

## Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

## Cardio-thoracic ST1

### (Multi-speciality post)

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Hull York Medical School, in partnership with NHS England North East and Yorkshire and Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has developed an exciting opportunity for clinical academic training in Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Applications are now invited for an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in **Cardiothoracic Surgery** at **ST1 (Cardio-thoracic)** level. This post is in the part of the NIHR 'Response' theme, is funded and approved by the National Institute for Health Research, and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

We are seeking a highly motivated, enthusiastic individual with the potential to excel in both their clinical and academic training and who has the ambition to be among the next generation of academic clinicians. This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) in Cardiothoracic Surgery is run by Hull York Medical School (HYMS) in conjunction with NHS England North East and Yorkshire and the Humber.

Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) are 3 year fixed-term national training posts. 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 also undertake a research training programme provided by the University. They are eligible for a training bursary of up to £1,000 per year to support research training activity (e.g. to attend academic conferences and other training).

ACF trainees would be expected to complete and submit an external funding application for a research fellowship to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD or research MD) during/following the completion of their ACF fixed-term post, which higher degree would then 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 Run-through status is withdrawn if ACFs do not complete the academic component.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

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## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Cardiothoracic Surgery.

## Duration of the Post

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

A mutually agreeable timetable will be drawn up by the candidate and the academic/clinical supervisors, designed to meet overall training goals. This will include protected research time. The exact division of time will be guided by the proposed research project and whether blocks of time or weekly research time are more appropriate. The appointee will have on-call commitments which will vary depending upon the varying shift systems and training/service requirements.

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

Cardiothoracic Surgery services for Hull, East Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire are provided by Hull University Teaching Hospital in Castle Hill Hospital, Cottingham, Hull.

## Research institution in which training will take place

The successful candidate will be based at the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department at Castle Hill Hospital and the Biomedical Institute for Multimorbidity, Centre for Biomedicine, Hull York Medical School at the University of Hull. Full details of the Biomedical Institute for Multimorbidity are available at - <https://www.hyms.ac.uk/research/research-centres-and-groups/biomedical-institute-for-multimorbidity>

## Research Protected Time:

ACFs are expected to complete either an MSc by research or relevant modules to extend their training (if they already have an MSc), at Hull York Medical School. The protected research period (25% time) is used to obtain specific experience and knowledge in the research area of interest, obtain pilot data, and apply for an external research fellowship.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

This proposed Cardiothoracic Surgery ACF will undertake novel research at the Biomedical Institute for Multimorbidity (BIM) at the University of Hull in collaboration with the Cardiothoracic Surgery Department at Castle Hill Hospital.

The clinical research component of this post will be based at the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Castle Hill Hospital. The department comprises a team of clinical and academic researchers with expertise in cardiovascular disease including coronary artery disease, valve heart disease and aortic disease. BIM has a strong record of successful student training and has an active research environment with weekly joint lab meetings, journal clubs and active mentorship by post-doctoral scientists. Furthermore, an established monthly external speaker seminar series allows the students to interact with established high calibre researchers.

This project is a collaboration between Professor Tim Palmer (<https://www.hyms.ac.uk/about/people/tim-palmer>) and Professor Mahmoud Loubani (<https://www.hyms.ac.uk/about/people/mahmoud-loubani>) to investigate novel molecular mechanisms linking poorly controlled diabetes with vein graft failure. Prof. Palmer is a

principal investigator at Hull York Medical School and has a long-standing track record of successfully training early career researchers and generating high impact publications investigating vascular biology and function. Prof. Loubani is a consultant cardiothoracic surgeon at Castle Hill Hospital and is the lead for research within the Department. He has extensive clinical research and collaborations with local, regional, national and international researchers and has supervised 8 MD students and 2 PhD students. His main lab research areas focus on vascular pathophysiology and myocardial protection and is supported by a one Clinical Research Fellow, one Academic Foundation Trainees and one ex NIHR Clinical Lecturers and a Clinical Perfusion Scientist. The department encourages research and has close links with HYMS and the University which trainees are encouraged to exploit.

Excellent research facilities available to the trainee include a dedicated myography suite for assessing vascular function and access to a large pool of patients. As a HYMS student, the trainee will also have access to cutting-edge biomedical equipment to complete the studies at the University of Hull and the York Technology Facility at the University of York.

Full training in research methods and good clinical practice will be provided. If the ACF also registers for a MSc by research, they will also have a Thesis Advisory Panel (TAP), which usually comprises the academic supervisor and two other members of academic staff, one of whom acts as the Chair and is independent from the supervisor. The TAP provides academic support and external review of progress for the student. On appointment, in conjunction with their supervisor, the ACF will complete a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and be able to access modules from the HYMS Postgraduate Research Development Scheme list both to help with their research project and their professional development as a researcher.

We anticipate the successful exit point for ACF trainees will be the award of an externally funded clinical research training fellowship to pursue a PhD or MD prior to re-joining the academic career path as a Clinical Lecturer.

### **Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component**

The Clinical Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Castle Hill Hospital is a large, busy, and expanding unit with a direct catchment population of 1.2 million people in Lincolnshire, Hull, East Yorkshire and North Yorkshire. Consequently, there is broad exposure to all areas of elective, urgent and emergency cardiac and thoracic surgery with extensive opportunities for learning. The department is staffed by 6 Cardiac Surgery Consultants and 4 Thoracic Surgery Consultants with Prof. Loubani as the academic lead. There are nine Cardiothoracic middle grades with additional Clinical Research Fellow and Academic Foundation Trainee. There are ongoing local and regional educational opportunities, and the post-holder will be encouraged to fully integrate into the activities of the department.

The department has an extensive portfolio of commercial and investigator led clinical trials including some locally initiated national trials, to which the department recruits strongly. There is clinical support from 3 Research Nurses.

ACF postholders at ST1 or ST3 level will be bases at Castle Hill Hospital and gain their clinical competencies in the department.

# CONTACTS

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## Academic Lead and Supervisor:

Prof. Mahmoud Loubani, Honorary Professor in Cardiothoracic Surgery, NHS Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon

[Mahmoud.loubani@nhs.net](mailto:Mahmoud.loubani@nhs.net)

## Clinical Training Programme Directors

Prof. Mahmoud Loubani, Honorary Professor in Cardiothoracic Surgery, NHS Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon

[Mahmoud.loubani@nhs.net](mailto:Mahmoud.loubani@nhs.net)

## Academic Training Programme Director

Professor Bob Phillips  
Academic Training Programme Director

[bob.phillips@hull.ac.uk](mailto:bob.phillips@hull.ac.uk)

# Further Information

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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 Research) Trainee Coordinating Centre (NIHRTCC) page on [NIHR Integrated Academic Training For Doctors and Dentists - Academic Clinical Fellowships](#)

# Person Specifications

*Please note - (applicants applying for Surgical, Medical or Psychiatry specialties at ST3 or above may be required to consult the relevant Core Training person specification).*

See [Person Specifications 2025 | Medical Hub \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#)

AND the Academic eligibility criteria listed at:

[National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\) Academic Clinical Fellowship \(ACF\) 2025 | Medical Hub \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#)

# How to Apply

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For more information about applying to ACF vacancies in NHS England North East and Yorkshire and the Humber please visit:-

[http://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/recruitment/our\\_vacancies/academic\\_recruitment/](http://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/recruitment/our_vacancies/academic_recruitment/)

Applications will only be accepted through the Oriel online application system:

<https://www.oriel.nhs.uk>

Applications open: Thursday 3rd October at 10am

Applications close: Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October at 4pm

After the application deadline no applications will be accepted. **There will be no exceptions to this deadline.** You are advised to complete and submit your application ahead of the deadline to allow for any unforeseen problems.

Interviews will be held via MS Teams on a date to be confirmed between 9<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

## **Appendix 1: Further particulars – Hull York Medical School**

Hull York Medical School is committed to transforming the health of people within the region and beyond – through its students, staff and the impact of its teaching and research.

The joint medical school of the Universities of Hull and York, Hull York Medical School has a reputation as one of the UKs most exciting, contemporary schools. The School was established in 2003 – combining York’s strength in biological sciences and health sciences and Hull’s expertise in clinically applied health research and large clinical base. Since then, has been inspiring doctors and academic leaders of the future with the research, skills and knowledge they need to look at things differently and advance improvements in healthcare around the world.

Equality, diversity and inclusion are extremely important to the School, and in line with its values of everyone counts, pursuing excellence, socially responsible and collaborative, it is committed to providing an inclusive and supportive environment for staff and students. The School was awarded the Athena Swann Silver Award in 2019, has signed up to the UK Medical School’s Charter on So-Called ‘Conversion Therapy’ and the British Medical Association (BMA) racial harassment charter.

### **Inspiring doctors and academic leaders of the future**

Hull York Medical School offers exceptional medical education delivered by senior academics and clinicians in a stimulating and supportive environment with world-class facilities.

Postgraduate research students benefit from a thriving research community and the opportunity to learn from world leading experts who are internationally recognised for their work.

Hull York Medical School facilities at Hull and York offer a stimulating environment in which to learn. The Allam Medical Building at the heart of the University of Hull’s £28million Health Campus is home to Hull York Medical School in Hull. Opened in 2017 by Her Majesty the Queen, the Allam Medical Building provides specialised teaching facilities including a simulated ward, operating theatre and intensive care nursing facilities, and provides opportunities for medical students to work alongside, nursing, midwifery and allied health

undergraduates, as well as PhD students, advanced nurse practitioners and physician's associates.

### **A partnership for people who want to make a difference**

Academic and clinical researchers at Hull York Medical School have a strong reputation for their work. Their research is advancing improvements in healthcare – treatment, diagnosis and care – for some of the major global health challenges of today. At Hull, the School's researchers are at the forefront of health research, from the early diagnosis of cancer, to reducing inequalities in access to treatment and improving the lives of those with life-limiting illnesses. This work is improving the health of people locally and impacting national and international health agendas. At York, the School's researchers have a global reputation for their work. From scientific discoveries that underpin the development, diagnosis and treatment of the world's most aggressive diseases, to mental health research which addresses the needs of a wider variety of patients and helps to identify, treat and support them, this work is casting new light and impacting public health globally.