

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Cardiology ST4

1. Job Title.

Academic Clinical Fellow in Cardiology

2. Duration of post.

3 years

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

The Imperial College cardiovascular research departments are available for research are listed on the following website:

<http://www1.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/about/divisions/nhli/cardio/>

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

Imperial College London invites the elite of trainees who see themselves as potential international research leaders in cardiovascular science in the next 1-2 decades to apply for this Academic Clinical Fellowship in Cardiology. It is a three-year opportunity to combine training in the identification of research questions and clinical challenges that are worthy and tractable, designing clinical and/or basic science experiments that will give reliable results, collating and interpreting the results, presenting and publishing the results in international fora, and explaining the results to colleagues with a view to changing their understanding and practice of cardiovascular medicine.

This ST4 post, which attracts an academic NTN number (NTN-A), is designed to take the promising young academic cardiologist through the first 3 years of specialist clinical training and it includes ring-fenced academic time. During this period the candidate will identify fruitful areas of scientific interest and is expected to secure peer-reviewed external funding for a 3-year PhD. It is also designed to place the candidate in a strong position to apply for an Academic Clinical Lecturer post in later years.

Recognising that an academic career may not suit everyone, the post also includes exit points from an academic career pathway by converting the NTN-A to a standard cardiology NTN.

This is an NIHR themed research post which would expect the ACF to undertake research with a digital focus.

Academic Clinical Fellow training in Cardiovascular Medicine at Imperial

Years 1-3

Three months per year will be available to carry out research within Imperial College. During that 3-month period, the candidate will not be required to be on the on-call rota. A wide variety of research settings are available from molecular and cellular science, to physiology and technology with application to individual patients, through to population approaches.

The successful candidate is encouraged to interact widely with the 10-20 cardiovascular clinical PhD trainees within the trust, engage with the academics, explore areas of potential interest through reading,

experimental design and the conduct of pilot exploratory experiments. Previous successful candidates have reported the unparalleled opportunity for early interaction and informal dialogue has been pivotal to their successfully developing a personalized PhD research training programme.

Expected out-of-program research experience: 3 years

Out of program clinical PhD research, most commonly just after year 2 or year 3. Limited clinical training is encouraged to help maintain and enhance specialist skills and if the candidate has chosen a clinical field of research (e.g. EP, imaging) the skills acquired – along with achievement of international recognition in research - may assist competitive entry into sub-specialist training.

Potential Exit point: at this stage, the candidate can exit the NTN-A scheme, converting to an NTN.

Post PhD (Typically ST7 and beyond):

After their PhD, the candidate is likely to be in a good position to apply for a Clinical Lecturer post or national clinical scientist award. This post, awarded at competitive interview, would lead to a further 2-4 years of 50% academic, 50% clinical training. During these years, the candidate is expected to:

- a) fulfil all basic training criteria for a CCT in cardiology
- b) develop a clinical cardiology skill to expert level attractive to Trust employers
- c) organise ongoing research, placing the candidate in an ideal position to apply for a senior lecturer post or personal intermediate or senior fellowship in their last year.

Core clinical training

In the first 3 years, the candidate will be trained as a clinical SpR in an equal manner to the non-academic SpRs of the Trust. In total, however, over 3 years, ringfenced time for research will mean that the candidate will have around ¼ less time for clinical training, excluding on-call. Therefore, a rigorous competency based training approach will be taken, and the selection process will favour trainees who show strong ability to utilise clinical training time effectively.

If progress on to Clinical Lecturer**Full Sub-Specialty Clinical Training**

This academic training program focuses on achieving both academic and clinical cardiology training. As detailed above, it is expected that the trainee will devote around 50% of their time during the Lecturer years to research and to incorporate into that time the entirety of sub-specialty clinical training, e.g. in interventional cardiology or electrophysiology, is difficult. It would be a significant advantage if the candidate has performed clinical research in his/her future sub-specialty clinical training area, so that the 3 years in research that are nominally “out-of-program” have nevertheless still contributed to the candidates skillbase.

Hospitals in which training will take place

Imperial College NHS Trust (Hammersmith, St Marys, Charing Cross Hospitals) and potentially other hospitals in NW London used as part of routine clinical cardiology training.

5. Description of research component of programme

In years 1-3 the candidate will visit the different cardiovascular research groups at Imperial, in order to scope the opportunities for research projects and supervision. By the end of year one the Fellow will have developed a relationship leading to an agreement with the leader of one of the groups for support and guidance in the writing of an Externally Funded Research Fellowship application. A three month secondment to the leader's group, in year two, will allow the Fellow to concentrate on attaining new research skills, pilot data and a near complete draft of the application, ready for local peer review and then submission. For this ACF post the research are would be expected to have a digital theme or focus.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

Clinical training will be part of the North West London Cardiology Training Programme

7. Academic Programme Director name

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

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10. NHSE contact:

Specialty Team <https://lasepgmdsupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>
Recruitment Enquiries - <https://lasepgmdsupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>

11. Useful websites for further information

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm>

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

This post will attract an NTN (A)

This job description was prepared on 07/08/2026