

Job Description

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

Plastic Surgery ST3 entry – Theme: Multiple Long Term Conditions

Hull York Medical School, in partnership with NHS England North East and Yorkshire, and the Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in **Plastic Surgery** at **ST3** level. These posts are funded by the National Institute for Health Research and offer candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

We are seeking highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals with the potential to excel in both their clinical and academic training and who have the ambition to be the next generation of academic clinicians.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in Plastic Surgery will be run by Hull York Medical School (HYMS) in conjunction with Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber.

Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) are 3 year fixed-term national training posts. Trainees undertake 75% clinical and 25% academic training over the term of the post. They are employed by the NHS Trust and have an honorary contract with the University at whose Medical School their academic research is supported.

ACF trainees also undertake a Research Training Programme provided by the University. They are eligible for a training bursary of up to £1,000 per year to support research training activity (e.g. to attend academic conferences).

ACF trainees would also normally complete and submit an external funding application for a research fellowship to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD or research MD) following the completion of their ACF fixed-term post, which would be completed as Out-of-Programme-Research (OOPR).

All Academic Clinical Fellowships are run-through posts, regardless of specialty, with the exception of 'Medical Education' ACFs. A trainee entering ACF at ST1 or ST2 in a specialty with a Core Training period would therefore be guaranteed continued training to CCT in the eventual specialty, as long as they progress satisfactorily through both their academic and clinical training. Run-through status is withdrawn if ACFs do not complete the academic component.

POST DETAILS

Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Plastic Surgery

Duration of the Post

Up to 3 years (25% academic, 75% clinical).

Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (see details of rotation below).

Research institution in which training will take place

The successful candidate will be based at the Plastic Surgical Unit at Castle Hill Hospital, Hull. They will be supervised by Paolo Matteucci, Plastic Surgeon, and Josh Totty, NIHR Fellow and Clinical Lecturer in Plastic Surgery, with support from Professor Mat Hardman, Chair in Wound Healing at the University of Hull.

Research Protected Time:

ACFs have protected time to attend and complete either an MSc by research or take relevant modules to extend their training (if they already have an MSc), at Hull York Medical School, if deemed appropriate. The protected research period (25% time) is used to obtain specific experience and knowledge in the research area of interest, obtain pilot data, and apply for an external research fellowship.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

This proposed Plastic Surgery ACF will have the opportunity to undertake clinical and translational research in wound healing and infection, accessing cutting-edge technologies and facilities, based at Hull University Teaching Hospitals and Hull York Medical School/University of Hull. The University of Hull has secured over £30million in funding to establish a Centre for Wound Innovation, bringing together university academics, clinicians, and industry partners to improve our understanding of wound complications and to develop new treatments for wounds that fail to heal. Potential project areas include:

1. Hair cycle modulation to promote healing and reduce infection. We have experimentally demonstrated a causative link between hair cycle and wound repair in vivo and have instigated a successful clinical feasibility study. The ACF could undertake a pilot interventional study in patients to explore hair cycle modulation to promote healing, to underpin a Doctoral-level application for future work.

Other areas of interest include complications following surgery to the lymph nodes, head and neck cancer surgery provision, and deep bone and joint infection.

Please contact Mr Paolo Matteucci (p.matteucci@nhs.net) or Mr Josh Totty (josh.totty@hyms.ac.uk) for further details.

The successful applicant(s) will work with an internationally acclaimed research group, in which they will be trained in the latest state-of-the-art techniques necessary to improve health and wellbeing. This will be combined with the development of individual innovative and novel research programmes that will lead to international conference presentations and peer reviewed publications, channelling excellence in research to provide world-class healthcare for patients.

Full training in research methods and good clinical practice will be provided. Each ACF will have an academic supervisor. If the ACF also registers for a MSc by research, they will have a Thesis Advisory Panel (TAP), which usually comprises the supervisor and two other members of academic staff, one of whom acts as the Chair and is independent from the supervisor. The TAP provides academic support and external review of progress for the student.

On appointment, in conjunction with their supervisor, the ACF will complete a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) and be able to access modules from the HYMS Post Graduate Training Selection list both to help with their research project and with their professional development as a researcher.

We anticipate the successful exit point for ACF trainees will be the award of an externally funded clinical research training fellowship to pursue a PhD or MD; prior to re-joining the academic career path as a Clinical Lecturer.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

Hull has a long tradition of surgical training. The Yorkshire School of Surgery organises (i) Cluster weeks 2-4 p.a where the ACF will be provided with surgical topics from the ISCP, (ii) anatomy days at the medical school (4-5 p.a.) and Clinical Revision weekends (2-4 pa.). There is local access to (i) Basic surgical skills course, (ii) Care of the Critically ill and (iii) ATLS. The clinical training will be based in Hull and will rotate between the other major teaching hospitals. Each post will be of 12 months and all of them have the flexibility to allow the ACF to attend the academic component of the posts.

All rotations are run through the Training Programme Directors. ST1 entrants are based in East Yorkshire, while ST3 entrants are pan-Yorkshire, to gain training and experience in a range of surgical specialities (e.g. Upper GI, Vascular Surgery, and Orthopaedic surgery).

The School of Surgery provides, alongside local educational frameworks, a monthly regional teaching programme which is provided in all three localities of the deanery to allow trainees the flexibility to attend teaching days within the confines of rota service commitment. There are also anatomy revision days in all localities and revision courses for MRCS exams provided by locality.

The curriculum of training is outlined on the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Project (ISCP) website and all trainees are expected to enrol with this portfolio provider. All trainees will have an Assigned Educational Supervisor provided and all jobs are working towards the aspirations of the SMART guidance from the JCST. The ISCP curriculum guides the trainee through what is expected from them at all levels of training. The academic programme will provide training in generic research skills (statistical analysis, methodology, literature searches etc) and will expect candidates to present their work to the department for feedback.

In the second year the candidate will be well established in their research programme with essential data at least and have prepared and successfully applied for research fellowships from NIHR, BHF, MRC, and/or Wellcome. All candidates will undertake an annual review of

competency progression which will oversee both clinical and academic components of these jobs. For additional information please see the following websites:

<http://www.iscp.ac.uk>

<http://www.jcst.org>

http://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/surgery/core_surgical_training/

http://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/surgery/general_surgery/

The syllabus followed for the trainee will be as per the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum for Intermediate Surgical Training.

CONTACTS

Academic Supervisors

Mr Paolo Matteucci
Plastic Surgeon
(p.matteucci@nhs.net)

Mr Joshua Totty
NIHR Fellow/Clinical Lecturer
(josh.totty@hyms.ac.uk)

Clinical Training Programme Director

Mr James Heaney
Plastic and Cosmetic Surgeon
Surgical Training Programme Director
james.haeney@nhs.net

Academic Training Programme Director

Prof Bob Phillips
Hull York Medical School
bob.phillips@york.ac.uk

Further Information

Because of the nature of the work for which you are applying, this post is exempted from the provisions of Section 4 (2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.

Applicants are therefore, not entitled to withhold information about convictions, which for other purposes are “spent” under the provisions of the Act, and in the event of employment any failure to disclose such convictions could result in dismissal or disciplinary action by the University. Any information given will be strictly confidential and will be considered only in relation to an application for positions to which the Order applies.

For further information about the Academic Clinical Fellowship programme, please refer to the NIHR (National Institute for Health Research) [Academic Clinical Fellowship | NIHR](#)

Person Specifications

See [Person Specifications 2026 | Medical Hub \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#)

AND the Academic eligibility criteria listed at:

[National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\) Academic Clinical Fellowship \(ACF\) 2025 | Medical Hub \(hee.nhs.uk\)](#)

How to Apply

For more information about applying to ACF vacancies in NHS England North East and Yorkshire please visit:

http://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/recruitment/our_vacancies/academic_recruitment/

Applications will only be accepted through the Oriel online application system:-

<https://www.oriel.nhs.uk>

Applications open: Thursday 2nd October 2025 at 10.00 am

Applications close: Thursday 30th October 2025 at 4.00 pm

After the application deadline no applications will be accepted. **There will be no exceptions to this deadline.** You are advised to complete and submit your application ahead of the deadline to allow for any unforeseen problems.

Interviews will be held at via MS Teams during the **first two weeks of December 2025**.

Appendix 1: Further particulars – Hull York Medical School

The Hull York Medical School (HYMS) is a collaboration between the Universities of Hull and York and the NHS. HYMS operates from both University campuses and within teaching hospitals and medical practices throughout the Yorkshire and Humber region. HYMS is a relatively young medical school which is developing a growing reputation for its teaching and research.

HYMS has a strong reputation as an undergraduate medical school. Our innovative curriculum includes an enquiry-based approach to learning, early clinical experience, balanced teaching across all health sectors and a wide range of student selected learning opportunities. Our graduates are recognised as being very capable Foundation Doctors, many of whom have stayed locally to help develop health care services in this area.

The quality and impact on health and patient care of research carried out in the Hull York Medical School (HYMS) was recognised by the University of York's ranking as 7th in the country for Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care in the national Research Excellence Framework 2014. HYMS researchers were also part of York's top-10 rated submissions in Biology and Psychology. Across the whole of HYMS, a partnership between the Universities of Hull and York, over 85% of research was assessed as world leading or internationally excellent.

Within the Universities, research development in HYMS has been based on a distributed model, in which academic staff may have a research base in a cognate academic department of the University of Hull and/or York, providing scientific integration, critical mass and technology platforms with which to work. In relation to clinically orientated research there is a Clinical Research Facility (the Daisy Building) in Hull at Castle Hill Hospital and an Experimental Medicine Unit at York Hospital, to facilitate translational research. HYMS also plays a role in establishing and facilitating research networking between NHS partners in the region through topic based regional meetings.

The area covered by the HYMS NHS partnership comprises Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire, York and North Yorkshire, and Northern Lincolnshire, which together have a population of around 1.8 million. 17 NHS organisations make up the HYMS NHS partnership, within which there are over 600 consultants and 900 general practitioners. Encompassing both rural and urban populations, the region contains a variety of environments in which health services are delivered. There are areas of considerable deprivation, not only in urban centres, but also in patches across the rural hinterlands. Heart disease and lung cancer are severe problems in Hull. Measures of overall health in North Lincolnshire are poorer than the country as a whole. However, in most of the region, rates for infant mortality and most disease-specific death are well below national averages, the prevalence of smoking and drug use are low, and the uptake of screening is high in many areas.

East Yorkshire with its homogenous and stable population of 600,000 is an ideal centre for prospective observational and interventional clinical research: the central urban area of Kingston upon Hull has a population of 350,000. The NHS clinical facilities are well developed and virtually comprehensive across the medical and surgical disciplines; only certain transplantation and cardiac neonatal surgical procedures require distant referral. Hence there exists a wealth of clinical material available for approved educational and research purpose.