Job Description
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Response Mode: Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine
University of Bristol

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

Anaesthetics: ST1, ST2, ST3, ST4 (or ACCS ST2, ST3, ST4)

Intensive Care Medicine: ST1, ST2, ST3

Important: Please view programme preferences available on the Oriel advert for eligible entry levels and training programmes.

The successful appointee will enter at CT1/ST1, CT2/ST2 or CT3/ST3 level, or at ST4 level (Anaesthetics only), and will participate in a personalised and structured training programme that combines all required clinical training relevant to their chosen specialty and future career aspirations.

Individuals completing this training programme will become the academic and specialty leaders of the future, with strong career prospects and valuable expertise.

2. Duration of post:

3 years (FTE)

Candidates working Less Than Full Time (LTFT) or would like should notify the relevant Local Office at point of offer of your intention to work LTFT and this will be considered against the national eligibility criteria.

3. Hospitals in which training will take place:

This training post is based in the Severn region. Rotations have not been confirmed at this stage. Should you wish to explore this in more detail, please get in touch with the Training Programme Director.

The post holder may work clinically in the following hospitals:

- Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Swindon
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4. Research institutions in which training will take place:

The post will be based academically at the University of Bristol

Anaesthesia/ICM

The research projects will be done in collaboration with a co-ordinated network of active researchers linked to the Anaesthesia, Pain and Critical care science group at the University of Bristol. This offers unique research opportunities in both basic and translational medical science in the areas of pain, cardio-respiratory control, cardiac sciences, big data and other fields related to anaesthetics and critical care sciences. These projects will typically be linked to the activity of research groups in the School of Psychology & Neuroscience, the Bristol Heart Institute or Population Health Sciences but we are flexible to align the interest of trainees with appropriate research groups. The specifics of the research project will be arranged by the trainee during a 'milk-round' phase during the first year of the programme. The preliminary work towards initiating the project will be undertaken using the protected 'day release' research time and will be expected to be well underway by the end of the first year. A formal assessment of the research plan will be made at a meeting of the trainee's mentor, academic programme director and supervisor prior to commencement of the research block to ensure that the project is on track.

For both Anaesthesia/ICU and ICM the post holder will pursue an academic training programme, including educational and training meetings with typically a six month single block of full-time research work under expert academic supervision. The post attracts an Academic National Training Number (NTN(a)). During the final year of this post the successful applicant will be supported to apply and compete for a PhD studentship, allowing them to pursue a three-year research project in detail, and with multidisciplinary support. It is anticipated that they will then return to complete their training programme, ideally as a Clinical Lecturer, pursuing further research interests.

5. Timetabling of clinical and research time:

75% clinical 25% research in a flexible way during the working week or months in accordance with pre-agreed arrangements between the clinical and academic supervisors.

Initially, academic clinical fellows entering the programme will require time for orientation to the clinical environment, and to gain experience in their chosen specialty and the associated competencies. This will allow the ACF time to select and develop an area that is attractive and relevant to them as a topic for their research. Furthermore, effective research is best undertaken when dedicated time can be protected for academic work, and after a suitable period of learning, mentorship and preparation. A bespoke training programme will be constructed according to the needs of the successful applicant.

The ACF will have a clinical programme that is constructed to ensure that they obtain the common core competencies required for progression with their clinical training in the most efficient and effective manner. They will be supernumerary within the rotation to protect their research time and facilitate the most efficient progression of their clinical training. Typically during their second year of the ACF, and subject to achieving the required clinical competencies (including passing the relevant exams), they will undertake a programme of research. This research project will typically be undertaken during a six-month block of 100% protected time (but this can be flexibly altered to suit the project need and clinical stage of the individual trainee). This will be both preceded and followed by protected 'day release' research time (one day per week) to initiate and complete the research project and prepare applications for further research. The fellow will have an identified academic mentor as well as research project supervisor. They will be encouraged to attend the clinical research methods training courses run by the University as well as attending project specific training.

6. Description of research component of programme

The successful candidate will join a team committed to the delivery of excellence in research.

a) Research

Under the guidance of an experienced Academic Supervisor the successful candidate will participate in clinical research relevant to their specialty. Formal and informal training in research methodology will be provided within this post, and the successful candidate will agree with the Academic Supervisor a set of research objectives to be achieved under appropriate supervision. These objectives will be tailored to the previous experience and preferences of the appointee, and may include the development of research proposals, protocols and associated paperwork, competitive grant submissions, ethics committee approval, compliance with research governance and the conduct, reporting, dissemination and presentation of research findings. During the programme Academic Clinical Fellows are expected to produce papers for peer-reviewed publication and to prepare a competitive application for a PhD fellowship.

b) Supervision

The successful candidate may be invited to assist in the supervision of research work, where this is appropriate to their previous experience and knowledge.

c) Teaching

The successful candidate may be invited to teach critical appraisal and research skills to others, where this is appropriate to their previous experience and knowledge.

d) Personal Development

The successful candidate will be expected to attend general and specialty-specific meetings for academic trainees held during the year. Regular meetings will be held with the academic and clinical lead for the programme, during which specific training needs will be addressed and research ideas developed.

e) Other Duties

The appointee may also be requested to undertake other duties that are deemed to be within their scope of competence and of an academic nature.

Anaesthesia, Pain and Critical Care (APCC): focuses on improving perioperative outcomes, reducing chronic pain and optimising critical care management through innovative RCTs, pragmatic real world clinical studies of complex interventions and experimental medicine investigations. This is allied to a valuable capability to undertake reverse/forward translational investigations of cellular and whole animal (patho)physiology within the School of Psychology & Neuroscience, The Bristol Heart Institute and Translational Health Sciences. We have six clinical professors and a vibrant critical mass of research active clinicians and trainees. Current projects include Fit4HeartOp (£2.7M) to develop, prehabilitation interventions for cardiac surgery; OPTimising the prevention, identification and management of ICU-Delirium (OPTIC); Continuous rectus sheath Analgesia in eMErgency LaparOTomy, a multi-centre, randomised sham-controlled trial (CAMELOT) and a linked study in the paediatric population CATERPILLAR; SenseCheQ study collaboration across 3 Universities with microelectronic engineers, clinical neurophysiology, oncologists with a strong PPIE input to develop an approach to home sensory testing for early diagnosis of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy; INSITE developing novel human safe recording approaches for detailed pain studies in patients; AERATOR and AIRMAP studies advancing clinical aerosol sciences and studies of torpor for organ protection. We have active collaborations with colleagues in the Surgical, Respiratory, Cardiac and Endocrine units and Industry to enable us to deliver impactful translational studies.

7. Description of clinical training component of programme

The Bristol School of Anaesthesia & Intensive Care Medicine was established in 1996. It is one of the Postgraduate Schools in the Severn region and runs comprehensive training programmes

in both Anaesthesia and ICM. There are >200 trainees in the Anaesthesia and ICM programmes, of whom 60+ are core or ACCS anaesthesia trainees and 50 are on the ICM CCT programme (most but not all 'dualling' with Anaesthesia). The trainees are based in all of hospitals across the Severn region. The success rate of our trainees in FRCA, FFICM and FFPMRCA examinations is well above the national average. For further details see https://southwest.pgmdeducation.nhs.uk/anaesthesia-and-icm/

Rotations for the ACF have not been confirmed at this stage and will vary depending on the seniority of the trainee but will include a substantial period within the Bristol-based Trusts close to the academic groups. A degree of flexibility will be required in this regard. The appointee will participate in the out-of-hours on-call rota at the same frequency as the other trainees at the same clinical level (although this may be varied during the research block). Should you wish to explore this in more detail, please get in touch with the Training Programme Director.

8. Academic Supervisor / Academic Programme Director:

Integrated Academic Training Lead(s):

- Professor Shelley Potter (shelley.potter@bristol.ac.uk)
- Dr Helen Winter (helen.winter@uhbw.nhs.uk)

Academic Lead:

- Anaesthetics: Professor Tony Pickering (Tony.Pickering@bristol.ac.uk)
- Intensive Care Medicine: Dr Mike Ambler (Mike.Ambler@bristol.ac.uk)

9. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- Anaesthetics:
  - Core: Dr Rob Axe (robaxe@nhs.net)
  - Higher: Dr Hugo Hunton (Hugo.hunton@nhs.net)

- Intensive Care Medicine:
  - Core: Dr Matthew Clarke (Matthew.Clarke2@nbt.nhs.uk)
  - Higher: Dr Dominic Janssen (dominic.janssen@nbt.nhs.uk)

10. Contact for further information:

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610
Recruitment Inbox: England.acfrecruitment.sw@nhs.net

11. Useful websites for further information:

NIHR Integrated Academic Training Website: http://www.nihr.ac.uk/IAT

BMA Junior Doctor Pay Scales (link to latest pay Circular): https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/pay/junior-doctors-pay-scales/pay-scales-for-junior-doctors-in-england

University Clinical Academic Training website: https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/

This job description was prepared Sept 2026