# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Neurosurgery 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 Neurosurgery 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 Neurosurgerywill 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 will be provided. 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 or ST2 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

Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Neurosurgery (NIHR Research Theme – Digital)

## 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.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 and Clinical Sciences 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 (see below).

## 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 , 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), [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. Regular MRCS teaching session is provided at Leeds General Infirmary. The Yorkshire & Humber Deanery organises monthly regional teaching days across the North-West covering the whole of the Core Neurosurgical Curriculum (mapped to the ISCP) and 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 cranial, spinal and paediatric subspecialties at the Department of Neurosurgery in the Leeds General Infirmary. Each post will be of 6 months duration and all posts have the flexibility to allow the ACF to attend the academic component.

Over the three year training programme the ACF will gain exposure to the full breadth of Neurosurgical practice. They will be expected to acquire appropriate surgical skills in both the elective and emergency settings and in line with their non-academic contemporaries. The ACF should have completed the MRCS examination by the time of entry into ST3.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Supervisor:

**Mr Ryan Mathew**

Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon

Room 7.6, Clinical Sciences Building, St James University Hospital, Leeds

Email: r.k.mathew@leeds.ac.uk

## Training Programme Director (clinical):

**Mr Nick Phillips**

Neurosurgery TPD

Department of Neurosurgery, G Floor, Jubilee Wing, Leeds General Infirmary, Leeds

Email: nickphillips@nhs.net

## Academic Training Programme Director

Professor Phil Quirke [p.quirke@leeds.ac.uk](mailto: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 (National Institute for Health and Care Research) Integrated Academic Training (IAT) page on [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)