ACF Critical Care Clinical Education Research Programme Details in conjunction with the University of Lancashire

Recruitment to posts starting in August 2027

Post availability

There is one post available in Intensive Care Medicine. You can apply at ST3 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

This NIHR integrated training programme will support the development of your career and help you work towards becoming an academic clinician. During the programme, you will benefit from joint supervision with both an experienced academic at the University of Lancashire, and a clinical supervisor based at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHTR), with specific project supervision depending on your research interests.

Fellows spend 75% of time undertaking specialist clinical training and 25% in research training. There are a number of research active consultants at ELHT who will provide training in systematic review methodology including, where necessary, advanced techniques such diagnostic test accuracy synthesis and Bayesian network meta-analysis.

Research Areas / Research Environment

ELHT cares for patients across Burnley, Blackburn with Darwen, Pendle and Hyndburn, which, according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2025), are amongst the most deprived 10% of local authority districts in England. Critical illness follows this gradient closely: around 24% of admissions to adult general

intensive care units come from the most deprived IMD quintile, compared with 16% from the least deprived. The North West has the highest rate of emergency admission for infectious disease of any English region — 1.3 times the national average — and admission rates for sepsis are 2.5 times higher in the most deprived fifth of the population than in the least. The region also has the highest age-standardised sepsis mortality in England, at around 9 deaths per 100,000 population. As a result, populations like the one we care for can generate disproportionate demand for intensive care, and mortality after critical care admission remains higher in the most deprived areas. This is heavily influenced by the number of deaths from COPD and lung cancer, over 80% of which are smoking-related.

East Lancashire Hospital Trust (ELHT) is a research active site which to date has recruited over 17,600 patients to over 200 studies over the last five years. Members of the Critical Care department have an interest in systematic reviews and meta-analysis. Current systematic review projects cover areas such as treatment of pulmonary embolism, drugs for severe asthma and alpha 1 anti trypsin deficiency and regional anaesthesia to prevent post operative respiratory complications. As well as contributing to other departmental projects, the post holder will lead their own Cochrane badged systematic review and encouraged to develop their own review questions.

Training is largely dependent on the needs of the individual. ACFs may use their time to obtain a Masters in Research Methods (MRes) degree; those who already have a Masters will continue developing their research skills in other ways, such as by attending relevant training, contributing to research events, carrying out academic service and drafting a PhD proposal. At the end of your training programme you will be supported to apply for a PhD fellowship (example, NIHR, MRC or Wellcome funded) or NIHR in-practice fellowship (IPF), in preparation for your future career in Critical Care Medicine.

The Critical Care Unit has an active research team and participates in a number of multicentre RCTs, including REMAP-CAP, MOSAICC, ABBRUPT and GUARDS. In 2025/26, the team recruited 111 patients into clinical trials, making it one of the top recruiting units across the North West. The team has also supported multiple members of staff across the MDT to complete the NIHR Associate PI Scheme in several of these trials.

Research Facilities and Developmental Opportunities

ACFs will benefit from access to the University's research infrastructure, as well as an established multidisciplinary research environment that spans the translational pathway from discovery science to implementation in healthcare.

Collaborators include the Biomedical Evidence-based Transdisciplinary (BEST) Health Research Institute which connects researchers across medicine,

dentistry, pharmacy, biomedical sciences and neuroscience. This provides opportunities for ACFs to engage with researchers across disciplines and develop collaborations relevant to their clinical and academic interests.

The university's research infrastructure provides support for the development of academic skills such as research governance, ethics, funding development, knowledge mobilisation and open research. Furthermore, the institution provides regular opportunities for engagement with research seminars, showcases, development activities and wider early-career researcher networks. These opportunities enable ACFSs to present their work, develop collaborations and engage with other researchers and clinical academics across the University and NHS.

Research supervision and mentorship will be provided by experienced academic and clinical colleagues relevant to the ACF's research area. ACFs will also have opportunities to engage with undergraduate and postgraduate researchers and to contribute to the development of the next generation of clinical academics through joint supervision of NIHR-funded research interns.

The University and its NHS partners provide a supportive environment in which ACFs can develop their research skills, academic networks and research outputs alongside their clinical training.

Clinical Training

ELHT hosts over 300 postgraduate trainees and have one of the biggest Foundation programmes in the North West region. In addition, they have over 200 specialty trainee posts ranging from ST1 to ST8.

The clinical component of this ACF post will be based in the Royal Blackburn Hospital Critical Care Unit, a 32-bed Critical Care unit, caring for a mix of Level 2 and 3 adult patients, with both medical and surgical pathologies. There are approximately 1,800 admissions per year to the unit. The trust has a range of medical and surgical specialties, with patients who require treatment in a Critical Care setting. ELHTis also a tertiary centre of hepato-biliary and maxillo-facial surgery, who often have patients who require admission to Critical Care. Out-of-hours there are at least 3 resident doctors or ACCPs present on the unit on an on-call rota, with 1-2 on-call consultants. In hours, there is an increased number of resident staff to deal with routine work.

Opportunities include care of critically ill patients both on the critical care unit, and those referred from other areas of the hospital. The unit is active in medical training across all stages, supporting a range of staff in Intensive Care Medicine; staff from specialties seconded to Critical Care; and Foundation Programme

Doctors. All staff have equal access to both formal and informal educational experiences.

It is anticipated that the post holder will gain experience and training in all the above areas. There will be a commitment To the Critical Care on-call rota.

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 - https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications.

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Useful Links
https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance
https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/School-Contacts
https://elht.nhs.uk/
https://www.lancashire.ac.uk/research

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