

# Clinical academic and research careers

Find out why a clinical academic or clinical research career might suit you and the types of clinical research programmes available.

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There are opportunities in a variety of roles including nursing and in different settings.

Clinical research provides evidence to inform clinical decisions, which is vital for ensuring the best possible care for patients.

## Why should I consider a clinical academic career?

- funded training to gain recognised qualifications, such as a Master's degree or a PhD, is available from NHS, charitable and private organisations
- it can be an academically stimulating career choice, including the opportunity to present at conferences and write articles for academic journals
- you can make a real difference to patient care
- there are opportunities in a variety of roles including nursing and in different settings, including clinical positions with patients, as well as working in a research laboratory

## Types of clinical research programmes

- internships
- Master's in clinical research
- clinical doctoral research fellowships
- clinical lectureships
- senior clinical lectureships

See the [NHS England's Workforce, Training and Education website](#) <sup>[3]</sup> for information about its work on clinical academic careers and resources to support you on your journey.

## When can I start?

This is usually an option for those with some clinical experience. However, in some cases it is possible to start an academic research career directly after registration. A first step could be an internship, designed to help you prepare for working in a research environment, or a Master's degree.

Find out more about clinical academic careers across all healthcare professions on the Clinical Academic Training and Careers Hub (CATCH) [website](#) [4] and see our information below about the HEE/NIHR [Integrated Clinical Academic \(ICA\) Programme](#) [5].

You can find out more about research generally on the [National Institute for Health and Care Research website](#) [6].

## • Further information

The **Clinical Academic Training and Careers Hub (CATCH)** has a [website](#) [4] which showcases and promotes options, as well providing practical advice on starting a career in clinical academia.

The **Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA)** programme is funded by HEE and managed by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). It provides a range of opportunities to undertake fully-funded clinical research, research training and professional development whilst maintaining clinical practice and salary.

It is formed of five elements, plus a mentorship scheme:

- internships
- Master's studentships in clinical research
- clinical doctoral research fellowships
- clinical lectureships
- senior clinical lectureships.

For more information on the awards and resources to support you as a clinical academic, please see the [NIHR](#) [7] website.

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### Links

[1] <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/privacy-and-cookies/#CookieDeclarationChangeConsentChange> [2] <https://www.youtube.com/NHSCareers> [3] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/clinical-academic-careers> [4] <https://www.catch.ac.uk/> [5] <https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/clinical-academic-careers/integrated-clinical-academic-ica-programme> [6] <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/> [7] <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/hee-nihr-integrated-clinical-academic-programme.htm>