

Academic clinical fellowships

These last for three years, or four years if you are working in general practice.

The academic clinical fellowship combines specialty training with academic work. 25% of the time is spent on academic work and 75% on clinical.

The academic work can be arranged via one three-month block each of the three years, or up to two days a week.

The stage at which you start your academic clinical fellowship can vary – for example in [oncology](#) [1] you must have completed your [core medical training](#) [2] before taking up the academic clinical fellowship. In general practice the academic clinical fellowship can be taken up directly after [foundation training](#) [3].

Who can apply?

Depending on the training programme, applications will be invited from doctors who can meet the eligibility requirements for entry into specialty training. Doctors who already hold a relevant PhD may also apply. This will enable preparation of post-doctoral research applications. Find out more about further details on eligibility on the [NIHR](#) [4] website

Where can I find out more about ACF opportunities?

For opportunities in England only, the NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre website publishes a full list of the posts across a range of interests. The website outlines when and where opportunities are expected to accept entrants, together with details of local HEE offices contacts. The actual applications are made on the [online portal Oriel](#). [5]

Opportunities are advertised nationally by the NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre, although applications are managed by individual HEE local offices/deaneries. Applicants should get in touch with the relevant HEE local office/deanery contact for further information on the local application process.

Information for application to ACFs for future posts is published on the [NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre](#) [6] website.

Recruitment to NIHR ACF posts in General Practice is managed by a national recruitment process. Find out more on the [recruitment for GP training](#) [7] website.

What happens after the ACF post?

NIHR ACF posts last for 3 years unless the trainee is successful in obtaining a Fellowship award and leaves the programme early. The only exceptions are NIHR GP ACF posts which can last for 4 years. On completion of a training fellowship, doctors will return to their clinical programme and at an appropriate point can apply to continue their academic development by applying for clinical lecturer posts.

Real-life stories:

- BMJ - [ACF or CT1?](#) [8]
- BMJ - [Applying for academic clinical fellowship posts](#) [9]

GPs can find out more from the [Society for Academic Primary Care](#) [10].

Find out more about the next step after this ie the [NIHR Clinical Lecture Post](#) [11].

Source URL: <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/explore-roles/doctors/career-opportunities-doctors/clinical-academic-medicine/academic-clinical-fellowships>

Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Oncology>

[2] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Core_medical_training

[3] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/glossary#Foundation_training

[4] <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/funding-for-training-and-career-development/training-programmes/integrated-academic-training-programme/integrated-academic-training/academic-clinical-fellowships/>

[5] <https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies>

[6] <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/about/about-the-trainees-coordinating-centre.htm>

[7] <https://gprecruitment.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Academic>

[8] <http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20001322>

[9] <http://careers.bmj.com/careers/advice/view-article.html?id=20018322>

[10] <https://sapc.ac.uk/>

[11] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/i-am/working-health/clinical-academic-careers/clinical-academic-medicine>