

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

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

General Practice ST1, ST2, ST3

2. Duration of post:

2-4 years

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

3. Hospitals in which training will take place:

This training post is based in Peninsula region. Rotations have not been confirmed at this stage. Should you wish to explore this in more detail, please get in touch with the Training Programme Director.

General Practice; posts will be a mix of hospital and primary care

4. Research institutions in which training will take place:

University of Plymouth - <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/faculties/health/pupsmd-research/clinical-academic-training>

5. Timetabling of clinical and research time:

75% clinical 25% research in a flexible way during the working week or months in accordance with pre-agreed arrangements between the clinical and academic supervisors.

6. Description of research component of programme

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) is hosted within the University of Plymouth (UoP), a world-leading centre for cross-disciplinary research across the life-course. The fellowship provides training and mentorship in general practice and research.

The fellowship will align with research programmes within the Community and Primary Care Research Centre (CPCRC) (formally Group):

[Community and Primary Care Research Group \(CPCRG\) - University of Plymouth](#)

Subject areas include mental health, public health, social prescribing, dementia, long term conditions as well as organisation of primary and community of care and reducing inequalities.

Methods span literature review, large-scale data analysis, clinical trials, qualitative research including ethnographic approaches, realist methods, implementation research, and service evaluation to improve care and reduce inequalities.

Research opportunities for the ACF include:

- Focused literature reviews and systematic evidence syntheses
- Analyses of national and local datasets

- Development and validation of assessment tools
- Investigations into health inequalities and service provision
- Engagement in ongoing and novel clinical trials and implementation studies

The ACF will work with the clinical academic and methodological supervisors to co-design a research project, with a view to achieving high-quality peer-reviewed publications and developing a competitive external doctoral fellowship application. Trainees will be encouraged to establish research collaborations across UoP and partner organisations including the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU), NIHR Mental Health Research Group and ARC South west (NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South west).

Research Environment

The University of Plymouth offers a vibrant interdisciplinary research environment. The ACF will join a thriving academic community, including postdoctoral researchers, PhD students, and MSc cohorts within the university. Fellows will benefit from dedicated academic meetings and seminars, fostering peer learning and interdisciplinary exchange.

Training and Development

The fellowship provides structured modules in:

- Epidemiology and biostatistics
- Clinical trials methodology
- Informatics and data science
- Research governance and ethics
- Grant writing and scientific communication

Through this supportive environment, the ACF will gain the skills and mentorship necessary to develop towards an independent clinical academic, contributing to research that informs policy, advances clinical practice, and improves outcomes for people with mental illness or intellectual disability.

7. Description of clinical training component of programme

For details regarding the clinical training programme, please visit the peninsula school webpage ([here](#)). Contact details are available for each of the schools. If you would like information, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

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

- Dr Victoria Haunton (victoria.haunton@plymouth.ac.uk)

Academic Lead:

- General practice: Prof Richard Byng (richard.byng@plymouth.ac.uk)

9. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- General practice:
 - Associate Dean (Plymouth): Dr David Hopes (d.hopes@nhs.net)

10. Deanery contact for further information:

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610

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

11. 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.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/faculties/health/pupsmd-research/clinical-academic-training>

This job description was prepared on September 2026