

NHS ENGLAND THAMES VALLEY
Academic Clinical Fellowship in Internal Medicine Training
ST1 or ST2
Research Area: Digital

Please note there is only one post available either in Intensive Care Medicine (this post) or Clinical Radiology (ST1 or ST2). Shortlisted Candidates for these specialties will be interviewed by one panel and the best candidate appointed. Applicants to this post can come from IMT, core anaesthesia or ACCS.

The area of research that the ACF is expected to work in is Digital. This is a condition of the post set by NIHR.

Background

Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) posts are awarded by the NIHR to University/NHS Trust/Deanery partnerships through a national competition. These 3 year posts form part of the NIHR Integrated Training Pathway, further details of which can be found on the NIHR website <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/IAT>.

NHS England (NHSE) Thames Valley, in partnership with the University of Oxford, has established an Academic School, the Oxford University Clinical Academic Graduate School (OUCAGS) (<https://www.oucags.ox.ac.uk/>). All academic trainees become a member of the School and through it have access to a wide range of clinical academic training and funding opportunities as well as mentorship. All ACF posts are allocated an NTN (a).

The objectives of the ACF programme are to combine specialist training with research training and to identify an area of academic and clinical interest in which a doctoral fellowship application or postdoctoral funding application (if a doctorate is already held) is prepared. ACFs who are unsuccessful in securing doctoral or postdoctoral funding by the end of their ACF will return to clinical training in accordance with the 2027 NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowships (Medical) Guidance for Recruitment and Appointment.

Please note: unless candidates hold already an NTN in IMT, they will need to complete and submit not only an academic application form, but also a separate standard clinical application form needed for clinical benchmarking and entry at the required level. Candidates who have benchmarked previously but do not hold an NTN, must make sure that their benchmarking outcome is still in date. Offers made are conditional upon benchmarking successfully at the required clinical standard. Full details can be found in the 2027 NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowships (Medical) Guidance for Recruitment and Appointment.

About NHSE Thames Valley

We are the local NHSE office for Thames Valley covering Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. Our vision is to ensure the delivery of effective workforce planning and excellent education and training to develop a highly capable, flexible and motivated workforce that delivers improvements in health for the population of Thames Valley. NHSE Thames Valley is responsible for the training of around 2000 Foundation and Specialty trainees.

NHSE Thames Valley is a relatively small organisation with a defined geographical area which serves as a single unit of application. In the majority of cases successful candidates will be asked to preference their choice of location for either one or two years. Some programmes will require successful candidates to indicate a location and specialty. Future placements will usually be based on individual training and educational needs. **Please note that applications are to the NHSE Thames Valley as a whole. This may mean that you may be allocated to any geographic location within NHSE Thames Valley depending on training needs.**

2027 ENTRY at IMT1 or IMT2 (ST1 or ST2)

Outline of the ACF post

Group 2 medical specialties are those that will not be dual accrediting in internal medicine and so only have two years of IMT training to achieve during the 3 year ACF. Typically, starting at IMT1, the structure has been:

- In year one, there is no specific allocated research time but ACFs are supported to identify their Academic Supervisor to ensure the seamless transition into research training in year two.
- Year two comprises a long research block with 3 months of outpatient clinics in the specialty of appointment. The focus is developing a specialist research area leading to an application for a doctoral training fellowship or continuing to develop post-doctoral research if a PhD is already held.
- Year three is the equivalent of IMT2 with no specific allocated research time but with applications for doctoral fellowships underway.
- The position of the long research block is negotiable upon discussion and can be taken after IMT1 & 2 are complete.

Training objectives

The main objectives of the ACF programme will be to:

1. Work within a successful and supportive research environment to undertake research projects allowing the post-holder to develop an understanding of research methodology and generic research skills.
2. Publish research results and present them at a national or international conference as appropriate.
3. Enable a competitive application for a doctoral fellowship or clinical academic post.
4. Acquire appropriate clinical training and learning to enable progression from ST1 to completion of specialist training in ICM and the award of a certificate of completion of specialist training (CCT).
5. All ACFs are supported to undertake a [Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research](#) or three individual modules selected from the [Evidence-based Health Care Programme](#)

and/or [Translational Health Sciences Programme](#) and/or [Experimental and Translational Therapeutics Programme](#). ACFs are also expected to play an active part in the OUCAGS Forum by presenting their work

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Description of the research component of programme

The area of research that the ACF is expected to work in is Digital. This is a condition of the post set by NIHR and their description of this area is:

“The theme is looking to encourage training and research around the development and delivery of digital health and care interventions, digital research methodology and ‘big data’ analysis. Research could include the use of Artificial Intelligence and machine-learning approaches and emerging digital technologies such as non-contact sensors, smartphones, and computer tablets. This theme could also include research in data analytics and predictive analytics, precision medicine (genomics), and virtual & augmented reality. This theme is focused on delivering equitable, cost-effective digital health interventions to deliver patient benefits as well as the wider use of large data sets and how this is used in research, including digital analysis methods.”

The Critical Care Research Group, part of the Kadoorie Institute for Trauma, Emergency and Critical Care, is led by [Professor Peter Watkinson](#), and provides outstanding academic training opportunities in Critical Care. Our ACF programme is focused on providing a strong base from which to accelerate an academic and clinical career and secure funding for further research training. The group has supported research trainees to obtain doctoral/post-doctoral funding from funders including the NIHR, MRC and Wellcome, as well as supplying local doctoral funding through the Oxford NIHR Biomedical Research Centre. Successful candidates will sit within a diverse team including multidisciplinary clinicians, statisticians, data scientists and engineers. Applicants may be supported by Professor Watkinson, [Dr Jonathan Bedford](#) or [Assoc. Professor McKechnie](#) depending on their field of interest.

ACFs have typically undertaken a combination of systematic reviews, database analyses and initial study work, with publication in high quality journals. The experience and publications gained then underpin future funding applications.

Applicants will be supported to develop an area of interest which fits within the broad range of research undertaken by the research group. Examples of research opportunities are outlined below.

Intensive Care Medicine research opportunities

The Critical Care Research group is focused on the recognition and prevention of critical illness, optimising care whilst in an intensive care unit, and maximising the chances of recovery once critical illness has occurred.

The group is ideally placed to provide training in research linked to the development and delivery of digital health and care interventions, digital research methodology and ‘big data’ analysis. We have expertise (collaborating with The Department of Biomedical Engineering) in investigating and delivering into practice digital health interventions, including both wearable

and non-contact sensor research and the use of computer tablets and smartphones. We have a proven track record in developing and curating large routine health datasets, undertaking data analytics at scale and delivering prediction models, including the use of advanced machine-learning techniques. The group runs national and international multi-centre projects. These include using wearable monitoring to determine atrial fibrillation risk after critical care, investigating risk prediction in pregnancy and following cardiac surgery, platelet transfusion during critical care (with the Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre) and improving in-hospital recovery after an intensive care admission. The group collaborates extensively, providing opportunities for working with other organisations nationally and internationally. Details of projects currently undertaken by the group can be found at <https://www.ndcn.ox.ac.uk/research/critical-care-research-group-kadoorie-centre>.

Academic duties

- The fellow will record knowledge, experience and skills acquired during the post in the training record.
- The fellow will work as part of the research team relevant to their project
- The fellow will arrange regular research meetings with their research supervisor
- The fellow will agree deliverable milestones that will be assessed at each meeting
- The fellow will be expected to prepare research results for publication during the post
- The trainee will be expected to attend courses and conferences relevant to the academic project, as provided within the region, or in special circumstances, outside the region – such courses will be funded by the fellowship programme

Description of the clinical component of IMT programme

Application to the ICM training programme will be via IMT. The standard ICM training programme which follows on from this is a 5-year clinical programme, with entry to the programme at ST3. If the successful applicant enters pre-ST3 they will continue in the appropriate training programme and will run-through into ICM training at ST3 although they may decide to take a period of out-of-programme research to complete a PhD/DPhil if successful in obtaining funding.

These posts are integrated within the IMT programmes at the Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust and possibly other Trusts across the Thames Valley for the clinical component. If the research is taken as one block, Year One and Year Three are spent in clinical training in one of the fixed rotations. These posts have on-call in Year One and Three. There is no on-call in the Year Two research block.

The purpose of the IMT programme is to ensure that the post holders gain a broad range of experience in medicine with the intention that there are no problems in reaching competencies through assessment and portfolio completion. The rotation currently includes posts in acute general medicine, geriatrics, stroke medicine, bone infection, oncology, cardiology, gastroenterology, neurology, nephrology, respiratory, endocrinology, rheumatology, haematology and intensive care. Additional specialties may be available in IMT3.

The ACFs will be expected to play a full role in the structured teaching programme. Each post will have its own specific training programme. In addition, there is a weekly medical grand round followed by teaching to deliver the Royal College of Physicians' curriculum. The hope is

that the ACFs will obtain their MRCP in Year One. All posts are accredited by the RCP and GMC for training.

At the end of the ACF post if clinical competences are met and funding for a doctoral fellowship is not secured, or if the ACF is already post-doctoral, the post-holder will continue in IMT and/or run-through in the clinical specialty of appointment. It is anticipated that candidates entering the ACF post at IMT1 level will have as a minimum completed IMT2 by the end of the 3 year post. Run-through is still guaranteed at the end of IMT3 even though the ACF post may have extended the programme by 1 year (as long as competencies are met).

The Postgraduate Dean has confirmed that this post has the necessary educational and staffing approvals and the post will attract an NTN (a)

Hospitals in which training will take place

IMT clinical training will take place in the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust <https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/about> and in other Thames Valley NHS Trusts.

Trust	Hospitals and Locations
Oxford University Hospitals NHS trust https://www.ouh.nhs.uk/hospitals	John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford
	Horton General Hospital, Banbury
	Churchill Hospital, Oxford
	Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford
Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk/	Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury Wycombe General Hospital
Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust (FHFT) https://www.fhft.nhs.uk/	Wexham Park Hospital, Slough
Royal Berkshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/	Royal Berkshire Hospital Reading
Milton Keynes University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust https://www.mkuh.nhs.uk/	Milton Keynes

Please note: the Trust placement following an academic block may not be the same as the Trust placement immediately prior to the academic block.

Contact Details:

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September 2026