winner is **Pilgrim Hospital**.

For details on the TEF award winners and highly commended units for 2026, please view the results in the following link: [2026 TEF Results](#)

As part of the awards process, high performing units were invited to share what they were particularly proud of and tips on how they provided such good training. Additionally, they were asked what they could do to make the training they provide even better.

What makes units proud of their training and education

Educational Culture and Trainee Engagement

- Strong educational culture where training is prioritised alongside service delivery.
- Responsiveness to trainee feedback, including changes implemented following TEF and regulatory feedback.
- Culture of trainee involvement, ownership of learning and shared teaching responsibilities.



- Visible progression in trainees' confidence, competence, technical skills and professional development.

Educational Leadership, Supervision and Support

- Highly engaged and approachable consultants who are committed to trainee development and educational supervision.
- High-quality educational supervision and trainee support.
- Senior trainees.
- Supportive, friendly and inclusive working environment with strong multidisciplinary team involvement.

Teaching and Learning Opportunities

- Protected consultant-led teaching programmes, including regular departmental teaching and CTG education, with teaching sessions focused on learning gaps.
- Good access to specialist clinics, procedural training and curriculum-specific opportunities.
- Strong emphasis on hands-on clinical and surgical training, including theatre exposure, laparoscopic simulation, hysteroscopy training and practical skill development.

Rota and Organisational Support

- Establish a rota team, including administrative staff and a consultant, that listens to trainee concerns and proactively adjusts schedules. This team ensures training opportunities are protected and gaps are filled, reinforcing a trainee-centred culture.

Top tips for success

Listening and Responding to Trainees

- Listen to trainees, actively seek feedback and demonstrate visible actions in response.
- Create regular trainee forums and effective communication channels.
- Regularly review TEF, GMC and local feedback, create action plans and monitor progress through governance structures.



Education, Training and Learning Opportunities

- Protect teaching time and ensure educational opportunities are built into work schedules and rotas.
- Promote hands-on practical training and maximise access to clinics, theatres and procedures.
- Develop more autonomous outpatient, antenatal and specialist clinic opportunities for senior trainees.

Culture and Wellbeing

- Foster a psychologically safe culture where trainees can seek support without fear of criticism.
- Recognise and value trainees' contributions, wellbeing and pastoral needs.
- Make education everyone's responsibility across consultants, trainees, managers, midwives and the wider MDT.

Rota Design and Service Support

- Maintain strong collaboration with managers and rota teams to balance service delivery and training needs.
- Develop trainee-centred rotas that support individual learning objectives and career aspirations (i.e. establishing a dedicated rota team).

Opportunities for further enhancement

- Expand simulation-based education, including laparoscopic, robotic, obstetric emergency and ultrasound training.
- Develop educational timetables that ensure fully protected teaching and study time.
- Formally recognise trainees' contributions and provide positive feedback to trainees.
- Enhance support for neurodiverse trainees and develop individualised learning plans.
- Strengthen collaboration with neighbouring units and regional training networks.
- Develop journal clubs and leadership opportunities and engage trainees in quality improvement initiatives.
- Improve clinical handover processes.
- Better involve trainees in rota planning.



- Promote team-building activities and staff wellbeing initiatives to strengthen morale and engagement.
- Continue adapting educational programmes in response to trainee feedback and evolving curriculum requirements.

Find out more at
rcog.org.uk



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