# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Dental Core Training DCT 1, 2 or 3

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

<https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/academic_training>

Applications are now invited for an **Academic Clinical Fellowship in** **Dental Core Training at DCT1, DCT2 or DCT3.** *Please note that**an appointment may not be made in this specialty. There will be 2 ACF posts in either Dental Core Training or Paediatric Dentistry.*

These new posts have been created as part of the NHS England/National Institution for Health Research Trainee Coordinating Centre (NIHRTCC) programme of Integrated Academic Training offering candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical and research training working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers. Further details of the integrated academic training pathways can be found at: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm>

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.

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 Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and have an honorary contract with the University of Leeds.

ACF trainees undergo training in the generic skills required for a clinical academic: scientific methods, statistics, research governance, critical appraisal of research publication, grant writing etc. This training is via a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research provided by the University of Leeds and for which funding is provided by NIHR <https://courses.leeds.ac.uk/8455/health-research-pgcert>. Academic Clinical Fellows will join the well-established Leeds Integrated Clinical Academic Training programme within the Faculty of Medicine and Health

<https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/medicine-clinical-academic-training/doc/training-programme-overview>.

Trainees can use the Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research as a stepping stone to undertake further modules leading to a Postgraduate Diploma or Masters in Health Research. NIHR provide an academic training budget of £4,500 for each trainee, additional costs beyond this funding ceiling would be covered by the trainee. The major part of the academic placement will be the preparation of scientific research proposal for a PhD project, funding for which will be sought from an external body such as the NIHR, MRC or the Wellcome Trust. Generally, the preparation of the proposal is based on preliminary experimental data gathered while on the research placement. Trainees are also eligible for a £1,000 bursary per year to support research training activity (e.g. to attend and present at academic conferences).

ACF trainees would be expected to submit an external funding application for a research fellowship to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD).

# POST DETAILS

## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in Dental Core Training

## Duration of the Post

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

## Full/Part Time

Full Time/ Less than Full Time option available (for a statutory reason)

## Salary

Salary will follow the DCT pay scale and will be based on previous experience and training.

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

These posts are based in the Yorkshire and Humber NHSE area and the associated NHS England Area Teams. The host employer will be Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The clinical training rotation will be based on the successful applicant’s previous experience, clinical and research interests as well as their intended career intentions. Keeping within the focus of DCT being to develop a broadly trained professional in specialty, geography and environment, the ACFs will rotate around different primary and secondary care posts including but not restricted to Leeds Dental Institute, primary dental care practice/s and the community dental service/s within Yorkshire and the Humber. The training rotation will depend on availability of training capacity and whether they are applying at DCT 1, 2, or 3 level, and so subject to change.

## Research institution in which training will take place

**School of Dentistry** (at the University of Leeds)

Research opportunities within the School of Dentistry include lab-based, translation and clinical research. These should be discussed with the senior academic staff in the department and will be explored further at interview.

For research themes please visit

<https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/dentistry-research-innovation>

There are also several short videos highlighting different research projects and research groups. This is not an exhaustive list. <https://spotlight.leeds.ac.uk/dentistry-research-and-innovation/index.html#group-section-Research-case-studies-H9cEFDweoA>

## Research Protected Time:

ACFs will have day release training to attend and complete an accredited postgraduate programme in health research methodology run by the University of Leeds throughout years 1 and 2 (extra 24 contact days plus additional private study to be completed over 2 years). Further academic time is provided over the three-year period to ensure the academic time commitments are met. There may be flexibility within the particular training program to allow substantial periods of research without clinical commitment rather than combining both in the working week. The details of the programme will be tailored as far as possible to the individual needs of the successful applicant, in consultation with their Training Programme Director.

Successful candidates:

The exit from this post will typically be an externally funded research fellowship, leading to award of a PhD and subsequently application either for a Clinical Lecturer post or second ACF in speciality training.

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 dentistry.

If the post holder is unsuccessful in obtaining research funding, their post would finish at the end of the three-year period. This will be discussed in good time with the Programme Directors through the system for appraisal and mentoring of academic trainees.

Background Information on the School of Dentistry, Leeds

The School of Dentistry was convened in August 2013 following a separation of the NHS Trust and University elements of the former Leeds Dental Institute. The School is committed to the highest standards of academic excellence and works closely with partners in the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to deliver high quality patient care and exceptional clinical training and education at all levels from undergraduate teaching through to specialist registration. We aim to underpin high quality clinical research with world class basic and applied science, in order to meet international priority needs for research in dentistry and to deliver excellent research with impact for patient and population benefit.

The School’s vision is “To inspire oral healthcare professionals and scientists to innovate and transform global health and quality of life via world leading clinical, educational and research excellence.” In 2019, Dr. Alan Mighell was appointed as Dean. His plans include an ambitious international clinical research programme, addressing unanswered questions about the links between oral health and general health. The School of Dentistry is situated on the second floor of the Worsley Medical and Dental building, which also accommodates the Dental Hospital, the Medical School and the University of Leeds Health Sciences Library. It is situated on the southern side of the University campus half a mile from the city centre. The School recently expanded its estate and the basic sciences, in the Division of Oral Biology, are situated in the Wellcome Trust Brenner Building on the St James’ campus, providing high quality and purpose-built laboratory provision and access to a wide range of cutting-edge facilities.

### The School is organised into five administrative academic Divisions:

* Division of Applied Health and Clinical Translational Research - Head of Division: Professor Pavitt
* Division of Oral Biology - Head of Division: Professor David Wood
* Division of Oral Surgery, Medicine and Pathology - Head of Division: Dr McKechnie
* Division of Paediatric Dentistry and Orthodontics – Head of Division: Professor Day and Professor Balmer
* Division of Restorative Dentistry – Head of Division: Professor Hodson

### Student Experience and Education Overview

* **Dr Jane Wardman - Director of Student Education**

The School of Dentistry is currently one of the most popular dental schools in the United Kingdom and is the second largest school for undergraduate dental education in the UK.

Student education at the University of Leeds’ School of Dentistry is internationally renowned for being both flagship and innovative, and this is evidenced by the School offering the only undergraduate masters’ programme in dental surgery in the UK. In tandem with our undergraduate masters’ dental surgery programme, we also offer a *BSc (Hons)* *in Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy* and, in partnership with the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, we are also involved in the provision of *Dental Nursing* and *Dental Technology* training. This makes us unique, as we are the only school that trains all members of the dental team. In tandem with our undergraduate programmes, we also offer an expanding portfolio of postgraduate dental programmes.

The quality of teaching on our undergraduate programmes is very high and all staff are committed to continually developing our taught programmes. Recently the General Dental Council inspected all our undergraduate programmes with all programmes being found to be of the highest standard. Our programmes are completely modular and benefit from having Year and Module Leads with Programme Leads managed under the direction of the Director of Student Education. All members of staff within the School participate in both Undergraduate and Postgraduate taught provision and this, we believe, maintains the high quality of our teaching, which is consistently assessed by our students as being very high. We have a student advice team, which supports all students within the school. This along with our personal tutoring system, with which all staff engage, provides the highest levels of pastoral support for our students.

**Research Overview**

* **Director of Research and Innovation – Professor Gail Douglas**

**In Research Excellence Framework 2021, the School of Dentistry (returned in Unit of Assessment 3: Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Nursing & Pharmacy) was rated very highly, with 95% of its research rated as world leading (4\*) or internationally excellent (3\*).**  Dr. Mighell noted “These results reaffirm that our researchers, along with their collaborators, continue to expand the frontiers of knowledge in the Oral and Dental Sciences and are achieving real-world impacts. The School’s success is testament to our dedicated and creative academics working within the highest quality clinical, methodological, translational, and technological facilities. Our collaborative ways of working across the clinical and basic sciences, gives added impact to our excellent interdisciplinary work within and between the Oral Musculoskeletal Sciences and the Applied Health & Clinical Translational groups (<https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/dentistry/news/article/542/sustained-excellence-in-research-from-ref-2021>).

Our vision is to use interdisciplinary expertise to understand the fundamental mechanisms of disease, to identify and treat early, improve outcomes, restore function and address the needs for prevention. We seek to extrapolate the findings and tools developed for dental research across to biomedicine in general and position our research at the forefront of biomedical and health sciences research. We have two Research Groups, each with internationally recognised leadership:

* **Oral and Musculoskeletal Sciences Research Group**
  + Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering Theme led by Professor David Wood
  + Biomineralisation Theme led by Professor Al-Jawad
  + Cell and Microbiology Theme led by Professor Do
* **Applied Health and Clinical Translation Research Group**
  + Clinical Research Theme led by Professor Pavitt
  + Dental Public Health & Health Services Research Theme led by Professor Douglas
  + Dental Education Research Theme led by Dr Jane Wardman

The Groups collaborate extensively with each other and with colleagues within our Faculty (Medicine and Health), as well as in other Faculties (e.g. Biology, Engineering, Mathematics and Physical Sciences).

**International Profile and Initiatives**

In line with the University of Leeds strategy the School of Dentistry is committed to enhancing our international profile through the development of key strategic partnerships. Formal collaborative agreements between Leeds and Dental Schools in the Universities of Michigan, Osaka and Nanjing have been established to promote excellence in international, multi-centre collaborative research, particularly in clinical and translational research and regenerative technologies. Building on shared expertise and knowledge amongst our partners we aim to work together to improve oral health outcomes in our own communities and across the globe.

In addition to formal Memoranda of Understanding with the Universities of Michigan and Osaka we have established a Joint Centre for Oral Health Sciences with the University of Nanjing. We are also founder members of the World Universities Network for Oral Health Sciences, a network of research-intensive universities committed to addressing global challenges in Oral Health. The impact from the development of our Strategic partnerships has included joint research through staff/student exchange, resulting in publications, grant income and enhanced opportunities for dissemination of research advances to a global audience.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

The ACF post is eligible for dentists at DCT 1, 2 or 3 level.

The ACF will be employed by Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. The ACFs will be based at the Leeds Dental Institute and other local hospital trusts for their secondary care attachments and within a training practice and or a community dental service within Yorkshire and the Humber for their primary care attachments where applicable. If working in General Dental Services they will undertake the role of a salaried primary care practitioner.

Dental Core Training is focused towards producing a well-rounded and broadly trained professional in accordance with the Dental Education Reform Programme. Hence, the first 2 years will be rotating through a variety of dental specialties, delivering a training programme to ensure they have the skills, training, and experience to undertake a career in either primary or secondary care. The Dental Core Training curriculum will be used to monitor clinical training. The 3rd and final year, where achievable, will be aligned to the trainees’ career aspirations.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: General information

This year the School of Dentistry, University of Leeds in conjunction with Health Education Yorkshire will offer up to two NIHR funded Academic Clinical Fellowship posts in Dental Core Training (DCT). Our aim is to recruit the most academically able and ambitious clinicians.

Specific focus will be paid to academic achievements, trajectory and fit with the School’s research strategy. As these posts are available for dentists at different stages of their career, candidates academic record will be considered relative to the number of years since qualification.

We welcome further conversations with candidates who would like to discuss project ideas or supervisors.

The School has built a strong record of success in supporting ACFs and CLs under the careful and supportive guidance of Professors Pavitt and Day. All dental ACFs are fully integrated into the generic research support programme led by the School of Medicine

<https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/medicine-clinical-academic-training/doc/training-programme-overview>. Professor Peter Day is the school lead for clinical academics and provides academic oversight for these posts.

The School currently employs five NIHR ACFs and two NIHR Clinical Lecturer. Over the last five years in Leeds, six dentists have successfully obtained NIHR doctoral research fellowships (allowing the dentist to undertake a fully funded PhD) and three dental therapists have obtained NIHR predoctoral clinical academic fellowships. Two further ACFs have secured funding from charitable foundations to undertake their PhDs.

The clinical rotations are flexible and will align with the successful candidates training needs, aspirations as well as availability of different training opportunities.

For research themes please visit

<https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/dentistry-research-innovation>

There are also several short videos highlighting different research projects and research groups. This is not an exhaustive list.

<https://www.youtube.com/@LeedsSchoolofDentistry/videos>

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

The Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has approximately 15,000 staff employed over eight sites:

1. Chapel Allerton Hospital

2. Cookridge Hospital

4. Leeds Dental Institute

5. Wharfedale General Hospital

6. Leeds General Infirmary

7. St James’s University Hospital

These sites house ~3200 beds and provide a range of general, acute, and elective services, together with a significant number of regional and supra-regional specialties. The creation of a single Trust for Leeds and the reconfiguration of acute hospital services was a unique opportunity for the city to become home to one of the leading health care institutions in the world, excelling in health service delivery, teaching, and research.

The Trust has a number of nationally and internationally recognised centres, and continues to provide improved access and healthcare delivery. The new Yorkshire Cancer Centre (Bexley Wing) opened on the St James University Hospital site in late 2007 and the reconfigured Children Hospital 2012.

Further information about the Trust and its services is available via <http://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/>

# CONTACTS

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

**Clinical oversight:**

Dr Zaid Ali, Training Programme Director for DCT training within School of Dentistry ([zaid.ali3@nhs.net](mailto:zaid.ali3@nhs.net))

**Academic oversight:**

Professor Peter Day, Training Programme Director for Clinical Academics

([p.f.day@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:p.f.day@leeds.ac.uk))

Professor Gail Douglas; Director of Research, School of Dentistry

([g.v.a.douglas@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:g.v.a.douglas@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 Research) Trainee Coordinating Centre (NIHRTCC) page on [NIHR Integrated Academic Training For Doctors and Dentists - Academic Clinical Fellowships](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/academic-clinical-fellowships.htm)

# Person Specifications

ACF candidates must demonstrate appointability under both the clinical DCT and the National Institute of Health Research Academic Clinical Fellowship Person Specification.

Candidates who do not hold an NTN/DRN in Dental Core Training must be able to evidence that they achieved benchmarking at the relevant level in DCT National Recruitment in 2026.

<https://dental.hee.nhs.uk/dental-trainee-recruitment/dental-core-training-dct>

As one or more rotations may include primary dental care, applicants must have full GDC registration and be on the NHS dental performers list. Alternatively, you must be able to demonstrate Foundation Dentistry equivalence at the time of application. If applying for DCT2 or DCT3, you must have completed DCT1/2 or have DCT equivalence at the time of application.

Please note: **Leeds Teaching Hospitals terms and conditions of employment will apply**