NHS
Health Education England

ACF Anaesthetics (ST1, 2 or 4) OR Palliative Medicine (ST1, 2 or 4) OR Respiratory Medicine (ST1,2, 3 or 4) Programme Details in conjunction with Lancaster University

Post availability

There is one post available **for Anaesthetics (ST1, 2, 3 or 4) OR Palliative Medicine (ST1,2 or 4) OR Respiratory Medicine (ST1, 2, 3 or 4) with the theme 'Multiple Long Term Conditions'.**

Overview

You can find generic information about Academic Clinical Fellowships in the North West plus links to the National Institute for Health Research's guidance via https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance

The Faculty of Health and Medicine at Lancaster University has an established Academic Clinical Fellow programme see https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/icat/.

Further details of the programme as described by recent trainees see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAp-fosN4Yc.

A strength of the programme is Academic Clinical Fellows are offered a fully-funded place on the Lancaster Medical School Clinical Research MSc https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/clinical-research-msc/. The MSc offers an introduction to clinical research and applied methodological skills and enables ACFs to develop the skills and knowledge to translate research into practice.

Academic Training

A key strength of the IAT programme at Lancaster is that all ACFs are offered a fully-funded place on the Masters in Clinical Research programme MSc in Clinical Research.This provides the core of the research training programme for ACF and is undertaken by ACFs on a part-time basis for three years. The programme provides an introduction to clinical research and applied methodological skills. Modules can also be taken from a wide range of Masters level modules from across the Faculty, including "blended learning" modules aimed at PhD students and also modules from our new MSc on Health Data Science Health Data Science MSc | Lancaster University.

Lancaster Medical School offers doctoral training through our MD and PhD programmes. From the start trainees are invited to consider fellowship applications and to use their academic time to develop these applications. The Faculty has considerable expertise in supporting academic clinical trainees to successfully apply for fellowship schemes such as the NIHR's Doctoral Research Fellowship and hosts the North West region's co-ordinating office for the NIHR's Research Design Service.

In addition to obtaining formal research qualifications, all clinical academic trainees are supervised by experienced researchers and can attend additional Lancaster University or external courses with specific relevance to their research.

Research theme Multiple Long Term Conditions

Anaesthesia is the largest hospital-based specialty in the NHS and provide care to around two thirds of hospital patients. Recent national data (the seventh National Audit Project of the Royal College of Anaesthetists) shows that the prevalence of old age, obesity, and comorbidity among patients receiving anaesthesia care are increasing over time. Recent innovations connected to the field of anaesthesia include the promotion of peri-operative medicine and prehabilitation, which aim to address some of the risks posed by multimorbidity around the time of an operation through improving the management of chronic health conditions and promoting physical fitness amongst patients. The proposed project will be on the perioperative care of our ageing and increasingly complex patients with multiple long term conditions. They will benefit from mentorship from both clinical and academic colleagues with interests aligned to their own, and they will become part of an interdisciplinary research community with experience of leading NIHR-funded research in this area (e.g., NIHR134282, NIHR135217, NIHR160995 and DRF-2015-08-208).
Another proposed research area is for people with multiple long term conditions requiring palliative care. Professor Preston and Walshe from the IOELC provide UK leadership for multiple EU FP7/H2020 grants in palliative care including collaborations with 15 partners over six countries. These include the ACTION trial of advanced care planning, the MyPal trials of patient reported outcome (PRO) systems and EURO IMPACT educational and research training network aimed at monitoring and improving palliative care in Europe. These collaborations produce rich data sets, across many countries and a previous ACF has undertaken a secondary analysis of patient, family carer and health care professional interviews. The proposed project would be a secondary data analysis (quantitative and qualitative) with patients and family carers of patients with cancer and another long-term condition. Data would come from a recently funded Horizon EU study, Pal Cycles (5M Euro) regarding how to improve continuity of care for patients with cancer and reduce emergency admissions.

Research Areas / Research Environment

A major strength of Lancaster University is its thriving ecosystem of interdisciplinary research. This collaborative approach is fostered by our mixture of formal and informal structures - including Institutes and University Research Centres - bringing together experts from different disciplines to address regional, national and global challenges.

FHM is a thriving, integrated, multi-disciplinary academic community of laboratory-based scientists and applied health and care researchers who deliver world- leading work focused on making a real difference to individuals and communities. The REF 2021, confirmed Lancaster as a world-leading research-intensive university, with 91% of our research independently rated as 'internationally excellent' or 'world leading', including 46% rated in the highest category of 4*. Ninety nine percent of Lancaster's overall research environment is rated world-leading or internationally excellent. This includes areas such as research support, training and facilities. Lancaster is 21st overall out of 157 institutions ranked by Times Higher Education. This places Lancaster above eight Russell Group universities for research quality.

In REF2021 the Faculty of Health and Medicine (FHM) received the top score of 100% for a "world leading" research environment; 91% of research outputs were "world leading" or "internationally excellent" and was 12th (/91) for research power. FHM offers an ideal academic environment for training clinical academics. Our submission to REF2021 has grown to 103 (92.51 FTE) colleagues as a result of sustained investment since REF2014 when we submitted 70 (64.6 FTE) staff and a 98% increase in research awards from £20 M to £39.6 M during the REF21 period. Our research is organised in five cross-cutting themes, which represent FHM's research excellence and areas of societal need, that span departmental boundaries and disciplines, and represent critical mass of research excellence at Faculty leve1:

- Ageing (including End of Life Care, Neurodegeneration and Cancer)
- Mental Health • Health Information, Computation and Statistics
- Infectious Disease Transmission and Biology
- Social and Economic Inequality in Public Health

We use a flexible approach to develop a bespoke supervisory arrangement for the appointees, dependent on their parent specialty and research project. Trainees are supervised by a clinical academic working in the medical school and a "theme or centre based" or methodology expert academic, but on a project that is broadly of their choosing. The team of supervisors have extensive experience of postgraduate research supervision of clinicians and non-clinicians including PhD supervision to completion of thesis.

Research Facilities

Lancaster University is consistently in the top 15 of the three main domestic league tables (11th The Complete University Guide 2023; 12th The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 and14th The Guardian University Guide 2023). It is the highest ranked institution in the North West of England. It is one of a small number of institutions awarded Gold in the 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). In the Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF), Lancaster was found to be joint fourth of 122 higher education institutions in England when measured across all areas, and overall best in the North West (5).

The IAT programme is hosted within the Health innovation Campus which was completed in April 2020 (total investment £41M).

A strength of the programme is it is small enough to allow for bespoke training, mentorship and support for the trainee but they are hosted within centres or institutes, often across faculties allowing for experience of world leading truly multi and interdisciplinary research.

Clinical Training

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes in the North West via the following link - Hospital and Community Care: Specialty Schools | NHS England – North West, Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education.

Clinical person specifications can be found via the following link - https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications.

Useful Links

https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/icat/
https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/postgraduate-courses/clinical-research-msc/
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAp-fosN4Yc.
https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance
https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/Specialty_Schools

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