Job Description

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

General Practice ST1 (1 post) Theme

Mental Health

The University of Sheffield, in partnership with the NIHR, Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber and the Sheffield GP Specialty Training Programme (GPSTP), has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice with an integrated clinical and academic training scheme through to ST4. This post is being offered under the NIHR theme of mental health. 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 Practice will be run by the University of Sheffield, the Sheffield GP Training Scheme and NHS England Yorkshire and North East.

Please Note
General Practice Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) at ST1 entry are fixed-term national training posts. They attract an NTN(A). ST1 applicants who do not already hold a National Training Number (NTN) or Deanery Reference Number (DRN) in the GMC specialty to which they are applying will be required to undertake the national clinical recruitment process and attend an assessment/interview for that GMC specialty as appropriate.

Applicants wanting to commence the General Practice ACF post at ST2 are encouraged to apply to this vacancy; however, they must currently hold an NTN in General Practice. If successful, your experience can be assessed upon commencing in post, enabling you to work at the appropriate level.

Trainees undertake the usual 100% clinical rotations through General Practice and hospital specialities in ST1 and ST2 years. Then trainees undertake 50% clinical and 50% academic training in ST3 and ST4. Trainees 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 (RTP) which includes a choice of appropriate research modules depending on prior research training. In addition, the trainee will receive bespoke research training and mentorship within the Primary Care Research Group according to their interests and experience.

There is access to additional research training opportunities within the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health. ACF trainees also undertake a Research Training Programme provided

by the University for which funding is provided by NIHR. They are also eligible for a £1,000 bursary per year to support research activity (e.g to attend academic conferences).

The first two years of the training programme involve standard full-time clinical training, although we encourage the fellows to attend the local and national NIHR trainee conferences if possible and to plan their academic training programme early in the post with their academic supervisor. The Academic Clinical Fellow will have a senior Academic Supervisor allocated for the entire training post in addition to their Educational and Clinical Supervisors.

In years 3 and 4, trainees are attached to a GP training practice with 50% of their time devoted to clinical training and 50% to research training, and they will carry out a supervised project. The academic supervisor will be a senior clinical academic(s). As the ACF will be undertaking research within the theme of mental health, we offer co-supervision and projects within our established cross-speciality collaborations with the School of Health & Related Research (SCHARR), the Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and Sheffield Institute of Translational Neuroscience (SITRAN). The Primary Care Research Group has a vibrant weekly seminar programme.

The Academic Clinical Fellow will be supported and trained to develop a distinctive research project, aiming at publication and conference outputs and the development of grant applications to build on their work post-ACF. ACFs often complete and submit an external funding application for an NIHR In-Practice training fellowship or clinical research fellowship to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD or MD) following the completion of their ACF fixed-term post.

All General Practice Academic Clinical Fellowships are run-through posts and would therefore be guaranteed continued training to CCT 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.

The Primary Care Research Group has an excellent record of attracting high-quality academic trainees and enabling them to progress to Doctoral Awards, Clinical Lectureships and senior posts.

We welcome informal enquiries about the post:

Dr Jon Dickson, j.m.dickson@sheffield.ac.uk, Senior Clinical Lecturer.

POST DETAILS

Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – General Practice

Duration of the Post

ST1 and ST2 100% Clinical; ST3 and ST4 50% Clinical/ 50% Academic.
ST1 entry to the ACF post is 4 years' duration.
ST2 entry to the post is 3 years' duration.

Lead GP Scheme in which training will take place

The post will be based in the Sheffield GP scheme.

Research institution in which training will take place

The Sheffield Centre for Health and Related Research (SCHARR)
Based in the School of Medicine and Population Health at the University of Sheffield, SCHARR brings together a wide range of health-related skills, including health economics, operational research, management sciences, epidemiology and public health, medical statistics, and information science. SCHARR comprises the sections of Health Economics and Decision Science, Health Services Research, Design Trials and Statistics, and Public Health.

In the 2022 Research Excellence Framework (REF), 91% of SCHARR research was rated as world-leading or internationally excellent, and the SCHARR impact submission was rated 6th nationally. SCHARR employs about 200 multidisciplinary staff and attracts around £10 million per year in external research support. SCHARR is ideally placed to conduct applied and methodological health services research and teaching programmes, having a great diversity of skills and experience and close contacts with the Department of Health and NHS organisations.

Section of Health Services Research
The post holder will be attached to the section of Health Services Research within SCHARR. Health Services Research is an applied science, which can have a major national and international impact.

The Primary Care Research Group
The Primary Care Research Group is part of Health Services Research, and is led by Professor Burton, two Senior Clinical Lecturers (Dickson, Bradley). Our research seeks to understand and improve the way the primary care health service works for patients across a wide range of conditions and contexts. These include the intersection of mental and physical health, neurology, lung health and cancer diagnosis. Much of our research focuses on making research equitable and appropriate for underserved populations. In recent years we have hosted ACFs and In Practice Fellows themed around mental health (3), dementia (2), multimorbidity (1) and medical education (2).

We provide an excellent environment for integrated clinical academic training. The Primary Care Research Group meets regularly on a Tuesday. Our meetings include seminars with internal and external speakers, team research meetings and more specific project and theme-related meetings. We actively support clinical academic trainees to meet and build collaborations with researchers from other academic and clinical disciplines. This environment fosters interdisciplinary high-quality research drawing on a wide range of expertise within the School.

Research Protected Time:

In ST3 and ST4, the ACF will have 50% Academic time and 50% Clinical General Practice training.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

The post-holder(s) will be supported to identify and conduct research both within existing studies and studies of their own design. The work will be aligned with mental health research at the University. We can support a wide range of research methods and encourage early career fellows to experience different skills and approaches at this stage, so that they develop a broad theoretical base. We support fellows to undertake a personal programme of training including appropriate MClinRes modules. We aim to match their clinical interests to existing programmes so that they work within an expert team. Our aim is that by the end of the fellowship, fellows can make informed choices about their preferred methodologies and topic and are well placed to take this forward into a doctoral fellowship. In recent years, ACFs working on dementia have studied perceptions of dementia and memory services in minority ethnic groups and challenges in clinical decision-making for acute illness in people with dementia. We are also involved in research into new diagnostic technologies and their impact on primary care.

Sheffield is an excellent centre to conduct primary care clinical research: in addition to the academic setting of the University, there are strong relationships with practices and research networks, Primary Care Sheffield and local NHS trusts. We host the Deep End Research Alliance (DERA), which is nationally recognised for its excellence in carrying out research in, for, and with under-served populations.

We encourage fellows to benefit from regional and national conferences, including those organised by the Society for Academic Primary Care and by NIHR for ACFs in general practice.

More details about Academic Clinical Fellowships in General Practice can be found at: https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/faculty/medicine-dentistry-health/graduateschool/clinical-academic/acf/general_practice More details about the PCRG can be found at: https://sheffield.ac.uk/smph/research/primary-care

Specific enquiries about this integrated academic clinical training post in Sheffield should be directed to Dr Jon Dickson (Senior Clinical Lecturer) (j.m.dickson@sheffield.ac.uk)

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

The first two years of the training programme (ST1/ST2) involve standard full-time clinical GP training, although we encourage the fellows to attend local and national NIHR trainee conferences and keep in touch with the Primary Care Research Group if possible and to plan their academic training programme early in the post with their academic supervisor. In years 3 and 4 (ST3 and ST4), trainees are attached to a single GP training practice with 50% of their time devoted to clinical training and 50% to research training.

Review of Clinical and Academic Progress within the NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow integrated Clinical and Academic Training programme

The programme of clinical and academic training undertaken is in accordance with the requirements for speciality training, including satisfactory progress at ARCP as required by the Royal College of General Practitioners. A Personal Development Plan will be agreed with your clinical and educational supervisors alongside demonstration of academic progress throughout the scheme as agreed with your academic supervisor.

Post Details

JOB TITLE: NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice

BRIEF OUTLINE:

Objectives of the Training Programme:

1. To undertake GP Specialist Training with ongoing progression available for completion of clinical training.
2. To undertake a generic programme in research methodology.
3. To identify an area of academic and clinical interest and carry out appropriate preliminary research upon which to base an application for an externally funded In Practice or Doctoral Fellowship.

Successful candidates:

The exit from this post will typically be either to a clinical general practice post or to an appropriate further career development 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 general practice.

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.

CONTACTS

Academic Training Lead

Dr Jon M Dickson
Senior Clinical Lecturer
Sheffield Centre for Health & Related Research
j.m.dickson@sheffield.ac.uk

Clinical Supervisor

This will vary according to the practice in which the trainee is based.

HEE Yorkshire & The Humber academic.yh@hee.nhs.uk

Training Programme Director (clinical):

Dr Nikola Bramwell nikola.bramwell1@nhs.net

Academic Training Programme Director

Professor Janet Brown j.e.brown@sheffield.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) on https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

Person Specifications

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

https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications

AND the Academic eligibility criteria listed at:

https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications