



**University of
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**The University
of Nottingham**
Medical School

ACF Job Description – General Practice

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NHS England
in partnership with the
University of Nottingham

Academic Clinical Fellow x3 in General Practice
For appointment at ST1, ST2 or ST3

Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice

These posts are designed for Resident Doctors (trainees) in General Practice who have ambitions to work in academic General Practice. The successful applicants will be awarded an Academic National Training Number (NTN/A) in General Practice.

There are three General Practice ACF posts on offer, in competition as follows:

1. General Practice OR Public Health Medicine OR Gastroenterology, in the research theme of Prevention and Public Health
2. General Practice OR Paediatrics OR Respiratory Medicine, in the research theme of Primary Care and Community Care
3. General Practice only, with no set research theme

All posts are for appointment at ST1, ST2 or ST3. Successful applicants at ST1 will be offered a four-year post. They must already hold an NTN/DRN in the specialty or apply via national recruitment to General Practice training for Clinical Benchmarking. Applicants at ST2 and ST3 must already hold an NTN/DRN in the specialty as there is no opportunity to apply via national recruitment for Clinical Benchmarking at these levels. Applicants at ST2 will be offered a three-year post and applicants at ST3 will be offered a two-year post. All ACFs will have 12 months protected academic time, regardless of post duration.

The training programme has been designed to provide quality academic training for entrants who can demonstrate that they have outstanding potential for development as a clinical academic. Academic and Clinical Training in General Practice will be integrated, with focused time for academic development. Training will be available, for example in research methods, study design, data collection, use of statistics, computer skills, presentation and writing papers. This post is designed to have academic training seamlessly dovetailed with clinical training to the award of a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in General Practice, subject to satisfactorily meeting clinical requirements for ARCP. The academic component will comprise 12 months of the total post length. During the academic component, you will undertake academic training and original research in an area of your research interest.

Further details regarding the General Practice training programme can be found at NHS East Midlands: https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/page.php?area_id=1

Academic Primary Care at the University of Nottingham

Successful applicants will be based in the Centre for Academic Primary Care (CAPC). The CAPC is part of the Academic Unit of Lifespan and Population Health, in the School of

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Medicine at the University of Nottingham and is located in the purpose-built, open-plan Academic Health Research Building.

CAPC provides a thriving research environment and was ranked first for impact nationally in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF) assessment, with all Impact Case Studies being allocated the highest possible ranking. Research outputs were also rated highly in the REF 2021 assessment with 42% classed as being of the highest possible, 'world-leading' (4*) quality and 54% being of 'national' (3*) standard.

We have substantial expertise in methodologies covering the whole spectrum of health services research from qualitative interviews through to clinical trials and epidemiological research using large primary care databases. Primary Care at the University of Nottingham has a prominent national and international profile for research into topics such as smoking cessation (particularly in pregnancy), applied genetics, accident prevention, patient safety (particularly in relation to prescribing) and clinical epidemiology. Senior Centre academics are enthusiastic about developing junior colleagues' research skills within a thriving Academic Training Programme and collaborate with NHS England GP Directorate to deliver academic training attachments for ST2 GP Registrars and Academic Foundation Programme doctors. This is all in addition to our long-established, highly successful, in-house training programme for clinical lecturers. Our Primary Care academics, therefore, have substantial experience of mentoring and supervising junior colleagues who are embarking on clinical research careers.

We have a long-established group of Clinical Academic GP educators working as part of the Primary Care Education Unit (PCEU), who provide leadership, quality assurance and education provision for all undergraduates undertaking their GP education at Nottingham University. The PCEU also conduct medical education research in collaborating with colleagues in the wider medical school. A current focus is on developing, evaluating and implementing augmented reality and other technologies for developing clinical competencies.

The Centre for Academic Primary Care has strong national and international collaborations and is a member of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) which includes leading English University primary care research groupings which produce the most impactful and highly rated research nationally. Locally, our SPCR research grouping includes experts in primary care Dermatology and Rehabilitation Medicine, including research undertaken in elderly people's care homes. NIHR SPCR membership provides training and networking opportunities including short-term, post-CCT 'bridging' fellowships which enable newly qualified GP-researchers to gain further research experience, increasing their chances of securing NIHR PhD studentship funding. Networking meetings include the annual SPCR trainee conference and regional Society for Academic Primary Care meeting.

In addition to its strong research focus the senior academic staff of General Practice supervise PhD students from medical and science backgrounds, train Clinical Lecturers and Academic Clinical Fellows and mentor academic trainees at all levels. The Academic Unit also supervises undergraduate research as part of the BMedSci degree and undertakes highly rated undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in General Practice.

ACF in General Practice

Research opportunities in Primary Care

ACFs select a research project which interests them, and for which there is strong CAPC expertise to ensure first-class research supervision. Projects can be tailored to ACFs' learning needs to ensure maximal personal and professional development during the ACF programme. We do not pre-specify projects. Instead, soon after being appointed, ACFs meet experienced CAPC supervisors to discuss potential projects and they select one which is

most appropriate to their needs. The key aim of an ACF post is to provide postholders with the skills to successfully secure PhD Fellowship funding. Supervisors are strongly orientated towards finding optimal pathways to PhD funding for different ACFs. Supervisors working in these areas have strong supervisory skills:

- smoking cessation and tobacco control
- smoking in pregnancy
- mental health
- prevention of violence and aggression
- accident prevention
- applied genetics/stratified medicine
- safe and effective use of medicines
- ethnicity, disadvantage and health
- clinical epidemiology
- rehabilitation medicine
- dermatology
- applied qualitative research
- medical education

Recent ACF research projects include secondary analyses of major smoking cessation trials' data and investigation of Lichen Sclerosis, a rare vulval dermatological condition.

For further details of **some** current research see:

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/research/research-areas/primary-care/index.aspx>

Please note that the website is currently under review and may not detail all available opportunities. Before interview, applicants are encouraged to discuss their areas of research interest with the Academic Programme Director Professor Tim Coleman
tim.coleman@nottingham.ac.uk

Teaching and Core Academic Skills

The Academic Clinical Fellow, like other specialty Resident Doctors, may participate in the teaching of undergraduate medical students and may contribute to learning in other ways (e.g. journal club and postgraduate programme).

Training in core academic competencies will also be provided by access to Masters Courses at the University, particularly Nottingham's N-Trans and MRes Courses. There are also regular multidisciplinary research meetings where research methodology and work in progress are discussed, and a full postgraduate education programme.

ACF in the Clinical Training Programme

The clinical training programme in Primary Care

To provide a seamless academic and clinical training experience our aim is for clinical work to be provided by the Nottingham GP Training Scheme; if there are strong reasons another VTS scheme from the North Health Education England GP Academy could be used in preference. All academic supervisors are adept at cross-disciplinary collaboration and ACFs will be supported in making links with researchers both within and outside of Nottingham, as appropriate.

Applicants are invited to commence at ST1, 2 or 3 level.

GP training usually lasts for four years and the ACF post provides one additional year of academic time which is usually allocated as a 50:50 academic / clinical split in Years 3 & 4. In Years 1 & 2 there is usually no formally dedicated academic time though study leave is

available and ACFs use this to prepare for academic time in Years 3 & 4 efficiently. Through negotiation with clinical and academic programme directors, it is possible to change the timetabling of academic training time, but this can only be done with strong justification and if the alternative proposal better meets the ACF's training and learning needs.

Academic training will be appropriate to the research undertaken by the ACF and will vary with the subject of research chosen. This will be closely integrated with clinical training which will be provided a local GP Training Scheme and overseen by Health Education England.

At the end of the ACF post, we aim for Academic Clinical Fellows to be able to successfully apply for PhD training.

Further details regarding the General Practice training programme can be found at NHS East Midlands: https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/page.php?area_id=1

Mentorship, Appraisal and Assessment

In addition to their research supervisor, the successful candidate will have an academic mentor who will be a senior clinical academic and who will provide support for all aspects of the Academic Clinical Fellowship. In addition, as for all clinical Resident Doctors, educational support for clinical training will be provided by an Educational Supervisor who will provide guidance and support in attaining clinical competencies and in the development of a personal e-portfolio. For each clinical attachment, the Resident Doctor will be allocated a Clinical Supervisor to assist them in attaining their clinical competencies. This will be complimented by the well-established Clinical Training Day Programme.

Completion of clinical training will be contingent on satisfactory appraisal of clinical competencies. Academic Clinical Fellows will undertake regular appraisals and an annual joint academic and clinical and assessment (Joint Clinical Academic ARCP) and competency-based assessments.

Personal Specifications

Applicants for this post should fit the both the academic person specification and the clinical person specification for the level of training. Both the academic and clinical person specifications can be found at <https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications>

Successful applicants will have **all** of the essential criteria listed in the person specification. Where different essential criteria in academic and clinical person specifications exist, successful applicants will have demonstrated the higher criteria.

Further information can be obtained from:

Academic Programme Director for General Practice	Professor Tim Coleman	tim.coleman@nottingham.ac.uk
Clinical Academic Training Programme Team	Harriet Delahoy & Katie Harrison	ms-iatadmin@nottingham.ac.uk
NHS England	Ms Marcia Reid	https://nhs-help.freshdesk.com/support/home

Enquiries should be addressed to Professor Tim Coleman tim.coleman@nottingham.ac.uk

The University's Clinical Academic Training Programme Deputy Director Professor David Humes is also available to provide advice, see website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/catp

Useful links

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

Life in Nottingham: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/nottinghamlife/index.aspx>

About the University of Nottingham and School of Medicine:
<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/documents/school-of-medicine-further-information.pdf>



Appendix 1:

Life in Nottingham

Central within the East Midlands, Nottingham is a vibrant and prosperous city with something to offer everyone. It is one of the UK's leading retail centres and has a huge variety of restaurants, bars and nightclubs, which attract people from all over the UK. Culturally, it has good theatres, an arena which attracts both national and international performers and a range of historical interests relating to subjects such as the lace industry, Lord Byron and DH Lawrence. Nottingham is also known for sport, being the home of Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham Forest and Notts County Football Clubs, the National Water Sports Centre and the Nottingham Tennis Centre. There is a good network of roads with easy access to the M1 and the A1, a fast frequent rail service to London and other major cities. Nottingham East Midlands Airport is only eighteen miles away.

The city is set within a county of outstanding natural beauty, which includes Sherwood Forest, Wollaton Park, lively market towns and wonderful historic buildings. Housing is relatively inexpensive and, in addition to the two Universities, there are excellent schools and colleges available.

To find out more about Nottingham, use the following links:

Nottingham County Council – Tourism

<https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/>

University of Nottingham

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk>

Zoopla (Guide to local properties)

<http://www.zoopla.co.uk/>

My Nottingham (information on schools, term dates, school transport etc.)

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/education-and-schools/school-admissions/>

Academic Clinical Fellowships at the University of Nottingham



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