

Job Description
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Primary Care and Community
Care:
General Practice
University of Bristol

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

General Practice: ST1, ST2, ST3

Please note that there is also potential for an additional Locally Funded ACF post in General Practice to be awarded as part of this advert.

2. Duration of post:

3.

Depends on year of entry: 4 years (FTE) if entering at ST1.

Candidates working Less Than Full Time (LTFT) (or who would like to do so) should notify the relevant Local Office/Deanery at point of offer of your intention to work LTFT, and this will be considered against the national eligibility criteria.

4. Hospitals in which training will take place:

This training post is based in NHSE South West (Severn Deanery). Rotations have not been confirmed at this stage but will be based within the BNSSG footprint. Should you wish to explore this in more detail, please get in touch with the Training Programme Director.

5. Research institutions in which training will take place:

University of Bristol - <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/>

The academic component of the training post will be based at the Centre for Academic Primary Care (CAPC) [Centre for Academic Primary Care | Centre for Academic Primary Care | University of Bristol](#) in Bristol Medical School, part of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences.

6. Timetabling of clinical and research time:

The post is split: 75% clinical 25% research. In ST3 and ST4 this will be delivered 50/50 in a flexible way in accordance with pre-agreed arrangements between the clinical and academic supervisors, either as protected blocks of academic time or as a certain number of days per week in each setting.

7. Description of research component of programme

The research component of this ACF post has a broad theme of acute and same-day community care, community alternatives to hospital admission, and multi-disciplinary primary care workforce research. However, trainees will be supported and encouraged to explore their own areas of interest, either within this topic area or otherwise, where possible in line with the themes of the 'three shifts' of the NHS 10-year plan.

Depending upon stage of entry, this is a 2,3, or 4 year integrated clinical academic programme. If entering ST1, the first 2 years comprise 12 months in hospital posts and 12 -months in a combination of GP and community-based posts or relevant hospital specialties. Throughout this time, trainees have an academic supervisor from CAPC (see below) as well as their clinical and educational supervisors. Although there are no formal timetabled academic sessions in this phase, trainees are encouraged and supported to attend relevant academic meetings, courses and conferences during the first 2 years as clinical commitments permit. Trainees are encouraged to start thinking about their own research ideas early on in the programme, and meeting with academics and methodologists in CAPC.

The research component mainly takes place in ST3 and ST4 when trainees spend half their time in CAPC; the time is split flexibly 50/50 between CAPC and the training practice. Their academic and educational supervisors will ensure that they have realistic goals and the means to achieve them, especially the completion of assessments required to obtain MRCGP. CAPC is part of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research, has a very high national and international profile in academic primary care and an excellent track record in developing academic GPs. ACFs develop research skills through a mixture of formal training opportunities, involvement with projects and activities in CAPC, and through cross-disciplinary collaboration and networking across the Clinical Academic Training School. ACFs will be able (and are encouraged) to attend the highly regarded research methodology short courses run by the Bristol Medical School [Short courses | Bristol Medical School | University of Bristol](#), and attend the variety of seminars and Centre meetings that take place throughout the academic year. Trainees will also have the opportunity to acquire wider skills in research governance, research ethics, academic writing and communication, public involvement in research, commercial research, knowledge mobilisation and policy.

Early on the ACF will have an opportunity to meet with a range of senior academic staff and research groups to understand the breadth of research topics and methods across CAPC and the wider Medical School and Faculty. CAPC leads major funded programmes of work on infection, mental health, domestic violence, urgent care, skin disease, multimorbidity, diagnosis, and sexual health, offering ACFs a wide range of exposure to contemporary topics of broad applicability to many aspects of primary and community care. The theming of this post is broadly acute community care and workforce, offering opportunities to join active research work (and develop individual interests in) topics such as alternatives to hospital admission, same-day and out-of-hours primary care, community palliative and end-of-life care, acute care of children and young people, point-of-care testing, digital/AI and workforce research. Undertaking a project that will result in publications is strongly encouraged. There is also the opportunity to develop connections with other co-supervisors and explore work in other areas of the Centre's expertise. There is also the opportunity to focus more on education and pedagogic research related to primary care, with ample opportunities to engage with the teaching and education activities in CAPC, and study towards formal education qualifications.

The ultimate aim of the programme is to prepare a higher degree (i.e. PhD) application. CAPC's previous ACFs have an excellent track record of going on to secure funding for bridging (pre-doctoral) and in-practice fellowships after CCT, obtaining funded PhDs, and progressing to more senior academic positions both locally and nationally. All trainees will benefit from a supportive network of peers at various stages of their Clinical Academic Training, mentorship opportunities and leadership development, as they contribute to the research that forms the evidence base for the discipline.

8. Description of clinical training component of programme

Depending upon stage of entry, this is a 2,3, or 4 year integrated clinical academic programme. If entering at ST1, the first 2 years comprise 12 months in hospital posts and 12 months in a combination of GP and community based posts or relevant hospital specialties. Throughout this

time, trainees have an academic supervisor from CAPC (see below) as well as their clinical and educational supervisors. The clinical training is part of the high-quality NHSE South West (Severn) GP training scheme based in BNSSG practices chosen for their active involvement and interest in research and education. Each of the final two years (ST3 and ST4) are based 50% in clinical general practice and 50% in the CAPC. Regular clinical teaching occurs throughout the programme, both within the rotational hospital/community posts and as part of the 'day release' Vocational Training Programme (VTS) which is delivered centrally. The Bristol programme is one of the most competitive within the NHSE/Severn School for Primary Care. ACF trainees complete the requirements for the MRCGP at appropriate times alongside their colleagues on the main GPST programme.

**9. Academic Supervisor / Academic Programme Director:
Integrated Academic Training Lead(s):**

- Professor Shelley Potter (shelley.potter@bristol.ac.uk)
- Dr Helen Winter (helen.winter@uhbw.nhs.uk)

Academic Lead:

- Primary Care: Associate Professor Matthew Booker and Professor Debbie Sharp (Matthew.Booker@Bristol.ac.uk and debbie.sharp@bristol.ac.uk)

10. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- General Practice:
 - Dr Daniela Hall (Daniela.Hall3@nhs.net)

11. Deanery contact for further information:

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610

Recruitment Inbox: England.acrecruitment.sw@nhs.net

12. Useful websites for further information:

NIHR Integrated Academic Training Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/IAT>

BMA Junior Doctor Pay Scales (link to latest pay Circular): <https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/pay/junior-doctors-pay-scales/pay-scales-for-junior-doctors-in-england>

University Clinical Academic Training website: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/>

This job description was prepared September 2026