

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Paediatrics (ST1 to ST4)

This is an exciting new opportunity for trainees who interested in exploring a career that combines research and clinical practice in paediatrics and child health.

1. **Job title:** NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Paediatrics

Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in Paediatrics at ST1-4 level. 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 LSHTM.

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 the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine 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**

Most trainees take either a single 9-month academic block or two blocks of 6 and 3 month across their ACF. This protected research time should be used to acquire skills and generate data to support a Research Training Fellowship or equivalent application. Plans must be agreed, prior to the commencement of training, with the clinical Training Programme Director as well as the Academic Supervisor. 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. 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 London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is a world-class post-graduate medical school. During the Fellow academic blocks, the applicant will be receive a tailored research training programme. Academic mentorship will be provided by the Academic Lead and Educational Supervisor (ES) for ACFs in Paediatrics who will help the ACF to develop their own research focus with an aim of working towards developing an application for Training Fellowships. Support from the Lead and ES includes help in identifying appropriate training courses, introductions to potential supervisors, and advice on planning their research attachments in preparation for fellowship applications. They will also facilitate access to the NIHR Annual Bursary of £1,000 each year they are in post for conference fees, workshops and

research visits including travel, registration and hotel costs.

LSHTM provides a national and international focus for collaboration in teaching and research where clinical, population, laboratory and social sciences are integrated to address the broad issues of health. The strength of these disciplines, combined in a single institution and tightly linked by a common mission, creates a unique multidisciplinary environment for teaching, training and research. Research programmes are multidisciplinary and range from basic laboratory studies to applied public health research and from disease specific to those that deal with environmental or behavioural risk factors. Few schools of public health can match the School's research quality, productivity and breadth, and none has its international credentials. The 'cutting edge' and international quality of the School's research contributes significantly to the quality and range of its teaching and training. The post holder will be expected to develop a proposal for a doctoral (or post-doctoral) research training fellowship in public health under the supervision of academic staff at LSHTM. (<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research>). At LSHTM, they will have access to a diverse range of world class investigators across the three Faculties : Infectious and Tropical Disease (ITD), Public Health and Policy (PHP), Epidemiology and Population Health (EPH), the two MRC Units in The Gambia and in Uganda (<https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/faculties>).

ITD offers an interface between laboratory science, clinical medicine and population health, as well as close links with colleagues and collaborators in more than 100 countries. EPH is home to the largest grouping of epidemiologists in Europe with research expertise ranging from clinical trials, statistical analysis genetic epidemiology, and large-scale observational studies through to the design and evaluation of clinical and public health interventions in low, middle and high-income countries. It hosts the NIHR HPRU in Immunisations which does crucial public health research directly informing decisions by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). PHP is renowned for its influential research in diverse areas concerned with public and global health including understanding the policy-making process in health and using this understanding to improve the quality of public decision-making; evaluating ways of improving health system performance; in countries across the world; improving the quality, organisation and management of health services; using economic and epidemiological analysis to guide disease prevention and treatment and pioneering ways of using routine data to evaluate and improve service quality.

Across LSHTM, the post-holder will benefit from strong international links with academic centres of excellence in Europe, Asia, Africa, South and North America, and with national and international policymakers, international agencies (such as WHO and the World Bank) and national governments. LSHTM also has strong academic links with the NHS and Public Health teams in London and across England.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

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 NE and Central sector. More information in training in London can be found on the [LSP website](#). 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.

Please note – these posts offer only general paediatric training and do not guarantee progression into specialty training. This is particularly relevant for those wishing to train in areas such as Paediatric Cardiology or Genetics – candidates still have to compete for these places, because the ACF offers academic rather than clinical training in these specialties.

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7. Academic Programme Director name

Professor Amaya Bustinduy, ([Amaya.Bustinduy @lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:Amaya.Bustinduy@lshtm.ac.uk))

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Professor Chris Gale, Academic TPD (Christopher.gale@lshtm.ac.uk)

Professor Cally Tann, Academic TPD (Cally.Tann@lshtm.ac.uk)

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

Specialty Team <https://lasepgmdsupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>

Recruitment Enquiries - <https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>

10. NHSE contact:

Specialty Team <https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>

Recruitment Enquiries - <https://lasepgmdesupport.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)

This job description was prepared on August 20, 2026