Clinical academic careers

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

Funded training is available.

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 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 lecturerships
- senior clinical lecturerships

See the Health Education England (HEE) website [2] 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 Medicine [3]? and see our information below about the HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme [4].

You can find out more about research generally on the National Institute for Health Research website [5].

- The ICA Programme

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The Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) programme is funded by HEE and managed by the National Institute for Health 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 Health Education England [4] and NIHR [6] websites.

Source URL: https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/developing-your-health-career/clinical-academic-careers

Links
[1] https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/about/resources/transcript-clinical-academic-research-film