Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice ST1

1. Job Title.
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in General Practice

2. Duration of post.
This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) will start at ST1 and last for **four years**. During this time the ACF will be expected to acquire MRCGP and the clinical competencies to be a fully qualified GP at the end of ST4, when they will CCT. The allocated research time is divided with clinical training in a 60:40 and then 40:60 split in the years of ST3 and ST4 respectively during which the trainee will gain research competencies and be in a position to apply for a research fellowship for further training via NIHR pre-doctoral award, other funded fellowship, or PhD applications, to follow on from the ACF post.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
The ACF will be based within the Centre for Healthcare Education Research (CHER), School of Health and Medical Sciences, City St George's, University of London, and will join the wider community of academic GPs and GP Academic Clinical Fellows working across CHER and the Centre for Population Health Research.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
ST1 100% clinical
ST2 100% clinical
ST3 60% clinical / 40% academic
ST4 40% clinical / 60% academic

5. Description of research component of programme

This is a clinical education research-focused Academic Clinical Fellowship, based within the newly established Centre for Healthcare Education Research (CHER) at City St George's, University of London. The post is intended for a doctor who is interested in developing as an academic general practitioner focused on understanding and improving the education of healthcare professionals.

CHER brings together researchers from across City St George's with expertise in medical, healthcare and health sciences education. Its work is interdisciplinary, methodologically diverse, and strongly connected to clinical practice, with a particular emphasis on research that can improve education, the healthcare workforce and ultimately the care provided to patients and communities.

Why City St George's?

City St George's provides a distinctive environment in which to develop as a healthcare education researcher. Healthcare education, clinical practice and research sit alongside one another within the School of Health and Medical Sciences, with close relationships across undergraduate and postgraduate education, NHS organisations, primary care, community settings and professional bodies.

The University's location and partnerships across London provide opportunities to undertake research within a highly diverse population and across a wide range of healthcare and educational settings. The ACF will therefore have opportunities to develop research that is academically rigorous while remaining closely connected to the real-world challenges facing learners, educators, healthcare organisations and patients.

Researchers within CHER have a strong track record of attracting external research funding and commissioned work from national research funders, NHS organisations, professional bodies and organisations involved in healthcare education. Recent and current work has been supported by organisations including the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), the British Academy, NHS England, the Medical Schools Council, the Association for the Study of Medical Education (ASME), the Medical Protection Society (MPS), the Association of Standardized Patient Educators (ASPE), and the College of Radiographers. This breadth of funding reflects the Centre's applied and interdisciplinary approach and provides ACFs with opportunities to contribute to externally funded research and to develop experience of grant development and working with research partners.

The successful applicant will join an established and supportive community of GP Academic Clinical Fellows at City St George's, working across CHER and the Centre for Population Health Research. Although this particular ACF has a specific focus on healthcare education research and will be primarily based within CHER, the fellow will be part of the wider academic primary care community spanning both Centres. This provides opportunities for peer support, shared academic development, methodological collaboration and interaction with researchers working across healthcare education, population health, epidemiology and primary care research.

City St George's has a strong track record of supporting GP ACFs to progress in academic careers. Previous fellows have undertaken Master's degrees, secured NIHR predoctoral awards and other fellowships, progressed to doctoral research, and taken up subsequent academic posts. The programme is designed to provide protected research time, and to support the ACF in developing the skills, experience, outputs and academic identity required to compete successfully for the next stage of their clinical academic career.

Research within the Centre for Healthcare Education Research

CHER's scholarship is organised around three broad themes:

- Workforce, Access and Equity – including widening access and participation, selection into healthcare professions, career choice and progression, workforce development, inequalities within healthcare education, inclusive education and the relationship between education and healthcare workforce outcomes. (e.g. Rees et al. 2022, Rees & Movio 2026, Razai *et al.* 2024, Owen-Boukra *et al.* 2026,
- Authentic Clinical Education – including learning in clinical environments, primary care and community-based education, patient safety, Clinical Reasoning, simulation, supervision, professional learning and the development of learners and educators in the workplace. (e.g. Baig *et al.* 2025, Al-Bedaery *et al.* 2024, Al-Bedaery *et al.* 2022)
- Health Sciences Education and Educational Innovation – including curriculum design and evaluation, assessment, digital education, educational innovation and research into the teaching and learning of the biomedical, health and clinical sciences. (e.g. Huthinson *et al*. 2021, Guest *et al.* 2021, Ibison *et al.* 2023)

Applicants are not expected to arrive with a fully developed research project. The successful ACF will be supported to identify an area of healthcare education research that reflects their interests, develop focused and answerable research questions, select appropriate theoretical and methodological approaches, and build a coherent programme of work during the fellowship.

Potential approaches include qualitative and mixed-methods research, quantitative and secondary-data analysis including the UK Medical Education Database, systematic and other evidence syntheses, survey research, educational evaluation, assessment research, co-design and the development and evaluation of educational interventions. The ACF will be encouraged to work across disciplinary and methodological boundaries and to draw on expertise from elsewhere within CHER, the Centre for Population Health Research and the wider University where appropriate.

Academic development and supervision

The ACF will be supervised by Professor Judith Ibison and/or Dr Eliot Rees, with additional supervisory and methodological expertise drawn from across CHER according to the fellow's research interests and development needs. The fellow will also have access to the wider community of healthcare education researchers, academic GPs and methodological expertise across City St George's. Dr Rees is the Director of CHER, a director of the Association for the Study of Medical Education (ASME), and Pan-London Academic Training Programme Director for General Practice. Professor Ibison and Dr Rees lead an educator team with an established track record of innovation, scholarship and research in primary care and medical education, including national and international collaborations and successful external research funding.

The ACF will meet academic supervisors regularly to facilitate research skill development, project planning and career progression. University and clinical co-location enables trainees to maintain contact with supervisors through ST1 and ST2, and previous ACFs have contributed to research at this early stage. The ACF will be invited to participate in CHER and primary care research activities and the wider City St George's academic training community. As part of the funded research training programme, the ACF will undertake the PGCert in Healthcare Research Skills and Methods. Their wider development will be individualised according to previous experience and career goals and may include further methodological training, involvement in existing studies, grant development, academic writing, conference presentations and opportunities to collaborate with researchers within and beyond City St George's.

During ST3 and ST4, protected academic time will be used to develop a substantive programme of research and the competencies required for progression as an independent clinical academic. The ACF will be supported and encouraged to:

- develop expertise in healthcare education research theory and methodology;
- contribute to and lead research projects;
- present research at national and international academic meetings;
- publish their work in peer-reviewed journals;
- develop collaborations within City St George's and with external researchers and organisations;
- gain experience of research funding and grant development; and
- develop a competitive application for the next stage of clinical academic training, which may include an NIHR predoctoral or doctoral award, another externally funded fellowship or PhD programme.

There will also be opportunities to develop as an academic educator alongside the research programme. ACFs are encouraged to work towards Fellowship of Advance HE, supported by City St George's through the SOLAR programme.

City St George's has an embedded Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy and holds an Athena Swan Silver Award and piloted the Equal Representation in Academia programme.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

In ST1-2, GP ACFs complete one year working on two or three clinical training posts at St George's Healthcare Trust (SGHT), and one year spent in a mixture of primary care and integrated training posts relevant to general practice. St George's Healthcare Trust provides clinical experience in secondary care and tertiary care specialties and is co-located with the Tooting Campus of the School of Health and Medical Sciences, City St George's, University of London. Medical undergraduates are placed across all departments within the Trust and so the opportunity for clinical teaching of undergraduates is embedded within all posts. The Trust is set in an ethnically and socioeconomically diverse community which makes for fascinating clinical practice.

During ST3-4, GP ACF trainees are embedded in a general practice in South-West London for two years (60% Year 3 and 40% Year 4) within the GP clinical specialty training scheme, attend the local GP trainee half day and achieve all training requirements of a standard GP trainee. Typically, trainees complete the AKT of MRCGP prior to ST3, and successfully complete the MRCGP clinical assessment in the ST3 and 4 years, although there is flexibility according to trainee needs.

Opportunities for integrated training posts are available in either ST1 or ST2 (including in medical education in the primary care education group).

7. Academic Programme Director name
Dr Eliot Rees

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme
Professor Nidhi Sofat, Professor of Rheumatology (St George's, University of London), Consultant Rheumatologist (St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London) 020 8725 0042 nsofat@sgul.ac.uk

8. Clinical Programme Director name
Drs Isba Javed, Aryan Jogiya and Mehreen Tahir

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

- Professor Judith Ibison jibison@citystgeorges.ac.uk
- Professor Tess Harris tharris@citystgeorges.ac.uk
- Dr Eliot Rees erees@citystgeorges.ac.uk

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 IAT Guide | NIHR
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

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

This job description was prepared on 10/08/2026