NHS
Health Education England

ACF General Practice Programme Details in conjunction with University of Manchester

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

Academic Training

General practice is an exciting and versatile career choice offering you the opportunity to develop a wide range of special interests and skills. Becoming an Academic GP is one such option, and the NIHR integrated training programme will help you develop your career. Academic GPs combine their work in General Practice with research or teaching. This might be very clinically focused, or it might be focused upon the organisation and development of the NHS, or on topics such as Dr-patient communication and GP Education. Academic GPs have the opportunity not only to deliver high quality care themselves, but also to contribute to the evidence base that underpins the specialty as a whole.

Research Areas / Research Environment

Our GP ACF posts start at ST1, so you need to apply at the same time as you apply for non-academic GP training. If accepted, you will do an additional year of training, with the extra time spent on research activity or in learning to teach. The extra year is spread across the training programme, so that you have dedicated time for your academic work from ST2 onwards. The University of Manchester works closely with NHS England Northwest on this programme, and ACFs are affiliated to the Centre for Primary Care and Health Services Research. What you do in your research time depends upon your interests and your level of training.

We offer a Research Training Programme specifically for ACFs, which can go towards a PGCert qualification (PGCert Med Sci). There is also the option of incorporating a research proposal and dissertation based on a research project to complete a full Masters (MSc). Those who already have a Masters can use the time to develop their research skills and to put together a PhD proposal. At the end of your training programme you are encouraged to be thinking about an application for a PhD fellowship, which will be the next stage on your academic journey.

Research Facilities

The Centre for Primary Care and Health Services Research is acknowledged internationally to be one of the UK's leading research centres for policy research in primary care. The Centre is a founder member of the prestigious NIHR School for Primary Care Research, a collaboration of 9 leading primary care departments in England. The Centre makes a major contribution to the:

- NIHR Greater Manchester Primary Care Patient Safety Translational Research Centre
- The The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Policy Research Unit in Health and Social Care Systems and Commissioning (PRU HSSC)
- The NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Greater Manchester (ARC-GM)

The work of the Centre is supported by a truly multidisciplinary staff including general practitioners, psychiatrists, sociologists, psychologists, statisticians, and health services researchers. The Centre also aims to support and promote the involvement of patients and the public in health research, through our Patient and Public Involvement Group PRIMER. ACFs choosing to take on educational work will be linked with Community Based Medical Education at the University of Manchester.

Clinical Training

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes in the North West via the following link - https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty_schools

Clinical person specifications can be found via the following link - Person Specifications | Medical Hub

Useful Links
https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance
https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications/person-specifications-2026
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty_schools

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