



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Academic Clinical Fellowship

In

Medical Virology

or

**Medical Virology and Infectious
Diseases**

(ST3)

Two posts

Entry: One post by March 2027, One August 2027

Job title	Academic Clinical Fellow in Medical Virology OR Academic Clinical Fellow in Medical Virology and Infectious Diseases
Post(s)	1. ACF-2026-36-003 – Response Mode – Medical Virology OR Infectious Diseases OR General Surgery. <i>This post must be filled by 31 March 2027.</i> 2. ACF-2027-36-003 – Response Mode – Medical Virology OR Infectious Diseases OR General Surgery NIHR posts allocated via NHS Blood and Transplant

These posts will attract an Academic National Training Number – NTN(a)

Duration and Outcome

The successful applicants will be medical graduates who wish to pursue a career that combines excellence in academic and clinical virology. Applications are particularly welcome from candidates with an interest in infectious diseases. These posts will be appointed at ST3 level and are funded for three years. The principal aim of the ACF scheme is to allow academically gifted clinical trainees the opportunity for 25% protected research training and during that time to formulate and submit an application for an externally funded Research Training Fellowship (RTF) (e.g. Medical Research Council, Wellcome Trust, National Institute for Health and Care Research, British Heart Foundation). If candidates are unsuccessful in obtaining funding for an RTF/PhD, they can transfer into non-ACF ST3+ posts and pursue full-time clinical sub-specialty training. It is anticipated that all successful ACFs completing RTFs would be in a strong position to compete for Clinical Lecturer posts following award of their higher research degree, as per the Integrated Academic Training programme.

NHS Organisation(s) in which training will take place

Cambridge Clinical Microbiology and Public Health Laboratory, and the Department of Infectious Diseases in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with possible rotation to regional hospitals.

Research Institution(s) in which training will take place

University of Cambridge (Division of Virology, Department of Pathology, or another relevant department or institute).

Day release or block release for protected research time?

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will be available for research on a block basis (e.g. 3-9 months durations) comprising 25% WTE over three years. This will be subject to negotiation.

Description of the Research Component

The objective is to provide a training environment to acquire knowledge, experience and skills needed to conduct research under supervision in the field of virology, and for the post holders to develop academic skills to apply for funding to undertake a higher degree or further research. ACFs will be expected to complete a portfolio of research and project work. It is also expected that, when sufficient research data are generated, appointees will present at scientific meetings and contribute to the preparation of scientific papers for publication in high quality peer-reviewed journals.

The Division of Virology is staffed by twelve principal investigators (clinical and non-clinical) with laboratory staff comprising some 15 postdoctoral scientists, 20 postgraduate students and 10 technical/support staff. Details of the Division's research activities can be found at <https://www.path.cam.ac.uk/research/virology>. The Division has extensive collaborations with virologists in the Department of Medicine (<https://www.med.cam.ac.uk/principal-investigators/immunology-and-infectious-diseases-imid-pis>), the Cambridge Institute for Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Diseases (<https://www.citiid.cam.ac.uk/principal-investigators>), the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research (CIMR; <https://www.cimr.cam.ac.uk/sd-classification/principal-investigator>) the Cambridge Veterinary School (<https://www.vet.cam.ac.uk/directory/faculty>), and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute (<https://www.sanger.ac.uk/>); these may provide alternative academic rotation opportunities for an ACF whose research interests align with a supervisor based in one of these departments/institutes. Potential applicants are encouraged to discuss possible research opportunities with the Academic Training Leads (details at end of advertisement).

This post has been established with funding from NHS Blood and Transplant, and ACFs will be expected to pursue research interests relevant to the broad area of the virology of transplantation and/or transfusion. To facilitate this, depending on previous experience of the appointees and in the initial phase, there is an opportunity to rotate through research disciplines and groups that would include exposure to laboratory theory and methods, and statistical analysis.

Description of the Clinical Training Component

The objective of the training is for the trainees to meet all requirements and standards across the training curriculum incorporating Combined Infection Training published by the Royal College of

Pathologists and/or Royal College of Physicians which was implemented in August 2015 and updated in 2021 (<https://www.rcpath.org/static/a3937196-21c4-48bd-bbdb876912c769fd/a5deae2-9254-4a7d-9842e350c668856f/Medical-Virology-2021-curriculum.pdf>).

If a candidate is dual training in Medical Virology and Infectious Diseases, they will also be expected to follow the infectious diseases curriculum. More information on the Combined Infection Programme can be found at <https://heeoee.hee.nhs.uk/pathology/pathology-specialties/medical-microbiology-virology/training-programme-medical>. The major component will be training by apprenticeship under consultant supervision. The proportion of time spent on clinical training, including infection control, will comply with the requirements of the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal Colleges of Physicians.

Range of Clinical duties

The post holders will participate in routine work of the department in clinical liaison, laboratory diagnosis and infection control. This includes authorisation of laboratory reports, dealing with telephone enquiries from clinicians and participating in ward rounds. Appointees will liaise closely with clinical colleagues concerning the diagnosis and management of patients, and infection control. These duties include liaison with specialist and non-specialist units at Addenbrooke's and other hospitals, and with GPs. A consultant will supervise all these duties. Where appropriate, bench training in all sections of the laboratory will be provided. The Department has a comprehensive collection of Standard Operating Procedures for laboratory operations, and all laboratory procedures undertaken within the Department. A separate SOP provides guidance on authorisation of reports by medical staff.

Teaching

Teaching responsibilities include tuition within the courses for which the Cambridge Clinical Microbiology and Public Health Laboratory is responsible including to undergraduate medical students. All teaching staff are strongly encouraged to attend the excellent courses in teaching skills offered within the Trust. The post holder may also be involved in the instruction of health service personnel, including postgraduate doctors in training, nurses, allied health professionals, and laboratory staff.

Additional duties

These will involve cover for the absence of colleagues on annual and study leave. Locums are not normally engaged. All Specialty Registrars are expected in the normal run of duties to cover for the occasional brief absence of colleagues. In addition, they will be expected to perform duties in occasional emergencies and unforeseen circumstances without additional remuneration, at the request of the director of the laboratory and/or appropriate consultant in consultation, where practicable, with colleagues, both senior and junior. Commitments arising under these provisions

are, however, exceptional, and practitioners will not normally be required to undertake work of this kind for prolonged periods or on a regular basis except where it enhances a trainee's career development.

Other main training components

Clinical Audit - There is an active clinical audit programme within the department and the Pathology Directorate. Trainees are expected to lead audit projects through the “audit cycle” under consultant supervision. The Trust Clinical Audit Department provides advice and support in all aspects of Clinical Audit.

Management - Relevant experience will be gained, under supervision, in planning departmental policies and developing the leadership qualities to implement them. Tutorials will be provided by senior laboratory staff on specific topics. Attendance at appropriate management meetings and training courses is encouraged. Trainees participate, on a rotational basis, in the following administrative duties: chair of the ST training committee, membership of laboratory technical committees, and organising the intra-departmental lecture series. They should consider undertaking acting-up consultant duties in the later stages of training.

Data management – training is provided through hands-on exposure, for example to audit projects, evaluation of information from the population served by the Department and from technical procedures applied in the laboratory.

Research and teaching – There are active clinical-oriented R&D activities in the department that trainees are encouraged to participate or collaborate on. All StR trainees participate in teaching medical students in their clinical years (tutorials).

Health & Safety

The Clinical Microbiology and Public Health Laboratory has a containment level 3 laboratory, and on-site discard laboratory autoclaves. It is mandatory for trainees to participate in Health & Safety training. This will start at induction but will also include specific H&S training sessions and tutorials with senior laboratory staff. All trainees are required to comply with Trust, UKHSA and departmental Health & Safety policies and procedures.

Courses, Attachment or Rotation

StRs are encouraged to attend relevant courses of post-graduate training. There will be structured CIT rotation to Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases in accordance with the current training curriculum recommendations and regional / local training management plan.

Training via attachment can be provided in Viral Hepatitis clinics, Department of Genitourinary Medicine, Health Protection Teams or the Clinical Virology Laboratory in Norwich.

Other training support

Trainees are provided with office space, shared desks, and shelf space. Appropriate bench space and facilities will be provided to undertake approved laboratory projects and training. Appropriate secretarial support will be provided. The Addenbrooke's Postgraduate Medical Centre and the University Clinical School Library are situated on-site at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Study leave will be granted in accordance with Schedule 10, paragraphs 36-43 of the Terms and Conditions of Service for NHS Doctors and Dentists in Training.

Assessment and Appraisal

Individual assessment and appraisal for all StRs are provided to enhance professional development. These include formal work-based assessment, trainee-supervisor three monthly progress review and annual appraisal. These, together with academic appraisal, will inform the Educational or Academic Supervisor's Report for the Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP) carried out by the HEEoE.

Further Information and Contacts

Clinical Academic Training Office (CATO) at the University of Cambridge

CATO Director	Professor Alasdair Coles Email: ajc1020@medschl.cam.ac.uk
ACF Programme Director	Dr Virginia Newcombe Email: vfjn2@cam.ac.uk
Academic Training Lead (Virology)	Dr Jordan Skittrall Email: jps55@cam.ac.uk
Academic Training Lead (Infectious Diseases)	Professor Michael Weekes Email: mpw1001@cam.ac.uk
NHSBT academic representative	Dr Nicholas Matheson Email: njm25@cam.ac.uk
Other Contacts	
Virology Training Programme Director	Dr Chris Smith Email: christopher.smith98@nhs.net
NHS England East of England	2-4 Victoria House, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge, CB21 5XB Email: england.recruitment.eoe@nhs.net
NIHR	http://www.nihr.ac.uk/IAT