ACF General Practice Clinical Education Research Programme Details in conjunction with the University of Lancashire

Recruitment to posts starting in August 2027

Post availability

There is one ACF General Practice post.

You can apply at ST1 level in this round of recruitment.

Overview

You can find generic information about Academic Clinical Fellowships in the North West plus links to the National Institute for Health Research's guidance via https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance

A link to the relevant page of the University of Lancashire website is here: Academic Clinical Fellowships

Academic Training

The NIHR Integrated Training Programme supports your development as an academic GP, providing joint supervision from an academic and a clinical trainer, with project-specific guidance tailored to your research interests. There are 42 training practices across East Lancashire, hosting over 120 trainees, with regular weekly day-release programme meetings scheduled.

Research Areas / Research Environment

If you are applying at ST1 for the ACF post, you should apply alongside your standard GP training application.

During ST1, training is clinical. The additional academic year is integrated across the programme, providing dedicated time for academic work from ST2 onwards. In the ST3 years, your week can be divided between academic general practice and clinical practice.

The University of Lancashire works closely with NHS Health Education England Northwest on this programme, and ACFs are affiliated with the University of Lancashire School of Medicine. The focus of your research time will reflect your interests and level of training.

ACFs can use the protected academic time provided by the fellowship to pursue a Master of Research Degree (MRes); those who already hold a Masters degree can further develop research skills and prepare a PhD proposal. At the end of the programme, support will be provided to apply for a PhD fellowship (e.g., NIHR, MRC, or Wellcome Trust funded) or an NIHR In-Practice Fellowship (IPF), helping prepare for a future career in academic general practice.

Research Facilities

The University of Lancashire is distinct in offering a vision of research driving change on the ground, achieved through multi-method approaches - both clinical and research - underpinned by partnerships with several health and social care organisations.

The University of Lancashire School of Medicine has established three research institutions: the Mackenzie Clinical Research Institute (Mackenzie Clinical Research Institute), the Biomedical Evidence Synthesis and Translation (BEST) Institute (https://www.lancashire.ac.uk/research/institutes/best/biomedical-evidence-synthesis-translation), and the National Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine (NCRRM) (National Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine).

The Mackenzie Institute is developing a critical mass of healthcare academics - including clinical, social, and primary healthcare scientists - who will contribute to the University of Lancashire's work in developing, delivering, and supporting workforce initiatives for health and social care across Lancashire and Cumbria.

The Cumbria-based NCRRM brings extensive expertise in delivering rural clinical education and innovation, and maintains a close partnership with North Cumbria Integrated NHS Foundation Trust. This partnership facilitates the translation of clinical excellence into practice, such as through the Academic Surgical Unit. NCRRM's work focuses on addressing the health inequalities prevalent in remote and rural communities, which experience life expectancy rates significantly below the national average and some of the highest deprivation rates in the country.

The BEST Institute is currently leading the production of several major national and international evidence-based GRADE guidelines within the field of Gastroenterology.

Clinical Training

The first year of the programme includes two six-month hospital posts based at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust and Lancashire and South Cumbria Foundation Trust. The placements can be Emergency Department/ Paediatrics/ Child Psychiatry/ Obstetrics and Gynaecology/ Psychiatry/ Acute Medicine/ Respiratory/ Rheumatology/ ENT/ Dermatology / Diabetes and Endocrinology

At ST3 you will be able to plan the most appropriate arrangement to complete your clinical training and continue your academic development.
We aim to use dedicated practices with an interest in academic development to support your clinical GP training.
At the end of the ACF you should have completed 3 years of clinical training, one year of academic training and have obtained your CCT.

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes in the North West via the following link - Specialised Foundation Programme in the North West of England | Health Education North West (nwpgmd.nhs.uk)
Clinical person specifications can be found via the following link - Person Specifications | Medical Hub

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HEE/GP support for ACF in GP programme Dr Debra Roberts:

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Useful Links
https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance
Person Specifications | Medical Hub

Last reviewed: September /2026