

Job Description

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

One post is available for a candidate wishing to apply for an Academic Clinical Fellowship at ST3 level within Clinical Genetics ST3

ST3 (1 post) –NIHR Response Mode – Clinical Genetics and Genomic Medicine

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

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in Clinical Genetics at ST3 level. This new post has been created as part of the NHS England (NHSE)/National Institution for Health Research Trainee programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

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 part of the next generation of academic clinicians in genomic medicine.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in Clinical Genetics will be run by the University of Sheffield, the Sheffield 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% research 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.

The trainees undertake a 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).

The Clinical Academic Programme at Sheffield has a competitive ACF pump-priming award. Trainees can apply for up to £2000 for initial costs for work aimed at achieving a research fellowship.

ACF trainees would be supported to develop 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).

As all Academic Clinical Fellowships are run-through posts, the current ST3 post would be guaranteed continued training to CCT, as long as they progress satisfactorily through their

academic and clinical training. Run-through status is withdrawn if ACFs do not complete the initial 9-month academic component.

POST DETAILS

Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Clinical Genetics

Duration of the Post

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

Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

Sheffield Children's Hospital Foundation Trust.

Research institution in which training will take place

The School of Medicine and Population Health

One of the three Schools in the Faculty of Health at The University of Sheffield, The School of Medicine and Population Health has hosted Academic Clinical Fellowships in over 35 specialties. In previous years all those appointed as Academic Clinical Fellows have gone on to undertake doctoral training to successful completion.

The school has a track record of NIHR support for ACFs and ACLs with good career progression in interdisciplinary health service research teams. Furthermore, there is rich experience of innovative interdisciplinary training in NIHR priority themes such as in Older Adults with Complex Care and Dementia for ACFs; and ACLs in Oncology, GP and Surgery. The faculty boasts several flagship institutes such as Neuroscience and Healthy Lifespan and you will benefit from the multidisciplinary research teams who are working on projects of international importance such as improving understanding of developmental neurological disorders, the global epidemic of multi-morbidity and frailty with a mission to prevent or delay multi-morbidity.

Clinical Education Research

Clinical academic training is provided at all levels of medical career progression at Sheffield:

- Medical student SSC modules alongside established projects
- One-year intercalated BMedSci degrees
- 4-month foundation year 2 attachments
- Three-year academic clinical fellow posts
- Full-time MD/PhD research fellowships
- Four-year clinical lecturer posts

Research Protected Time:

The post will be split so that 9 months (25%) are spent undertaking research-related activities and 27 months (75%) in clinical activities.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

The research component will be based in the Division of Clinical Medicine, where the fellow will be supervised by one of the Professors/ clinical academics in genomic medicine/ Clinical Genetics with support from a team of experienced medical educationalists. The trainee will have access to methodological expertise in all aspects of academic programme development, assessment and educational research skills. Researchers at the Division of Clinical Medicine are involved in a range of national and international collaborations to innovate education and programme delivery. There is expertise in diagnostic genomic testing and gene therapy trials. The fellow will have the opportunity to work within an existing genomic medicine research project or develop their own area of research interest. Example research opportunities include projects in developing gene therapy for neurodevelopmental disorders, natural history studies in rare genetic disorders, getting 'trial-ready' cohort of patients for advanced gene-therapy trials.

The research element can be completed flexibly and agreed upon with your speciality lead. A number of options are possible such as a concentrated block of 9 months full time in the second year, or dividing this over three years, or a day release per week. You will have the opportunity to undertake the PGCert in Clinical Research or selected modules from it as it fits in with your aspirations. This will provide grounding in programme development, assessment design and educational principles.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

Trainees will work in Sheffield but with clinics undertaken at surrounding district general hospitals and teaching hospital environments.

This is a 3-year program commencing at ST3 (25% academic time and 75% clinical) based in Sheffield Children's Hospital in South Yorkshire. Although based at the Sheffield Children's Hospital, there will also be peripheral clinics in the District General Hospitals in South Yorkshire, covering a population of approximately 2 million. Patients will comprise adults and children with a variety of genetic conditions including: adult-onset genetic conditions, cancer genetics, paediatric genetics, and prenatal genetics. Two of our services, Ehlers-Danlos syndrome and Osteogenesis Imperfecta research, are provided for UK-wide and international patients, and we are leaders in these fields. The successful candidate will be involved in MDT meetings with other specialties. The ACF will take part in the normal postgraduate education, audit and teaching. There will be no out-of-hours work as part of this post.

Sheffield Clinical Genomics Service is one of three centres involved in the North East and Yorkshire Genomic Medicine Service with close links with Leeds and Newcastle Genomic Medicine Services and Genomics Laboratory Hub based at Leeds.

JOB TITLE: NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Clinical Genetics

BRIEF OUTLINE:

The clinical programme is designed to provide training starting at ST3 level for Clinical Genetics for a period of 4 years. Further details of the Specialist Registrar rotation for South Yorkshire are provided in the attached document.

Objectives of the Training Programme:

1. To undertake Clinical Genetics training commencing at ST3
2. To undertake a research project to collate preliminary data towards developing competitive applications.
3. To identify an area of academic and clinical interest upon which to base an application for an externally-funded PhD programme.

Successful candidates:

The exit from this post will typically be to an externally-funded research fellowship, leading to the award of a PhD and subsequently application either for a Clinical Lecturer post or a Clinician Scientist Fellowship.

Unsuccessful candidates:

If the post-holder does not achieve the expected clinical competencies, this will be handled in the same way as for all other trainees in speciality medicine.

If the post-holder fails to achieve academic competencies or is unsuccessful in obtaining research funding, they would be anticipated to return to a clinical training post. This will be discussed in good time with the Training Programme Director (TPD) through the system for appraisal and mentoring of academic trainees. Whilst no guarantee of an appropriate post is possible, every effort will be made to accommodate such individuals within the local training schemes.

CONTACTS

Academic Leads and Supervisors:

Dr Meena Balasubramanian, Senior Clinical Lecturer, Division of Clinical Medicine, University of Sheffield and Honorary Consultant Clinical Geneticist and Clinical Director of Research, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust m.balasubramanian@sheffield.ac.uk

Dr Michael Parker, Clinical Lead, Sheffield Clinical Genomics Service, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust michaelparker@nhs.net

Training Programme Director (clinical):

Dr Emma Hobson, Training Programme Directory for Clinical Genetics in Yorkshire and Humber deanery. Emma.hobson@nhs.net

Academic Training Programme Director

Professor Janet Brown, ATPD University of Sheffield j.e.brown@sheffield.ac.uk

Further Information

[Academic Recruitment | NHS England\(NHSE\) \(yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk\)](https://yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk)

National recruitment link to Clinical Genetics that details the entry criteria including prior training route and exam requirements at ST3 entry.

<https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications/person-specifications-2024/clinical-genetics-st3-2024>

<https://www.thefederation.uk/training/specialties/clinical-genetics>

For more information on Sheffield see [Clinical Academic Training -University of Sheffield](#)

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) Integrated Academic Training (IAT) page on <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm#one>

Person Specifications

Applicants for this post will be required to meet the relevant Clinical eligibility criteria for the appropriate specialty and level listed at:-

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):-

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications>

AND the Academic eligibility criteria listed at:

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications>