

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery (Prevention and Public Health), ST3

1. Job Title.

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery

2. Duration of post.

Up to 3 years.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

Host organisations: University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust and Brighton and Sussex Medical School.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

75% specialist clinical training and 25% protected academic training, in keeping with the NIHR ACF model

Primary clinical base: Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton, with rotations across UHSussex according to training and academic requirements.

5. Description of research component of programme

We are seeking an enthusiastic and academically motivated trainee who can demonstrate potential for a career combining high-quality Trauma & Orthopaedic practice with clinically meaningful research.

- A clear interest in academic Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery and healthcare-associated infection.
- Evidence of engagement with research, audit or quality improvement appropriate to career stage.
- Ability to work collaboratively across NHS and university environments.
- Curiosity, critical thinking and the ability to develop answerable clinical research questions.
- Commitment to dissemination through presentation and peer-reviewed publication.
- Potential to progress towards an externally funded doctoral research fellowship.

Applicants must meet the relevant NIHR ACF and national specialty recruitment eligibility criteria for the advertised entry level, including applicable GMC registration, clinical competency and academic eligibility requirements.

Trauma & Orthopaedics, UHSussex

The UHSussex Trauma & Orthopaedics service provides broad subspecialty exposure across a large regional clinical caseload. Current departmental strengths include complex shoulder and elbow surgery, hip fracture care, paediatric orthopaedics, pelvic and acetabular surgery, complex trauma and limb reconstruction.

The department has an established academic programme, including peer-reviewed publication, national and international presentation, undergraduate teaching and clinical academic supervision. Honorary academic appointments include Professor Benedict Rogers (hip & knee) and Professor Joideep Phadnis (shoulder & elbow).

Brighton and Sussex Medical School / infection research

The fellow will have access to the Centre for Infection and Antimicrobial Research (CINAMR) within Brighton and Sussex Medical School, providing methodological and scientific expertise relevant to infection prevention, antimicrobial resistance, epidemiology and translational research.

- Translate clinically important questions into feasible research projects.
- Develop skills in study design, critical appraisal, data analysis, scientific writing and presentation.
- Build collaborative projects across clinical, academic and multidisciplinary teams.
- Develop a coherent body of work suitable for progression to a doctoral fellowship application.

The fellow will develop a supervised programme of clinically relevant research addressing healthcare-associated infection in trauma and orthopaedic surgery. The precise project portfolio will be agreed with the academic supervisors and refined according to the fellow's interests, prior experience, feasibility and available datasets/infrastructure.

- Epidemiology and risk stratification of orthopaedic infection.
- Infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship.
- Clinical outcomes and pathways for patients with musculoskeletal infection.
- Translational or collaborative projects linking clinical practice with infection science.
- Audit, quality improvement and/or prospective clinical research where appropriate.

Academic time will be protected to achieve an overall 25% academic allocation across the fellowship. The exact block/day-release structure will be agreed with the training programme and academic supervisors. The fellow will be encouraged to undertake appropriate research-methods training and to develop a competitive application for doctoral funding (for example, a PhD or equivalent research degree).

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

Clinical training will be delivered within the approved Trauma & Orthopaedic training programme and will be designed to support achievement of the curriculum capabilities required for progression in specialty training.

- Named clinical and educational supervision, with regular review and feedback.
- Appropriate elective and trauma operating, outpatient, inpatient and on-call experience.
- Subspecialty rotations typically of 4–6 months, according to training needs and programme capacity.
- Teaching opportunities involving medical students and postgraduate trainees.
- Participation in audit, quality improvement, governance and multidisciplinary activity.
- Clinical placements may include Royal Sussex County Hospital, Princess Royal Hospital/Sussex Orthopaedic Treatment Centre, Worthing Hospital and St Richard's Hospital, subject to programme requirements.

7. Academic Programme Director

Professor Gordon Ferns – deansoffice@bsms.ac.uk

8. Clinical Programme Directors

Professor Joideep Phadnis – joideep.phadnis@nhs.net

Professor Benedict Rogers – benedict.rogers@nhs.net

Clinical Training Programme Directors (KSS):

Miss Tanaya Sarkhel – tanayasarkhel@nhs.net;

Mr Syed Ahmed – syedahmed3@nhs.net;

Mr Baljinder Dhinsa – baljinder.dhinsa@nhs.net.

9. Programme contact for further information

Jessica Eccles (IAT lead) - J.Eccles@bsms.ac.uk

John Jones (IAT lead) - J.Jones2@bsms.ac.uk

10. NHSE contact:

Specialty Team <https://lasepgmdsupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>

Recruitment Enquiries - <https://lasepgmdsupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>

11. Useful websites for further information

[IAT Guide | NIHR](#)

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

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (A)

This job description was prepared on 12th Aug 2026