# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# General Psychiatry ST1-ST4 (1 post) - theme Mental Health

The University of Sheffield, in partnership with Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber and the Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust (SHSC) has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Psychiatryat ST1 - ST4 level. This new post has been created as part of the Health Education England (HEE))/National Institution for Health Research programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

**Please note:-** Applicants looking for an ST2/ST3 Psychiatry ACF post and who are not eligible to apply at ST4 are encouraged to apply to this vacancy at CT1/ST1. If successful your experience will be assessed upon commencing in post enabling you to work at the appropriate level.

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 General Psychiatrywill be run by the University of Sheffield, the Sheffield Health & Social Care NHS Foundation Trust (SHSC) and Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber.

Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) are 3 year fixed-term national training posts. They attract an NTN(A) and 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 for which funding is provided by NIHR. They also are eligible for a £1,000 bursary per year to support research training activity (e.g to attend academic conferences).

The Clinical Academic Programme at Sheffield has recently introduced a competitive ACF pump-priming award. Trainees can apply for up to £2000 for initial costs for work aimed at achieving a research fellowship.

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.

This post is offered as part of NIHR’s theme of Mental Heatlh, meaning that the successful applicant will need to undertake research relevant to this theme. Potential applicants are invited to discuss this or other aspects of the post with Professor Scott Weich. .

The successful post holder will be based in the Mental Health Research Unit (MHRU) at ScHARR (School of Health and Related Research), Sheffield University. The MHRU specialises in mixed methods applied mental health research, and undertakes studies concerned with enhancing patient outcomes and experiences through the development and evaluation of innovative and personalised treatment approaches at both patient and service level. The post holder will have the opportunity to develop their own research interests supported by colleagues with expertise in epidemiology and health informatics, clinical trials, evidence synthesis, qualitative and experiential research and the use of assistive technologies to improve recovery and other health outcomes.

# POST DETAILS

## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – General Psychiatry (requests to join other Psychiatry ST training programmes will be considered, according to candidate preference).

## Duration of the Post

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

## Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust.

## Research institution in which training will take place

Mental Health Research Unit (Health Services Research Section)

School of Health and Related Research (ScHARR)

University of Sheffield

## Research Protected Time:

ACFs have a personal training plan, designed according to their individual needs, experience and preferences. All ACFs will have 6 months of dedicated research time in Year 2 or 3, depending on their level at the time of recruitment. The remaining 3 months of academic time will be spread over the other years, and will include Masters-level modules. This time will be negotiated with clinical supervisors and will be in keeping with the personal training plan. Detailed arrangements will be organised with the assistance of Prof Weich.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

The proposed Psychiatry ACF post will benefit from wide-ranging opportunities for collaboration and inter-disciplinary learning. Within ScHARR, there is world-class expertise in clinical trials, epidemiology, statistics and informatics, health economics, evidence synthesis, public health, acute and urgent care, assistive technologies and qualitative research methods. The emphasis on inter-disciplinarily within ScHARR means that MHRU colleagues are collaborating across all of these areas. Sheffield University hosts key NIHR programmes, including Yorkshire and Humber ARC and RDS. Further inter-disciplinary research opportunities are afforded by close links with Medical Humanities Sheffield, created through collaboration between colleagues in medicine, science, humanities and social sciences.

Current interests in the Mental Health Research Unit include the evaluation of mental health care, including (i) physical, psychological, social and systems-level interventions to support recovery from serious mental illness; (ii) the development and evaluation of novel interventions (including those that are technology-assisted) to improve outcomes for people with mental health problems; (iii) mixed methods, mechanism-based research to elucidate and model variations in mental health needs and outcomes between people, places and services; and (iv) and the development, validation and evaluation of implementation of measures of professional- and patient-rated measures of outcome (including quality of life and wellbeing) and experience in people with mental illness.

Examples of recent research in the MHRU include NIHR-funded studies that examine ways in which patient experience feedback can best be gathered and used to improve the quality of mental health services; and the causes and consequences of rising rates of compulsory mental health treatments; a large RCT of two different psychological therapies (counselling versus CBT) for depression; a national study of factors associated with mental health nurse recruitment and retention; evaluation of social prescribing interventions for people with serious mental illness, and a number of projects designed to improve the delivery of care to people with both physical and mental health projects.

We have a strong interest in improving the delivery of mental health care, including ways to personalise this, as well as understanding how new technologies can be harnessed to provide more accessible forms of help.

The MHRU has strong links with all Mental Health Trusts in the region, including [Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Trust](https://shsc.nhs.uk/), as well as with [SITraN](http://sitran.org/), the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience, an international centre of excellence for basic through to applied research in neurodegenerative disease.

Prospective ACFs will have the opportunity to develop a project with any (or all) of these collaborating organisations. Prof Scott Weich will act as the main academic mentor and will assist Fellows in identifying supervisors to match their research interests.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

Fellows will join the appropriate local training rotation. Placements will be allocated and completed in the same way as for all other trainees, and progression will be dependent on achieving both clinical and academic competencies. Clinical training, WPBAs and examinations etc will be completed at the same time and in the same manner as for other, non-academic trainees.

Core Training in Psychiatry exposes Trainees to a comprehensive range of clinical experiences over a three year rotational programme. This enables Trainees to gain competence in the assessment and basic management of Psychiatric conditions across the age range, in a range of settings and with different levels of complexity. As the Trainee progresses, they develop their skills in team working, managing complexity and in the evaluation of their own work and that of their teams. Developing teaching, management and leadership skills form further important learning objectives. Developing sophisticated communication skills and psychological mindedness is integrated into the curriculum delivery with all Trainees learning basic psychological and psychotherapeutic approaches to clinical management and participating in reflective case based discussion groups. Protected time is provided for teaching and Clinical and Educational Supervision is supportive, thorough and useful. All Trainees receive an hour per week supervision from their Consultant Clinical Supervisor and a day or half-day release teaching programme. Successful completion of the Training programme and the Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists examination enables a Trainee to apply for Higher Training.

Higher Training in Psychiatry takes between three and five years depending on whether a single Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) is sought or a dual. In Higher Training, a Trainee specialises in one or two of the Sub Specialties of Psychiatry: Child and Adolescent, Forensic, General Adult, Intellectual Disability, Old Age or Psychotherapy. The Higher Trainee builds on their Core Training to manage with an increasing level of sophistication and assurance the full range of Psychiatric presentations seen within their chosen Sub Speciality. Development of leadership and management skills are of increasing importance alongside developing the skills that will enable the Trainee to be seen as an essential component of teams within which they will work as a Consultant.

**Successful candidates:**

The exit from this post will typically be to an externally-funded research fellowship, leading to award of a PhD and subsequently application either for a Clinical Lecturer post or a Clinician Scientist Fellowship.

**Unsuccessful candidates:**

If the post-holder does not achieve the expected clinical competencies, this will be handled in the same way as for all other trainees in speciality medicine. If the post-holder fails to achieve academic competencies, or is unsuccessful in obtaining research funding, they would be anticipated to return to a clinical training post.  This will be discussed in good time with the Training Programme Director (TPD) through the system for appraisal and mentoring of academic trainees.  Whilst no guarantee of an appropriate post is possible, every effort will be made to accommodate such individuals within the local training schemes.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Leads and Supervisors:

Professor Scott Weich

Mental Health Research Unit (HSR)

ScHARR

University of Sheffield

30 Regent Street

Sheffield S1 4DA

email: [s.weich@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:s.weich@sheffield.ac.uk)

Academic, Educational and Clinical supervisors will be assigned following appointment to align with the individual’s needs.

## Training Programme Directors (clinical):

Dr Kirsty Sollitt (ST1-3) [Kirsty.Sollitt@nottshc.nhs.uk](file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Kirsty.Sollitt@nottshc.nhs.uk)

Dr Abhijeeth Shetty (ST4-6, General Psychiatry) [Abhijeeth.shetty@shsc.nhs.uk](mailto:Abhijeeth.shetty@shsc.nhs.uk)

Dr Claire Littlewood (ST4-6, Old Age psychiatry) [Claire.Young@shsc.nhs.uk](mailto:Claire.Young@shsc.nhs.uk)

Dr Shatha Shabib (ST4—6) Child & Adolescent Psychiatry [shatha.shibib@nhs.net](mailto:shatha.shibib@nhs.net)

## Academic Training Programme Director

Professor D O Anumba [d.o.c.anumba@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.o.c.anumba@sheffield.ac.uk)

HEE Yorkshire & The Humber [academic.yh@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:academic.yh@hee.nhs.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) on <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm>

**Person Specifications**

Applicants for this post will be required to meet the relevant Clinical eligibility criteria for the appropriate specialty and level listed at:-

Please note - (applicants applying for Surgical, Medical or Psychiatry specialties at ST3 or above may be required to consult the relevant Core Training person specification):-

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications>

AND the Academic eligibility criteria listed at:

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications>