

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 ^[3] 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.

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

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