2027 NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Dental Practice (Partly Funded)

The University of Liverpool, in partnership with NHS England North West (Workforce, Training and Education) and the NIHR, has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for a partly funded Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) in General Dental Practice, with an anticipated start date of September 2027. This opportunity is suitable for a general dental practitioner who is keen to develop their academic training while continuing to work in primary care.

This job description should be read in conjunction with the NIHR 2027 Academic Clinical Fellowships in Dentistry guidance for recruitment and appointment.

We are seeking highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals with the potential to excel in both their clinical and academic work, and with the ambition to become the next generation of clinical academics in primary dental care.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship programme will be run by the School of Dentistry, University of Liverpool. The post does not attract a National Training Number (NTN).

Academic Clinical Fellowships are 3-year fixed-term posts, subject to satisfactory progress. In this General Dental Practice post, 25% of time is spent in academic training, funded by NIHR, and 75% in clinical work in general dental practice or the Community Dental Service, funded by the host practice or service or self employment for associates and practice owners . The academic component is employed through the Lead Employer, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, with an honorary contract with the University of Liverpool.

ACF trainees will also undertake a Research Training Programme provided by the University of Liverpool, for which funding is provided by NIHR. They are also eligible for funding to support research training activity (e.g. attending academic conferences).

ACF trainees would normally complete and submit an application for an externally funded research fellowship, to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD) after the ACF.

POST DETAILS

TITLE OF POST	Academic Clinical Fellow in General Dental Practice
GRADE	Academic Clinical Fellow
FULL/PART TIME	25% academic (NIHR partly funded); 75% clinical in general dental practice or the Community Dental Service
Employer	Academic component (25%): Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, as Lead Employer for NHS England North West. Clinical component (75%): host general dental practice or Community Dental Service/self employed .
Base	**Academic base: School of Dentistry, University of Liverpool**

BRIEF OUTLINE:

Duration of the Post

Up to 3 years (25% academic, partly funded). Anticipated start date: September 2027

Lead Employer and clinical setting

The ACF will be employed by Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, as Lead Employer for NHS England North West, for the 25% academic component. The 75% clinical component will be undertaken in general dental practice or the Community Dental Service in the North West, and the ACF must be on, or eligible to join, the NHS Dental Performers List.

The clinical and academic programme will take account of the successful applicant's previous experience and research interests. An individual training plan will be agreed at the start of the post, based on the trainee's training needs and the supervisory capacity available both clinically and academically.

Research institution in which training will take place

School of Dentistry, University of Liverpool

Research within the School of Dentistry is overseen by the Vice Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies, Professor Sondos Albadri, and the School Research Committee. The School has very strong links within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, led by Professor Louise Kenny, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. There are three main research groups in the

School of Dentistry: Oral Health, Dental Innovation, and Dental Education and Scholarship. The School has strong links with the Liverpool Head and Neck Centre, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, the Institute of Population Health and the Children Growing up in Liverpool (C-GULL) birth cohort study.
Research opportunities relevant to general dental practice include clinical, population health, health services and dental education research, as well as laboratory-based and translational research. These should be discussed with senior academic staff in the School and will be explored further at interview.

Research Protected Time:

The 25% academic time funded by NIHR is equivalent to 1.25 days per week (based on a five-day week), based at the University of Liverpool. It may be arranged flexibly, including in blocks, by agreement.

Successful candidates:
The exit from this post will typically be to an externally funded research fellowship leading to the award of a PhD, and subsequently an application for a Clinical Lecturer post or a clinician scientist fellowship.

Unsuccessful candidates:
If the postholder is unsuccessful in obtaining research funding, the post will finish at the end of the three-year period.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

ACF trainees will undertake a Research Training Programme provided by the University of Liverpool, for which funding is provided by NIHR. During the post, ACF trainees are expected to complete and submit an application for an externally funded research fellowship, to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD) after the ACF.

The successful candidate will be expected to develop a career as an academic dental practitioner in primary care, and to undertake research training appropriate to their chosen research area within the University. Training will be flexible, so that it can be tailored to the needs of the developing research programme.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

This post is partly funded: NIHR funds the academic component (25%). The successful candidate will work clinically (75%) in general dental practice or the Community Dental Service as self-employed or if salaried this will be covered by the relevant practice /service

The School of Dentistry

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

The School of Dentistry sits within the Institute of Life Course and Medical Sciences in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. The Dean of the School of Dentistry is Professor Luke Dawson, who works closely with the Vice Deans for Learning, Student Experience, Scholarship and Staff Experience, and Research and Postgraduate Studies. There are four Academic Units (Clinical Sciences, Oral Health, Oral Diseases, and Restorative Dentistry), responsible for developing and delivering curriculum content at undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Curriculum delivery is coordinated by programme directors (BDS, BSc and DDSc), Year Lead Teams for the BDS/BSc programmes and Pathway Leads for the DDSc.

The School has over 500 undergraduates, around 25 postgraduates and some 70 academic and research staff, with many honorary appointments held by hospital staff. The school currently has 2 academic clinical lecturers and one academic clinical fellows in General Dental Practice.

The School has its own Board of Studies and Curriculum Board, which report to the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences on curricular matters. Strong links exist between the School of Dentistry and the Dental Hospital. The Clinical Director of the Dental Hospital is Dr Suzanne Burke.

The School has an innovative undergraduate curriculum, with a common training pathway for both BDS and BSc Dental Hygiene and Therapy students.

The School of Dentistry sits within the Institute of Life Course and Medical Sciences, in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. This structure allows us to collaborate across the Faculty, bringing together a wide range of skills and knowledge to produce high-quality and diverse research. Our research has a particular focus on addressing local oral health inequalities.

Further information on the research can be found on
https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/dentistry/research/

CONTACTS

Dental Academic Lead
Professor Sondos Albadri
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Person Specifications

ACF candidates must demonstrate appointability under the NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (Dental) person specification, set out below and published by NHS England.

Please See:

NIHR ACF (dental) academic person specification
https://dental.hee.nhs.uk/dental-trainee-recruitment/dental-specialty-training/person-specifications-for-dental-specialty-training-dst-recruitment/nihr-acf-academic-person-specification

How to Apply

There is one part to the application. Applications will only be accepted through the Oriel online application system (www.oriel.nhs.uk).
Applications open: insert date

Applications close: insert date

After the application deadline no applications will be accepted. **There will be no exceptions to this deadline.** You are advised to complete and submit your application ahead of the deadline to allow for any unforeseen problems.

The date for local academic interviews will be announced as soon as possible; interviews are expected to take place in December 2026 or early January 2027.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

NHS Health Education England

PERSON SPECIFICATION

FOR DENTAL CANDIDATES APPLYING FOR AN NIHR ACADEMIC CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP IN GENERAL DENTAL PRACTICE

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	WHEN EVALUATED
ELIGIBILITY	• BDS or equivalent • Full GDC registration as a dentist at the time of appointment • Evidence of achievement of general professional competencies • Completion of Dental Foundation Training or equivalent • Eligible to work in the UK • On, or eligible to join, the NHS Dental Performers List	• Intercalated honours BSc and/or additional qualifications, e.g. MSc • Distinction or honours during BDS programme • Completion of an academic programme or equivalent	Application form
KNOWLEDGE & ACHIEVEMENTS	• Demonstration of acquisition of the level of knowledge and skills necessary for the completion of general professional training with an emphasis on academic competencies • Demonstration of understanding of, and commitment to, an academic career	• Demonstration of good general knowledge/ broad interest in science and academic dentistry • Prizes or distinctions • Presentation of work at a national or international meeting • Publications in peer reviewed journals • Intercalated degree or MSc in relevant subject area • Research experience • Demonstration of knowledge of the clinical academic career pathway	Application Form and interview
EDUCATIONAL & PERSONAL ASPECTS	• Demonstration of understanding and commitment to academic career	• Demonstration of educational reasons for applying for this Academic Clinical Fellowship Programme	Application Form and Interview

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	WHEN EVALUATED
		• Demonstration of personal reasons for applying for this Academic Clinical Fellowship Programme	
PERSONAL SKILLS & COMMUNICATION SKILLS	• Capacity to communicate effectively & sensitively with others verbally & in writing at all times and to adapt language as appropriate to the situation. • Capacity to listen & engage others in open/equal dialogue and shows ability to build rapport, persuade & negotiate. • Ability to work in a team, managing people	• Evidence of team working skills • Evidence of leadership potential	Application Form and selection centre
PROBITY	Professional Integrity: • Capacity to take responsibility for own actions and demonstrate a non-judgemental approach towards others • Displays honesty, integrity, awareness of confidentiality & ethical issues Satisfactory enhanced checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) in England and Wales, Disclosure Scotland (PVG) in Scotland or Access NI in Northern Ireland		Application Form / selection centre / references

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	WHEN EVALUATED
LANGUAGE SKILLS	• All applicants to have demonstrable skills in written and spoken English adequate to enable effective communication about dental topics with patients and colleagues demonstrated by one of the following: • that applicants have undertaken undergraduate dental training in English; or • have achieved the following scores in the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS) in a single sitting within 24 months at time of application – Overall 7.5, Speaking 7, Listening 7, Reading 7, Writing 7. • If applicants believe they have adequate communication skills but do not fit into one of these examples they must provide supporting evidence		Application Form and selection centre
HEALTH	• Satisfactory Health Check and immunisation status • Physically and mentally fit and capable of conducting operative procedures over several hours which demand close attention		Application Form Pre-employment health screening
FITNESS TO PRACTISE	• Up to date and fit to practise safely.		Application Form and selection centre