# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Rehabilitation Medicine ST3 (1 Post)

# NIHR Theme Health Needs of Older People

The University of Leeds, in partnership with Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an **Academic Clinical Fellowship in Rehabilitation Medicine at ST3 level** **in the NIHR Theme Health Needs of Older People**. *This is a multi-specialty vacancy; an appointment may not be made in this specialty. There will be 1 ACF post in either General Practice or Geriatric Medicine or Rehabilitation Medicine.* This new post has been created as part of the Health Education England and National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Academy Integrated Academic Training programme and offers 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 Rehabilitation Medicinewill be run by the University of Leeds, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust 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 will join the vibrant Leeds Clinical Academic Training scheme and undertake the 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).

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 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) – Rehabilitation Medicine (NIHR Theme Health Needs of Older People)

## Duration of the Post

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

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

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust: for clinical training Rehabilitation Medicine ACFs will be based at Chapel Allerton Hospital, the Leeds General Infirmary, St James’s Hospital and St Mary’s Hospital, as well as community-based clinics. ACFs will be able to train for up to 6 months in spinal cord injury rehabilitation at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield.

## Research institution in which training will take place

The Section of Rehabilitation Medicine within the **Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM)** within the School of Medicine, University of Leeds, is the premier academic department of Rehabilitation Medicine in the UK as demonstrated by its record of innovation, NIHR/MRC/EPSRC/Charity funded research, publications and development of early career researchers. The underlying principle governing our research programme is using rehabilitation research to promote independence and dignity and reduce disability in people with long-term conditions (such as acute or progressive disabling musculoskeletal or neurological conditions). The successful applicant will join a thriving academic department that is dedicated to improving diagnosis, therapy, intervention and outcomes across the spectrum of rehabilitation. The Section has a strong track record of developing talented early career clinical academics, supporting them to obtain project grants and fellowships, and secure tenure track clinical academic posts.

## Research Protected Time

ACFs would have day release training to attend and complete an accredited postgraduate programme in health research methodology at the University of Leeds (24 contact days plus additional private study usually completed in one year). Arrangements for research blocks or weekly research days, constituting 25% FTE academic time (and comprising a total of 9 months over the 3 year ACF post), are managed by local agreement with the academic supervisors within the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Medicine and clinical training programme director. This period of research will be used to obtain specific experience and knowledge in the research area of interest, obtain pilot data and apply for an external doctoral research fellowship (see below).

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

The Section of Rehabilitation Medicine has an extensive track record in multidisciplinary rehabilitation research as evidenced by strong links between basic science and clinical research across health (psychology, medicine, surgery) and physical sciences (computing, engineering, mathematics) and involvement of disabled adults and children and their families in our research. The Section’s research programme has three broad themes, (1) development of novel restorative rehabilitation technologies to improve recovery of people with disabling conditions and investigation of the impact existing and novel health technologies through early stage feasibility studies through to multi-centre Phase 3 clinical trials, (2) development of robust health outcomes using modern measurement approaches to measure impact of health care interventions across disabling long term conditions; (3) clinical services research focused at improving participation of disabled people in society.

The Section of Rehabilitation Medicine has substantial infrastructure to support our research programme. The department hosts the Charterhouse Rehabilitation Technologies Laboratory which is a fully accessible and equipped laboratory for restorative rehabilitation technology development, which facilitates user-centred design processes (for adults and children). The Charterhouse Laboratory is an interdisciplinary environment for undergraduate, postgraduate and post-doctoral researchers and is linked to the Institute of Robotics in the Faculty of Engineering within the University of Leeds. The section has an excellent national and international reputation with strong collaborations across faculties locally, nationally and internationally. It has very strong links to the acute and community NHS infrastructure in Leeds, as well as nationally, which facilitates local and multi-centre research.

Globally, life expectancy has increased from 66.8 to 73.4 years in the last two decades. Healthy life expectancy increased but due to declining mortality non-communicable diseases and injuries have added 210,000,000 years lived with disability to the global population.

The Rehabilitation Medicine ACF will be hosted at the Academic Department of Rehabilitation Medicine in Leeds (1), which plays a critical role in preventing and minimising limitations in function, reducing the impact of longterm conditions and improving quality of life. This spans the use of robotics to improve function after stroke, extending the working lives of older adults after stroke (NIHR RETAKE) and developing online tools for people recovering from COVID-19.

The ACF will join a vibrant research environment with a strong track record of supporting ACFs in Rehabilitation Medicine. Exemplar projects include: Development of novel technologies that incorporate smart materials, new control strategies and functional stimulation to improve mobility in older adults; with Profs Rory O’Connor and Manoj Sivan. Bespoke research training includes statistics, RCTs, applied epidemiology, prognostic modelling using routine data, qualitative research, evidence synthesis, user-centred design and movement analysis.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

This post is offered at ST3 level. The inpatient rehabilitation service (based at Chapel Allerton Hospital) is a designated supra-district multidisciplinary specialist 30-bed rehabilitation unit. The patient group consists of people admitted to the acute wards with complex disabling conditions, or who develop complex disabling conditions and who require specialist inpatient rehabilitation prior to discharge from hospital. The major patient groups are people with complex neurological conditions or major trauma. The rehabilitation facilities are in specialist accommodation designed for their purpose. There are close working relationships locally with rheumatology and orthopaedics and at the acute sites with neurology and neurosurgery. There are opportunities to train in musculoskeletal and amputee rehabilitation within the Trust, and in spinal cord injury rehabilitation in units linked to the training programme at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield.

Numerous educational opportunities are available with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Specific to the Rehabilitation Medicine clinical programme, a regional postgraduate Rehabilitation Medicine meeting takes place every Wednesday afternoon, with the emphasis on education for all grades of doctors in training within the region. The content of the postgraduate afternoon comprises (i) topic teaching that follows the Rehabilitation Medicine training curriculum so that over a two-year period all areas of this are covered (ii) research updates presented by research fellows that provide an additional opportunity to become conversant with ongoing research activities and opportunities in the department (iii) specialised meetings with an emphasis on advanced imaging, gait analysis and other regional specialist topics.

# CONTACTS

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## Academic Training Programme Director

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# 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 Academy webpage

# <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm>