

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Ophthalmology

1. Job title and person specification

Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in Global Ophthalmology for entry in year 3 of ophthalmology training, level 3 for the new Curriculum 24 (equivalent to ST3). Successful candidates will be expected to be able to demonstrate their commitment and potential for a clinical academic career, and alignment of their research interests with research strengths at the International Centre for Eye Health, based at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The post is up to 3 years and include both clinical ophthalmology training (75%) and academic research (25%) components. The clinical component is equivalent to the 3 years of full-time clinical run-through training in ophthalmology.

2. Duration of post

The ACF position will be for three years. Thereafter, trainees will continue on the ophthalmology non-academic training programme at a stage commensurate with their training requirements, or transfer to a research fellowship if secured by that stage. Trainees fall under the North Thames Ophthalmology training programme.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

The post-holder will be affiliated with the International Centre for Eye Health (ICEH) which is based at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). As for all ACF positions, the post holder will be employed by the NHS Trust providing training in each part of the programme.

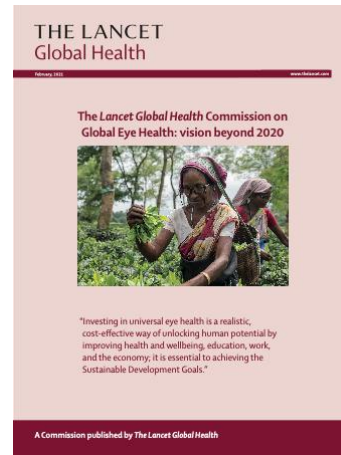
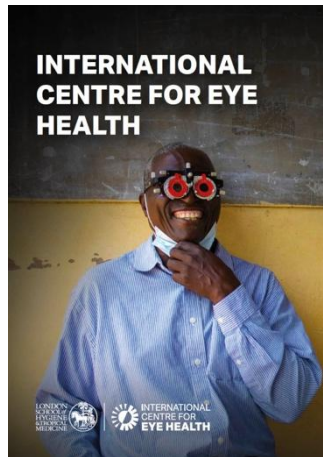
The International Centre for Eye Health (<https://iceh.lshtm.ac.uk>) was originally established in 1980 at the Institute of Ophthalmology / Moorfields Eye Hospital. In 2002, ICEH relocated to the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (<http://www.lshtm.ac.uk>), the leading school for Global Public Health in the UK. We seek to contribute to improving eye health worldwide, with a particular focus on low and middle-income countries. Our work focuses on three areas: Research, Education and Capacity Strengthening.

ICEH has an interdisciplinary research team (photo below) of eye health clinicians (ophthalmologists, optometrists, ophthalmic nurses), public health specialists, epidemiologists, statisticians, AI/data scientists, health economists, evidence synthesis specialists, qualitative researchers, pharmacologist, microbiologist, molecular biologist.



Our research work is done through long-standing research partnerships with colleagues – including many alumni – in institutions in multiple countries. We have a broad and deep portfolio of research work including cross-cutting themes and methodologies alongside condition specific research.

You can access more information from [Our Research](#) pages of the ICEH website and our [2026 Overview Report](#). ICEH recently led the [Lancet Commission on Global Eye Health](#), which provides an analysis of the field.



ICEH is widely viewed as one of the leading centres worldwide for education and training in global eye health / public health for eye care. We run a face-to-face MSc at LSHTM, an annual one-week short course, seven online courses and publish a freely available PubMed listed quarterly journal. ICEH has been instrumental in training many of the leaders in eye health in low- and middle-income countries across the world today.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

The ACF post will provide a 75:25 split between clinical training and research. Block rotations between clinical and research commitments will be arranged on a case-by-case basis by agreement with the Training Programme Director and the Academic Lead, informed by regular reviews and formal assessments. Flexible Training will be available in accordance with HEE/GMC policy.

5. Research component of the programme

ACFs will have access to investigators doing research in the field of ophthalmology all over the world. The post holder will be expected to develop a proposal for a clinical research training fellowship under the supervision or co-supervision of investigators at ICEH/LSHTM. Academic mentorship will be provided by the academic leads for ACFs at ICEH/LSHTM. They will introduce ACFs to potential supervisors and provide advice on planning their research attachments in preparation for fellowship applications. In addition, ACFs will benefit from presubmission feedback on draft applications from a multidisciplinary academic panel, who can provide advice on study design and recommend appropriate advisors for particular aspects of the proposal, e.g. statistical issues or particular laboratory techniques. LSHTM will provide administrative support and access to the NIHR Annual Bursary of £1000 for each year that they are in post for conference fees, workshops and research visits including travel, registration and hotel costs, and to the NIHR MSc Training Fund.

6. Clinical training component of programme

Applicants at ST3 level (level 3 in Curriculum 24), who are already in Ophthalmology training, would have already taken the Assessment and Selection Centres and benchmarked at the time they were recruited to Ophthalmology Specialty Training at ST1 level. They are expected to have achieved an

appropriate clinical level for their level of training. Level 2 by the end of ST2 as well as an Outcome 1 in their latest ARCP. The ACF must continue to achieve their clinical targets at the same rate as a trainee that is full time clinical in order to continue their ACF.

The ACF post provides both clinical training (75%) and research time (25%). Research time will usually be timetabled on a weekly basis, and a typical week would include 6 clinical sessions, 1 teaching session and 3 research sessions.

There is an established postgraduate teaching programme for trainees in the North Thames region. Trusts that trainees are rotated through include Moorfields from training year 3, Royal Free Hospital, The Royal London Hospital, Barts Hospital, Whipps Cross, Western Eye, Queens Hospital, Chelsea and Westminster, University College Hospital London, Hillingdon, Central Middlesex and North Middlesex.

Trainees are required to complete all clinical requirements of their training year to ensure progression. Trainees will be assessed annually at the annual review of competence progression (ARCP). The alternative of block release for full-time research for 25% of the time will be decided on a trainee-by-trainee basis and will depend on the trainee's research and clinical progress.

ACFs will be allocated a clinical and educational supervisor and will be required to join the on-call rota depending on specific arrangements during each clinical attachment. Clinical placements within the North Thames Ophthalmology training programme will depend on the training needs of the trainee.

7. Academic programme leads

Professor Matthew Burton and Dr Winnie Nolan at ICEH/LSHTM

8. Clinical training programme director

To be confirmed

9. Further information

Professor Matthew Burton (matthew.burton@lshtm.ac.uk)

Dr Winnie Nolan (Winnie.Nolan@lshtm.ac.uk)

10. Health Education England (HEE) contacts

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)

Yes