

Job description for NIHR

Academic Clinical Fellow in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology

**based in NHS England Workforce, Training & Education, South West
and University of Bristol Dental School**

Summary

This job description should be read in conjunction with NIHR's Dental Integrated Academic Training Academic Clinical Fellowship Recruitment Information Pack 2027 (available at: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/predoctoral/acf>)

This NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) post in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology is based at Bristol Dental School, University of Bristol. The post will be split 75% clinical development and 25% academic per year for up to 3 years. Clinical training will be based at Bristol Dental Hospital (NHS Bristol Foundation Trust) and/or one of the other regional teaching hospitals for the duration of the 3 year post.

The primary purpose of the academic component of the ACF is to provide opportunities for a dentist to gain experience in an academic environment and may be focused on research and/or teaching, depending on the candidate's interests. The intended outcome of the ACF post is successful attainment of fellowship funding to undertake a PhD. Candidates are encouraged to apply even if they have relatively limited experience of academia as this post is designed to develop academic experience.

Where teaching is the focus, there will be opportunities to develop educational practices and skills, including working towards nationally recognised teaching qualifications and develop pedagogical research. Where research is the primary focus, training short courses will be made available within the University and research projects tailored to the candidate's interest will be completed with close academic supervision. The post holder will be supported to prepare an application for a Training Fellowship leading to a PhD or a higher level teaching qualification.

The post is at the level of ST1 and will support the postholder's clinical and academic development. Clinical rotations will be organised in Bristol Dental Hospital and/or in the community and/or other hospitals and Trusts in the region for the full 3 years of the post. Placements will be dependent upon an assessment of their previous experience and future training needs and will be planned to ensure that the appointee gains the widest possible experience.

TITLE OF POST	NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) in Dental & Maxillofacial Radiology
GRADE	Specialty Trainee
SPECIALTY	Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology
AREA	NHS England WT&E South West
FULL/PART TIME	Full Time/Part Time
SALARY	Current rates of pay appear on NHS employer's website Salary protection is available to the level of the top point on the StR pay scale.
ANNUAL LEAVE	6 Weeks (Pro Rata)
TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTOR	Dr Mandy Williams
DIRECTORS OF DENTAL CLINICAL ACADEMIC TRAINING	Professor Barry Main; Dr Tom Dudding; Dr Mark Gormley
LEAD TRAINERS	Dr Freya Smith Jack Dr Simon Haworth
BASE	Bristol Dental School and NHS Bristol Foundation Trust
EDUCATIONAL APPROVAL	The training programme has educational approval confirmed by the regional Postgraduate Dental Dean. This post has a National Training Number (NTN)

This NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) post will be based primarily at NHS Bristol Foundation Trust and the University of Bristol Dental School. We welcome applications from candidates who wish to undertake academic training alongside clinical training toward achievement of Certificate of Completion of Specialty Training (CCST) in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology.

- The training programme will follow the curriculum recommended by the Specialist Advisory Committee in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology (2024) and is designed to fulfil the requirements of the GDC leading to CCST.
- The post will give a wide experience of services within an NHS organisation.
- The expected outcome of the training programme is the preparation for a successful outcome in the Diploma in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology (DDMFR) examination and the award of a CCST in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology.

- Progress in training will be reviewed at the annual review of competence progression (ARCP) process. Regular appraisal meetings will take place with the Assigned Educational Supervisor.

The ACF post will be for a period of 3 years during which the trainee will gain research experience and prepare a high-quality application for a doctoral fellowship award, gain further experience in grant writing, multidisciplinary research, and preparing manuscripts for publication. There will be opportunities for the trainee to be involved in teaching and teaching-related activities at Bristol Dental School.

The trainee will be expected to join with specialist trainees from other dental specialities to cover areas of the curriculum which overlap such as critical appraisal or other key subjects.

Main duties and responsibilities

The academic component of the post will be based in Bristol Dental School, 1 Trinity Quay, University of Bristol. As an ACF, 25% of the post holder's time will be protected for academic training.

The duration of a NIHR ACF funding will be for 3 years. During this time, the postholder combines clinical and academic development and will be expected to contribute to the School's research activities while preparing an application for a doctoral fellowship (e.g., NIHR Doctoral Award/ MRC Clinical Research Training Fellowship/ Wellcome Trust Clinical Academic Training Programme for Health Professionals).

Less Than Full Time (LTFT) working ACFs can be extended up to a maximum of 5 years, with a stipulation that the academic component remains at 25% of Full Time Equivalent.

The post will support the postholder's clinical training. Clinical placements will be negotiated to complement / supplement the postholder's existing experience and development needs.

Description of research component of programme:

The research component will be spread across the 3 years of the programme. The postholder will develop a research interest and will be expected to develop an application for a doctoral fellowship with the aim of becoming a future research leader in this area. The research training programme will be dependent upon the individual's experience and qualifications and will be tailored to their individual needs and research interests.

ACFs develop further research skills either by undertaking a variety of courses tailored to their needs as well as training within the group they identify. These are available, for example, through School of Clinical Academic Training and through the Bristol Medical School Short Course programme. ACFs will have individual academic supervision on a regular basis and are part of a supportive peer group. Bristol Dental School is internationally recognised for its research and has an excellent track record in developing academic dental surgeons. For more information see <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/dental/>

Bristol Dental School hosts two world-leading cohort studies; *The Cleft Collective* is a large birth cohort study involving children born with cleft lip and/or palate and their parents, *Head and*

Neck 5000 is one of the largest cohorts of patients with Head and Neck Cancer. Both cohort studies are at > 10 year's follow-up and are sources of rich data sets, including biobanked tissue and genetic data. The School hosts a Clinical Trials Unit, undertaking a large number of studies each year evaluating dental products and increasingly exploring behaviour change in relation to oral health. Our laboratory groups include applied microbiology (particular expertise in biofilms and antimicrobial resistance) and biomaterials engineering. Our research leads bring methodological expertise in epidemiology (including genetic epidemiology), health services research, applied microbiology, materials science, applied statistics, and we have a growing interest in pedagogic research. There will be opportunities for the successful candidate to undertake mini projects within the School's research themes before focussing on an area of particular interest with the aim of developing a competitive doctoral fellowship funding application.

Locations

The ACF will have a main base at Bristol Dental School and the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, University of Bristol for their academic work and training.

They may also work at one or more locations across South West England and at partner organisation locations. There will be the occasional requirement to attend meetings outside of core office hours to work with stakeholders and professional groups that represent clinicians. Regular travel is expected in the region and less frequently outside of it to attend regional and national meetings or other speciality society or professional groups linked to project work. Possession of a current driving license is therefore highly desirable. Mileages will be calculated from the designated main base for reimbursement of traveling expenses.

ACFs are able to develop interests in the main research themes of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, in line with the Faculty and School research strategies. The programme has a high national and international profile via a range of centres, collaborations and units within the University covering genetic and life-course epidemiology, public health and health services, primary health care, methodological sciences and medical ethics. Translational Health Sciences delivers pioneering treatments for patients and ground-breaking discoveries in basic science across a wide range of clinical fields. We have an excellent track record in developing clinical academics in dentistry.

Bristol Dental School is well placed to support academic clinical fellows. We already have a cadre of NIHR trainees who have prospered from this route. Moreover, in the most recent Research Excellence Framework, 80% of the School's research was rated world-leading or internationally excellent. The School has evolved a strong interdisciplinary research culture with productive interfacing of clinical dentistry and basic scientific research, funded by Research Councils, Charities, Overseas Government, Department of Health/NIHR and Industry. Research is managed under three multidisciplinary and collaborative themes: Population Health and Health Services Research, Clinical Research, and Discovery and Early Translational Research. Further detail on these research themes can be found on our website: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/dental/research/>

We link directly to the other Schools in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. Within the Medical School, main areas of research include public health, epidemiology, health services research, cardiovascular disease, neuroscience and infection and immunity. Key externally funded programmes of collaborative research include the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit; the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents & Children (ALSPAC); the NIHR Health Protection Unit; NIHR Schools of Public Health and Primary Care Research; and NIHR Biomedical Research Centre.

The University's Elizabeth Blackwell Institute for Health Research, together with Bristol Health Partners, is a catalyst for cross-Faculty and inter-organisational translational health research, creating an excellent environment for conducting research that can be rapidly tested and applied in clinical settings.

The academic component will comprise 25% of the ACFL's time. This time will be organised around clinical and academic training needs of the individual and may, for example, be longitudinal or in designated blocks of time dedicated to research.

Training programme

The post will provide a wide range of clinical experience within our region. The training programme will commence with a period of induction and orientation in the host NHS organisations. The clinical training will be based primarily at Bristol Dental Hospital but the trainee should expect to rotate to other units in the region including Bath, Taunton, Exeter and Plymouth to meet training needs.

Training programme director

Dr Mandy Williams

Academic Supervisors

TBC depending on the appointee's research interests and experience

NHS Clinical Supervisors

Dr Freya Smith Jack and Dr Simon Haworth

JOB DESCRIPTION

Main duties and responsibilities

The appointee will undertake a comprehensive training in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology in a busy regional Dental Hospital and Head and neck centre. The resident will develop competencies in multiple modalities including head and neck ultrasound, plain film reporting, computed tomography, and magnetic resonance imaging. The resident will benefit from teaching from a wide variety of consultants in clinical radiology and dental & maxillofacial radiology and be embedded alongside residents in clinical radiology for core teaching in ST1. At Bristol Dental Hospital, there is a community of specialty training residents in the full range of dental specialties with opportunities for shared learning and attachment to appropriate clinics. The Dental Hospital is also home to a regional maxillofacial unit covering the range of the specialty including cleft lip and palate, head and neck cancer, orthognathic surgery, and maxillofacial trauma. There is close multidisciplinary working with colleagues in ENT and clinical oncology.

Timetable

Example Rotation

Note: this is indicative and will be iterative to allow the trainee to meet clinical and academic milestones over the four-year period of the post

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Dental radiology reporting	Clinical/ MDT	Dental / Head and Neck reporting	Research/ Clinical (alternate weeks)	Research
MDT prep/ reporting	Ultrasound	Dental reporting	SPA/Admin	Research

1. The award will commence between April 2027 and March 31st2028, assuming the candidate is benchmarked as appointable to a speciality training post in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology at national recruitment. The actual start date will be agreed locally to align with beginning of clinical radiology training.
2. The terms of appointment are as for NHS Speciality Trainee grade.
3. The salary will be on the Specialty Trainee salary depending on employment record and experience of the person appointed.
4. The trainee holds his/her appointment with NHS Bristol Foundation Trust and for day-to-day duties he/she will be responsible to the appropriate Clinical Supervisor and ultimately to the Training Programme Director.
5. During their training the trainee may be expected to supervise undergraduates and to teach both undergraduates and postgraduate students as part of their training.
6. The trainee will be expected to carry out clinical audit/ quality improvement and encouraged to participate in research.
7. Progress in training will be regularly assessed and reviewed at appraisal meetings with the Assigned Educational Supervisor. Regular informal meetings with Consultants will take place in addition to more formal meetings with all trainers, including the Training Programme Director. Annual reports will be made to the annual review of competence progression (ARCP) panel organised by HEE South West and progression at each stage of training is dependent on a satisfactory outcome at this review.

Formal training provided within the training programme will be counted as part of the study leave. Funding for study leave will be in accordance with current HEE guidelines and funding.

Further information

All appointments will be made subject to satisfactory occupational health and employment checks

Enquires should be made to:

Professor Barry Main
Head of School, Bristol Dental School
b.g.main@bristol.ac.uk

Dr Simon Haworth
Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant in Dental and Maxillofacial Radiology
Simon.haworth@bristol.ac.uk