Job Description

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

General Psychiatry ST1 (1 post) - theme Mental Health

The University of Sheffield, in partnership with NHS England North East and Yorkshire and Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SHPU), has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Psychiatry at ST1 level. This new post has been created as part of the NHS England (NHSE)/National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians, researchers and GP 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 General Psychiatry will be run by the University of Sheffield, Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust and Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber.

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 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 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, except ‘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.

This post is offered as part of NIHR's theme of Mental Health, meaning that the successful applicant will need to undertake research relevant to this theme. Potential applicants are invited to discuss this or other aspects of the post with Professor Scott Weich.

The successful post holder will be based in the Mental Health Research Unit (MHRU) at SCHARR (Sheffield Centre for Health and Related Research) in the School of Medicine and Population Health, Sheffield University. The MHRU specialises in mixed-methods applied mental health research, and undertakes studies concerned with enhancing patient and health and care service outcomes and experiences through the development and evaluation of innovative and personalised treatment approaches at both patient and service level. Researchers in the MHRU work on a range of projects including public mental health research, suicide prevention, digital mental health care, perinatal mental health and mental health workforce research.

The post holder will have the opportunity to develop their own research interests supported by colleagues with expertise in epidemiology and public health, health informatics, data science, clinical trials, evidence synthesis, qualitative and experiential research, implementation science and the use of assistive technologies to improve recovery and other health outcomes. Applications are particularly welcomed from candidates with an interest in complex emotions, to undertake research aligned to the UKRI Complex Emotions hub.

POST DETAILS

Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – General Psychiatry (requests to join other Psychiatry ST training programmes will be considered, according to candidate preference).

Duration of the Post

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

Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SHPU)

Research institution in which training will take place

Mental Health Research Unit
Sheffield Centre for Health and Related Research (SCHARR)
School of Medicine and Population Health
University of Sheffield

Research Protected Time:

ACFs have a personal training plan, designed according to their individual needs, experience and preferences. All ACFs will have 6 months of dedicated research time in Year 2 or 3, depending on their level at the time of recruitment. The remaining 3 months of academic time will be spread over the remaining years. This time will be negotiated with clinical supervisors and will be in keeping with the personal training plan. Detailed arrangements will be organised with the assistance of Professor Weich.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

The proposed Psychiatry ACF post will benefit from wide-ranging opportunities for collaboration and inter-disciplinary learning. Within SCHARR, there is world-class expertise in clinical trials, epidemiology, statistics and informatics, primary care, health economics, evidence synthesis, public health, acute and urgent care, assistive technologies, qualitative and other health services research methods, public health (including alcohol research) and social care. The emphasis on interdisciplinarity within SCHARR means that MHRU colleagues collaborate across all of these areas. Sheffield University hosts key NIHR programmes, including Yorkshire and Humber ARC and RSS, as well as the UKRI Complex Emotions hub. Further inter-disciplinary research opportunities are afforded by close links with colleagues in medicine, neuroscience, humanities and social sciences.

Current interests in the Mental Health Research Unit include the evaluation of mental health care, including (i) interventions to support recovery from serious mental illness; (ii) evaluating responses to NHS mental health workforce challenges; (iii) the development and evaluation of novel interventions (including both social prescribing and digitally-assisted) to improve outcomes for people with mental health problems; (iii) mixed methods, mechanism-based research to elucidate and model variations in mental health needs and outcomes between people, places and services; and (iv) and the development, validation and evaluation of implementation of measures of professional- and patient-rated measures of outcome (including quality of life and wellbeing) and experience in people with mental illness.

We currently lead a five-year UKRI-funded Mental Health Platform hub which aims to better understand Borderline Personality Disorder, and to develop better and more acceptable treatments. Other examples of recent research in the MHRU include NIHR-funded studies that examine ways in which patient experience feedback can best be gathered and used to improve the quality of mental health services; and the causes and consequences of rising rates of compulsory mental health treatments; a large RCT of two different psychological therapies (counselling versus CBT) for depression; a national study of factors associated with mental health nurse recruitment and retention; evaluation of social prescribing interventions for people with serious mental illness, and a number of projects designed to improve the delivery of care to people with both physical and mental health conditions.

We have a strong interest in improving the delivery of mental health care, including ways to personalise this, as well as understanding how new technologies can be harnessed to provide more accessible forms of help.

The MHRU has strong links with all Mental Health Trusts in the region, including Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Trust, as well as with SITraN, the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience, an international centre of excellence for basic through to applied research in neurodegenerative disease.

Prospective ACFs will have the opportunity to develop a project with any (or all) of these collaborating organisations. Professor Weich will act as the main academic mentor and will assist Fellows in identifying supervisors to match their research interests.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

Fellows will join the appropriate local training rotation. Placements will be allocated and completed in the same way as for all other trainees, and progression will be dependent on achieving both clinical and academic competencies. Clinical training, WPBAs and examinations, etc will be completed at the same time and in the same manner as for other, non-academic trainees.

Core Training in Psychiatry exposes trainees to a comprehensive range of clinical experiences over a three-year rotational programme. This enables trainees to gain competence in the assessment and basic management of psychiatric conditions across the age range, in a range of settings and with different levels of complexity. As the trainee progresses, they develop their skills in team working, managing complexity and in the evaluation of their own work and that of their teams. Developing teaching, management and leadership skills form further important learning objectives. Developing sophisticated communication skills and psychological mindedness is integrated into the curriculum delivery with all trainees learning basic psychological and psychotherapeutic approaches to clinical management and participating in reflective case-based discussion groups. Protected time is provided for teaching, and Clinical and Educational Supervision is supportive, thorough and useful. All Trainees receive an hour per week of supervision from their Consultant Clinical Supervisor and a day or half-day release teaching programme. Successful completion of the Training programme and the Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists examination enables a Trainee to apply for Higher Training.

Higher Training in Psychiatry takes between three and five years depending on whether a single Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) is sought or a dual. In Higher Training, a Trainee specialises in one or two of the Sub Specialities of Psychiatry: Child and Adolescent, Forensic, General Adult, Intellectual Disability, Old Age or Psychotherapy. The Higher Trainee builds on their Core Training to manage with an increasing level of sophistication and assurance the full range of Psychiatric presentations seen within their chosen Sub Speciality. Development of leadership and management skills are of increasing importance alongside developing the skills that will enable the trainee to be seen as an essential component of teams within which they will work as a Consultant.

CONTACTS

Academic Leads and Supervisors:

Professor Scott Weich
Division of Population Health
School of Medicine and Population Health
University of Sheffield
30 Regent Street
Sheffield S1 4DA

email: s.weich@sheffield.ac.uk

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

Training Programme Directors (clinical):

Dr Joy Owens (ST1-3) joy.owens@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) 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