Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice (Theme: Clinical Education Research) ST1 Entry

1. Job Title.
Academic Clinical Fellow in Primary Care and Medical Education

2. Duration of post.
The academic clinical fellowship is a 4-year post starting from August 2027.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit, Department of Primary Care and Public Health, Imperial College, London.

Imperial College London is a world-leading institution in research and education. The Academic Clinical Fellow post is attached to the Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit within the Department of Primary Care and Public Health (part of the School of Public Health). The post holder will work with the Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit and units within Primary Care and Public Health.

Imperial's Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit leads all the placements in General Practice over the 6 years of the MBBS undergraduate degree, working with over 150 GP practices and alongside community partners. We are one of the largest teams of its kind in the UK and our dynamic team has won numerous awards for both individual and team excellence in education, including a prestigious national Collaborative Award for Teaching Excellence (CATE) award from Advance HE.

Through our Unit's Research and Scholarship (RAS) group, we adopt a scholarly approach to our curriculum development, assessment and other initiatives in undergraduate primary care education, drawing on best available evidence to inform our work. We have published extensively and recent areas of focus for our evaluation and research include coaching for health and medical education, digital health and education, EDI, personalised care, sustainable healthcare, community involvement and social accountability.

There are a number of academic research groups in the wider Department of Primary Care and Public Health. These include the Health Services Research Unit, Global Digital Health Unit, Child Health Unit, Medical Education Innovation and Research Centre (MEdIC) and WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Education and Training. The academic environment capitalises on extensive links between the academic department, local primary care research networks and longstanding academic and NHS partnerships which have underpinned Academic Primary Care in NW London.

Academic Clinical Fellows (ACFs) may work within any of these groups and often work within a combination of teams to support the development of strong education and academic research skills over their fellowship.

The department has an excellent track record in hosting academic trainees including Specialised Foundation Doctors, Academic Clinical Fellows, Innovative Training Post GP trainees and trainees undertaking an out of programme experience year. Previous ACFs have valued the high-quality training and supervision and have progressed to gain externally funded research fellowships, higher education degrees and substantive posts within Undergraduate Primary Care Education and in the Department of Public Health at Imperial College London.

It is an expectation that ACFs will be engaged primarily in teaching and research related to education. This includes taking advantage of opportunities to engage in educational activities including curriculum development, delivery of teaching and assessment writing.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

ACFs will be attached to the Imperial College General Practice Specialist Training Scheme for their clinical training. The GPST1 and GPST2 years will be predominantly clinical training, with ACFs spending 12 months in hospital training and 12 months in general practice. As part of the general practice post, trainees typically spend 6 months in an innovative training post (ITP) where the trainee will spend part of their week in a GP practice and part of the week in an alternative setting, e.g., community diabetes clinics, King's Fund and the Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit at Imperial College London.

In the first two years of training, the ACF will be in contact with their academic supervisor and begin to plan the academic work that they will be doing in their ST3/4 years.

The GPST3 year is divided into 60% clinical training within a local GP practice, and 40% of the time attached to the academic unit. In GP ST4 this switches to 40% clinical and 60% academic, allowing the trainee to deepen their academic research and education endeavors.

5. Description of research component of programme

Over the 4-year post, GP ACFs will be able to:

- Apply for the Certificate of Completion of Training for General Practice Specialty training
- Teach across a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses, utilising skills from in-house and university-wide teacher training and apprenticeship-style skills development
- Contribute to design, development and evaluation of the undergraduate primary care curriculum
- Gain experience in exam question writing in accordance with the Medical Schools Council Assessment Alliance and developing undergraduate medical examination stations
- Become involved in scholarly activity relating to primary care and medical education
- Undertake research aligned to their interests and receive tailored academic mentoring and supervision to develop skills in research methods and medical education
- Develop a strong application for further research fellowships or PHD applications
- Explore opportunities to present their work at local, national and/or international conferences and to publish their work in peer-reviewed journals

ACFs will take part in academic and research activity within the Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit and/or with one of the academic research groups in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health.

Within the Unit, there are opportunities to get involved in innovation and research activities. Focus areas may include diversity and inclusion, digital education and health, coaching, sustainable healthcare, faculty-student partnerships, and community involvement, amongst others. Examples of relevant scholarly activities may include contributing to research, articles or presentations and receiving feedback on their work, integrating educational theories into practice through research-informed curriculum development, teaching and assessment and participating in our internal faculty development educational seminars enabling skill development in research methodology.

Within the wider department of Primary Care and Public Health there is also the opportunity to get involved with and lead research activity with any of the well-established academic research groups. These are highly collaborative multi-disciplinary research groups with excellent support structures. As well as having an

academic supervisor, ACFs will also have a research project supervisor who will support them in acquiring skills in research methodology. There are regular departmental research seminars where ACFs will be able to present and receive feedback on their work.

There is also the opportunity to undertake higher training and skills development in medical education and research methods. This may include modules which are available to trainees from the range of MSc courses available at Imperial College London. This can include training in qualitative and quantitative research methods, epidemiology, statistics, trials methodology, medical sociology and health psychology and health policy analysis to meet the educational development needs of the trainee.

The department is actively involved in the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) and, where appropriate, ACFs will be encouraged to submit work for consideration towards oral or poster presentation at national and international conferences. They will also be supported to write papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals.

As well as undertaking research activity, all ACFs will contribute to the mandatory teaching programme in undergraduate primary care and have opportunities to contribute to curriculum design and assessment.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The successful applicant is expected to rotate within NHSE North West London's clinical GP training programme. Further details will be confirmed closer to the time of starting in post with agreement from the regional Programme Director.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Academic Lead (University) for the Imperial Academic Training Programme:
Professor Azeem Majeed, Head of Department, Department of Primary Care & Public Health, Imperial College London.
Email: a.majeed@imperial.ac.uk

Academic Lead (University) for Medical Education:
Professor Arti Maini, Director, Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit, Department of Primary Care & Public Health, Imperial College London. Email: a.maini@imperial.ac.uk

Academic Supervisor (University) Details:
Dr Sian Powell, Faculty Development Lead, Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit, Department of Primary Care and Public Health, Imperial College London.
Email: sian.powell@imperial.ac.uk

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Dr Martin Block, Programme Director, Imperial GP Specialty Training Scheme, Department of Primary Care & Public Health, Imperial College London.
Email: m.block@imperial.ac.uk

9. Programme contacts for further information (phone or email)

Dr Block and Dr Powell as per above are the main contacts. Additional further contacts are:

Dr Aisha Newth, Programme Director, Imperial GP Specialty Training Scheme, Department of Primary Care & Public Health, Imperial College London. (clinical programme further contact)
Email: a.newth@imperial.ac.uk

Ann Bartels, Faculty Development Manager, Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit, Department of Primary Care & Public Health, Imperial College London (academic programme further contact)
Email: a.bartels1@imperial.ac.uk

Eliot Rees, eliot.rees1@nhs.net – General Practice Academic Training Programme Director

10. NHSE contact
Specialty Team https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home
Recruitment Enquiries - https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home

11. Useful websites for further information
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

Undergraduate Primary Care Education Unit, Imperial College London
https://www.imperial.ac.uk/school-public-health/primary-care-and-public-health/teaching/undergrad/gp/

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (A)

This post attracts an NTN (A)

This job description was prepared in August 2026.