

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Paediatrics <ST1>

Response Mode: (Maternal & Child Health)

1. Job Title.

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Paediatrics

2. Duration of post.

The ACF post is for the equivalent of three years whole time equivalent (WTE), or until transfer to a research fellowship, whichever comes first. Thereafter, trainees will continue with Paediatric training.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

The post-holder will be affiliated with King's College London (KCL) and, as for all ACF positions, will be employed by the NHS Trust providing training in each part of the programme.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

The post starts at ST1 level of Paediatric training

The ACF training time is divided between:

- 25% of the time is in academic training (ie equivalent to 9 months full-time)
- 75% of the time is in clinical paediatric training

Nine months of protected research time is integrated into the 3-year paediatric training programme beginning at ST1. Clinical posts rotate every 6 months. Research time is split as separate three-month and six-month units or aggregated as a single nine-month unit within the clinical rotation, typically in year 2 or 3. Paediatric training comprises 75% of time in this post. The Paediatric ACF will undertake training in the London School of Paediatrics (LSP).

There is flexibility to organise the clinical component to suit the specific training needs of the successful applicant which is coordinated by the clinical academic training programme director. The appointee will have on-call clinical commitments which will vary depending upon the varying shift systems and training/service requirements. The exact division of research time will be guided by the proposed research project however, typically, these posts are divided into a 6-month research block and a 3-month research block which can be taken together or as two separate blocks. Academic training time must be agreed, prior to the commencement of training, with the training programme director as well as the academic supervisor. Academic blocks are undertaken in ST2+

5. Description of research component of programme

The post is within the Response Mode of Maternal and Child Health.

Our IAT programme operates across King's and three NHS Foundation Trust partners - Guy's and St Thomas' (GSTT), King's College Hospital (KCH) and South London and Maudsley (SLaM). This broad spread of NHS provision ensures the capacity to host multiple IATs across a diverse range of specialties. The merger of the Royal Brompton and Harefield (RBH) with GSTT provides further specialist capacity in cardiovascular, respiratory and critical care medicine. Strong integration across the partners is facilitated through [King's Health Partners](#).

[The Department of Women's and Children's Health](#) is one of four Departments in the School of Life Course & Population Sciences in the Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicine at King's College London and co-ordinates academic activity, ensuring close linkage between King's College London (KCL) and the NHS trusts that make up King's Health Partners. The strengths of the Paediatric programme come from a series of unique features:

- The co-location of strong obstetric, fetal, neonatal and children's research with large clinical services and strong academic programmes on a single site, and further substantial and effective clinical and academic programmes within King's Health Partners with a focus on paediatrics as one of the research streams.
- Established research links with other Schools with the Faculty of Life Sciences & Medicine in KCL including the [School of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging Sciences](#), which includes the Department of Early Life Imaging, Cardiovascular Imaging, Digital Twins for Healthcare, Surgical and Interventional Engineering, Biomedical Computing, Innovate UK London Medical Imaging & Artificial Intelligence Centre for Value-Based Healthcare and the London Institute for Healthcare Engineering. Active research areas include the use of AI to improve fetal ultrasound and fetal screening, especially related to congenital heart disease; fetal cardiac MRI(CMR), interventional cardiac MRI and image sequence development in CMR.
- Specific and unique research facilities, including the Evelina Children's Imaging Centre, the XMR facility, access to low field strength scanners and a photon counting CT. The site also hosts the [NIHR Cardiovascular and Respiratory Healthtech Research Centre](#) with a specific theme dedicated to paediatric heart disease.
- World-leading child mental health researchers in the Maudsley Hospital and the KCL Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN Biomedical Research Centre).
- Strong collaborative links to adult specialities that lead their fields, particularly in paediatrics and imaging sciences.

King's strength lies in our multidisciplinary approach exemplified by the Department of Women & Children's Health, where more than 100 experts in obstetrics, gynaecology, biomedical imaging and neonatology address a range of maternal and paediatric disorders.

In addition to paediatrics, the Department has an extensive internationally renowned program of translational research in women's and children's health which includes:

- Child Health Integrated Learning and Delivery System (CHILDS)
- Maternal and Fetal Disease
- Obesity, Gestational Diabetes and Fetal Growth
- Preterm and Term Birth
- Paediatric subspecialty research: Paediatric allergy, Paediatric Respiratory, Paediatric hepatology/gastroenterology and nutrition, Paediatric nephrology, Paediatric neurology
- Global Maternal Health

There is a dedicated training programme at KCL for ACFs and ACLs and all trainees attend this programme which covers all aspects of clinical research training. This includes: introduction to medical/biostatistics, literature searching; critical appraisal skills; systematic reviews; meta-analysis; regulatory framework of clinical research – GCP/ethics; introduction to research methodology and study design, including approaches

to qualitative and quantitative research; developing and setting aims and hypotheses; practical research skills including recruitment, interviewing and data handling; basic epidemiology; clinical trials; quantitative methods; qualitative methods and mixed methods; development and evaluation of complex interventions. The bespoke PGCert develops trainees' depth of knowledge, technical and transferable skills in translational research and evidence-based healthcare. 96 trainees have been awarded the certificate to date within the wider KCL IAT programme, with 95% achieving distinction (>70%) in the two years to 2022.

It is expected that by the end of the 3 years the trainee will have been successful in obtaining a competitive clinical research fellowship that allows them to obtain a PhD in their subspecialty paediatric area of choice. At the end of the ACF and clinical research fellowship we expect the trainee to move on to a Lectureship position to continue their clinical and academic training.

The IAT programme is supported by a dedicated [King's Clinical Academic Training Office \(KCATO\)](#). The KCATO offers advice, best practice and information on academic careers, recruitment, training and development for all health professionals across all stages of research training as well as support for grant applications and funding. Trainees benefit from the wider offering of support, networking opportunities with doctoral and postdoctoral peers, and experience brought by the extended clinical academic management team.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The Paediatric ACF will undertake training in the London School of Paediatrics (LSP). ACFs will undertake the same clinical programme as other Paediatric trainees. Progression is competency-based, which means that ACFs are expected to incorporate the academic blocks without falling behind their non-ACF peers in clinical progression. The paediatric curriculum (Progress + <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/education-careers/training-assessment/progressplus>) developed by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) consists of 11 curriculum domains, such as procedures, communication, leadership and team working. There is a learning outcome for each domain, with learning objectives defined for the core and specialty stages of paediatric training. These define the standard the trainee must meet to progress satisfactorily. It captures the skills, knowledge and behaviours required, including the General Medical Council's (GMC) Generic Professional Capabilities for all doctors in training. The standards of assessment at each level of training are all mapped to [Good Medical Practice](#). The [RCPCH Trainee toolkit](#) is written for trainees by trainees and covers the essential elements on what to expect from a training post. Less than fulltime training guidance can be found [here](#).

The purpose of the assessment system is to reassure the individual, the profession and the public as well as employers and regulatory bodies that a trainee is fit to practice. Workplace based assessments (also known as supervised learning events) will be used at regular intervals throughout training. Attainment of the MRCPCH theory exam will be mandatory for progression beyond ST3, with attainment of full MRCPCH (passing the clinical exam) by the end of ST4. Individual trainee e-portfolios and trainer reports must also be provided. RCPCH requires all new specialty registrars (StRs) to register as junior members of the RCPCH in order to access the new GMC approved Assessment System for Paediatric Training, which is mandatory for progression through training, and to be able to use the e-portfolio.

There are 30 training sites in London, divided into 3 sectors – NW, NE and Central, South. For LSHTM ACFs their Level 1 training will be based in the South London sector. More information in training in London can be found on the [LSP website](#):

Please note – these posts offer only general paediatric training and do not guarantee progression into specialty training.

ACF applicants need to either hold a National Training Number in paediatrics, or if they do not currently hold an NTN to successfully complete benchmarking.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Kuberan Pushparajah: Kuberan.pushparajah@kcl.ac.uk

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Academic TPD – Professor Chris Gale: christopher.gale@imperial.ac.uk

Academic TPD – Professor Cally Tann: c.tann@nhs.net

Subspecialty TPD – Dr Kunal Babla: kunal.babla1@nhs.net

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

Kuberan Pushparajah: Kuberan.pushparajah@kcl.ac.uk

Ajanta Kamal: Ajanta.Kamal@nhs.net

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 [IAT Guide | NIHR](#)

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

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

Yes

This job description was prepared on 17-September-2026