# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# General Surgery ST1

# Digital NIHR Research Theme

The University of Leeds, in partnership with NHS England North East and Yorkshire and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an **Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Surgery at ST1 level** in the **Digital NIHR Theme.** *This is a multi-specialty vacancy, an appointment may not be made in this specialty. There will be 1 ACF post in either Histopathology, General Surgery or Neurosurgery.* This new post has been created as part of the NHS England (NHSE) and National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians, researchers and undergraduate medical educators.

We are seeking highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals with the potential to excel in both their clinical and academic training and who have the ambition to be the next generation of academic clinicians.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in General Surgerywill be run by the University of Leeds, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and NHS England North East and Yorkshire. Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) are 3 year fixed-term national training posts. They attract an NTN(A) and trainees undertake 75% clinical and 25% academic training over the term of the post. They are employed by the NHS Trust and have an honorary contract with the University at whose Medical School their academic research is supported.

ACF trainees will join the vibrant Leeds Clinical Academic Training scheme and undertake the Research Training Programme provided by the University for which funding is provided by NIHR. They also are eligible for a £1,000 bursary per year to support research training activity (e.g to attend academic conferences).

ACF trainees would also normally complete and submit an external funding application for a research fellowship to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD or research MD) following the completion of their ACF fixed-term post, which would be completed as Out-of-Programme-Research (OOPR).

All Academic Clinical Fellowships are run-through posts, regardless of specialty, with the exception of ‘Medical Education’ ACFs. A trainee entering ACF at ST1 in a specialty with a Core Training period would therefore be guaranteed continued training to CCT in the eventual specialty, as long as they progress satisfactorily through both their academic and clinical training. Run-through status is withdrawn if ACFs do not complete the academic component.

# POST DETAILS

## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – General Surgery – NIHR Digital Theme

## Duration of the Post

Up to 3 years (25% academic, 75% clinical).

## Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust with regional clinical rotations

## Research institution in which training will take place

**Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James’s (LIMR)**, School of Medicine, University of Leeds and other allied Institutes within the University of Leeds dependent on the specifics on the research project e.g. Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research.

## Research Protected Time:

ACFs would have day release training to attend and complete an accredited postgraduate programme in health research methodology at the University of Leeds (24 contact days plus additional private study usually completed in one year). Arrangements for research blocks or weekly research days, constituting 25% FTE academic time (and comprising a total of 9 months over the 3 year ACF post), are managed by local agreement with the academic supervisors within the Leeds Institute of Medical Research and clinical training programme director. This period of research will be used to obtain specific experience and knowledge in the research area of interest, obtain pilot data and apply for an external doctoral research fellowship.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

Extended reality technologies have the potential to improve many aspects of surgical care including preoperative counselling, surgical planning, intraoperative navigation, and postoperative recovery and rehabilitation. The ACF will evaluate the use of extended reality technologies to improve surgical care in general surgery and neurosurgery. They will gain skills in computer science/vision, early-phase clinical evaluations, qualitative research, and implementation science through integration into the £20M Leeds BRC Surgical Technologies theme, the [Leeds NIHR HealthTech Research Centre for Accelerated Surgical Care](https://hrc-surgical.nihr.ac.uk/) and the [Leeds-Centre-for-Immersive-Technologies](https://www.leeds.ac.uk/centre-immersive-technologies) providing bespoke training and access to national networks of scientists and patients. They will spend dedicated time in the Leeds RCS England Surgical Trials Centre with support from methodologists, applied health scientists, and health economists and have access to experts in computer science through industry partnerships and the [School of Computer Science](https://eps.leeds.ac.uk/computing) at Leeds.

ACF will be embedded within a dynamic academic surgical community, supported by a Professor of Surgery ([Jayne](https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/staff/475/professor-david-jayne)), 4 Associate Professors (1 NIHR Advanced Fellow), 4 CLs, 6 ACFs, and 14 MD/PhDs, and will be in a cohort of early career researchers who have successfully transitioned to NIHR, MRC, CRUK, and RCS England PhD awards.

The research builds on a good track record of research funding (£6.8M [Horizon-EU-HoloSurge](https://www.holosurge.eu/); £120k NHS England, £200k HEIF) and a strong publication record in the field [RECOVR-reality-J-NeuroEngineering-2025](https://jneuroengrehab.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12984-024-01499-3), [Extended-Reality-Enhanced-Mental-Health-Consultation-Training](https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2024.04.24.24305923v1) (accepted, awaiting PubMedID), [Principles-for-Immersive-Technologies-2021](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35515725/)), industry engagement ([Holocare](https://www.holocare.com/); [Apoqlar Medical](https://apoqlar.com/); Brainlab, SyncVR).

It is anticipated the during the ACF the postholder will work with supervisors to develop an application for an externally-funded PhD fellowship.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

Leeds has a long tradition of surgical training and was one of the first to establish a School of Surgery. Twice weekly MRCS teaching session are provided at Leeds General Infirmary. The Yorkshire School of Surgery organises monthly regional teaching days covering the whole of the Core Surgical Curriculum (mapped to the ISCP) and involving simulation for technical and non-technical skills as well as a lecture programme on clinical and non-clinical topics. There is local access to (i) Basic surgical skills course, (ii) Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient and (iii) ATLS. The clinical training will be based in Leeds and will rotate between surgical specialities based at St. James’s University Hospital and Leeds General Infirmary. It is likely that one of the clinical rotations will be outside Leeds (but within easy travelling time) to increase clinical experience. Each post will be of 6 months duration and all posts have the flexibility to allow the ACF to attend the academic component. The surgical specialities include:

* Colorectal Surgery
* Upper GI Surgery
* Hepatobiliary & Pancreatic Surgery
* Breast & Endocrine Surgery
* Urology
* Orthopaedics and Trauma
* Paediatric Surgery

Over the three year training programme the postholder will gain exposure to several general surgical sub-specialties. He/she will be expected to acquire appropriate surgical skills in both the elective and emergency settings and in line with their non-academic contemporaries. Career progression will be assessed through the annual ARCP process. The postholder should have completed the MRCS examination by the end of the training programme.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Supervisors:

**Professor David Jayne**

Leeds Institute of Medical Research

Level 7 Clinical Sciences Building

St James’s University Hospital

LS9 7TF Phone: 0113 206 5281

Email: D.G.Jayne@leeds.ac.uk

**Educational and Clinical supervisors** will be assigned following appointment to align with the individual’s needs

## Training Programme Director (clinical):

**Ms Emma Collins**

**Core Surgery TPD**

Consultant Maxillofacial Oncology

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Email: e.collins123@nhs.net

**Miss Antonio Durham-Hall**

General Surgery TPD

Consultant Surgeon

Email: antonia.durham-hall@nhs.net

## Academic Training Programme Director

Professor Phil Quirke p.quirke@leeds.ac.uk

# Further Information

Because of the nature of the work for which you are applying, this post is exempted from the provisions of Section 4 (2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.

Applicants are therefore, not entitled to withhold information about convictions, which for other purposes are “spent” under the provisions of the Act, and in the event of employment any failure to disclose such convictions could result in dismissal or disciplinary action by the University. Any information given will be strictly confidential and will be considered only in relation to an application for positions to which the Order applies.

For further information about the Academic Clinical Fellowship programme, please refer to the NIHR Integrated Academic Training webpage

[https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm#one](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nihr.ac.uk%2Fexplore-nihr%2Facademy-programmes%2Fintegrated-academic-training.htm&data=05%7C02%7CL.C.Wallace%40leeds.ac.uk%7C8c663698c201424df43f08dc9f4e27aa%7Cbdeaeda8c81d45ce863e5232a535b7cb%7C0%7C0%7C638560406464737503%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Vh0hHjCu%2BIO1z4MV5dplncAHQHfHKZIZ3TvMXhU4gf0%3D&reserved=0)