# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# General Surgery ST1-3 (1 post)

**For this post, applications will be welcome in any of the areas where we have research strengths (see below)**

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

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Surgery with a research interest in Surgical Oncology at ST1-3 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.

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 part of the next generation of academic clinicians.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in General Surgerywill be run by the University of Sheffield, the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS FT 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).

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 in a specialty during 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.

\*(Applicants wanting to commence the General Surgery ACF post at ST2 are encouraged to apply to this vacancy; however they must currently hold an NTN in General Surgery. If successful your experience can be assessed upon commencing in post enabling you to work at the appropriate level.)

# POST DETAILS

## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in General Surgery

## Duration of the Post

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

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

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS FT

## Research institution in which training will take place

Department of Oncology and Metabolism

The current staffing relevant to this post includes:

* Professor L Wyld *Professor in Surgical Oncology and Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon*
* Mr S P Balasubramanian *Honorary Professor of Surgery and Consultant Endocrine Surgeon*
* Dr C A Staton Senior *Lecturer in Surgical Oncology and Microcirculation Studies*
* *Professor Steve Brown Honorary Professor of Surgery and Consultant Colorectal Surgeon*
* *Professor Ilaria Bellantuono Professor of Musculoskeletal ageing and chair of the UoS*

*Healthy Lifespan Institute.*

* *Mr Tim Wilson Consultant Colorectal Surgeon/Trust Research Lead (DBTH)*
* *Mr Matt Lee NIHR Clinical Lecturer in General Surgery (GI interest)*

*Surgeon*

* *Ms Jenna Morgan NIHR Clinical Lecturer in General Surgery (Breast Interest)*

*Surgeon*

**Research Activities of the Unit**

The research areas of interest within the Unit relate to the clinical specialties of breast cancer, endocrine malignancies, colorectal diseases, geriatric oncology and the role of the tumour microcirculation in the development, progression and treatment of cancer.

Significant research areas include the management of breast cancer in older women, the management of women at increase familial risk of breast cancer, stress proteins and the role of stress response pathways in cancer, senescence, healthy ageing, psycho-oncology and decision making in surgery patients, the molecular genetics of breast cancer, prehabilitation, intraoperative imaging technologies and quality of life in surgery patients. In addition there are active research themes exploring inflammatory bowel disease and new technologies in the management of endocrine cancers and primary hyperthyroidism. The department supported the National Audit of Small Bowel Obstruction, and has continued to develop work in this, including early investigations into biomarkers that might help decision making in this area, as well as beginning to examine related areas such as malignant obstruction. We are supporting a cohort study on the management of acutely symptomatic hernia (MASH), and have recently completed a cohort looking at how cholecystostomy is deployed in cholecystitis. This, along with the current OCTAGON study (optimisation in emergency and elective settings), matches with department interests in frailty. One of the major developing threads is investigating how we deal with nutrition in the acute setting.

The unit has an active programme of surgical research which engages with the University and two large regional teaching Hospitals, strong links to the Surgical Trainees Research Collaborative (White Rose Surgical Collaborative) and an excellent track record of higher degree success. We collaborate with anaesthetic, and perioperative researchers, and have good links with the Clinical Trials Unit.

The group has access to well-equipped and well-staffed laboratory facilities to support laboratory based projects, but favours clinically focussed projects including translational studies, cohorts, qualitative studies, and clinical trials as well as extensive expertise in clinical trials and clinically focused research. A wide range of research interests and methods can be catered for depending on the career aspirations of the candidate.

The unit currently has 6 clinical doctoral students and usually several masters degree and B.Med.Sci degree students each year, 2 clinical lecturers and 1 academic clinical fellow.

**Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which incorporates the Northern General Hospital, the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, the Jessop Wing, Weston Park Hospital and Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, is now the fourth largest NHS Trust in the country. It was granted Foundation Status in 2004. As a Trust, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation trust is responsible for the planning and delivery of the highest quality patient care, providing services for patients not only from Sheffield but all parts of the North Trent region and UK. Nearly one million patients come to us for treatment each year.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a large teaching Trust providing outstanding clinical training in all aspects of general surgery. It includes Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw and Mexborough Hospitals. It has a large and well staffed academic breast unit providing the highest quality Oncoplastic breast surgery training and delivering care to 500 new breast cancer diagnoses per year between 6 consultant Oncoplastic surgeons. It has an excellent GI surgery unit with a very high rate of laparoscopic GI surgery and provides excellent, high level training for both laparoscopic, GI, vascular and bariatric surgery. It has invested in new academic research facilities with the recent opening of the ASPIRE centre for academic training and is committed to developing and expanding clinical academic activity in partnership with the University of Sheffield over the next 5 years.

**Post Details**

**JOB TITLE: NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Surgery**

**BRIEF OUTLINE:**

The clinical programme is designed to provide training from ST1 or ST3 level for a period of 3 years.

**Objectives of the Training Programme**

1. To obtain core competencies in general surgery at ST1, ST2 and specialty training at ST3 or ST3-5 levels, depending on entry level.

2. To undertake a generic programme in research methodology.

3. To identify an area of academic and clinical interest upon which to base an application   
 for an externally-funded PhD programme.

**REPORT TO:** Ms Lynda Wyld, Professor in Surgical Oncology.

**Relationship between Academic and Clinical Training**

**Research Protected Time:**

This can be flexible, and will be based on day release and a block of dedicated laboratory/clinical research time away from routine clinical duties for academic research, typically for 9 months, with no out-of-hours commitments.

**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 Higher Fellowship. The Unit has a good record of success in Fellowship applications. The Unit has also been awarded a number of Clinical Lecturer Posts by the NIHR.

**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 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 Programme Director through the system for appraisal and mentoring of academic trainees. They will continue in run-through training in the specialty in which the NIHR ACF post was advertised. The HEE Local Office will manage specialty training and run-through to CCT.

If the post-holder fails to complete the ACF then the guarantee of run-through will be lost.

**MAIN ACTIVITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

This is a 3 year full time training post carrying a NTN(a) in General Surgery (either from Year 1 for an ST3 postholder or from Year 2 for an ST2 postholder)

The successful applicant will have evidence of academic achievement and ideally have research experience. They should be aiming to pursue a career in **academic** General Surgery.

**Research**

The successful candidate will be expected to develop an area of research interest and apply for a research training fellowship, e.g. to NIHR, CRUK, YCR, MRC or Wellcome Trust. This will be done in consultation with Professor Lynda Wyld and colleagues. A wide range of academic training opportunities is available.

**Teaching**

The post-holder will contribute to the undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes of the School and will also be involved with the assessment of students and have personal mentoring responsibilities for a small group of students on the MBChB programme.

**Clinical Duties**

The post holder will be part of the Core or Higher Surgical Training Programme (as appropriate for training level) within the region. They will rotate through a range of general surgical posts commensurate with their interests and training needs, split between STH and DBTH for the 3 years of clinical training. Their research attachment will be linked to their main focus of interest with their relevant supervisor with oversight (regardless of research interest) from Professor Wyld.

**On-Call/Emergency Duties**

These will be part of the required on call duties of the relevant post and will vary accordingly. This is likely to include a mix of shifts covering day and night across the week.

**Accommodation and support for the post**

Office space will be made available within the Department of Oncology and Metabolism. Laboratory space will be made available as required.

**INFORMAL ENQUIRIES:**

Potential candidates should contact Professor Lynda Wyld, Department of Oncology & Metabolism  
The Medical School, Beech Hill Road, Sheffield S10 2RX

**Email:** [l.wyld@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:l.wyld@sheffield.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) 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>

**How to Apply**

For more information about applying to ACF vacancies in Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber 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: 10:00 on 1st October 2021

Applications close: 16:00 on 3rd November 2021

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.

**Please note:** All applicants who do not already hold a National Training Number (NTN) or Deanery Reference Number (DRN) in the GMC specialty to which they are applying for will be required to undertake the national clinical recruitment process and attend an assessment/interview for that GMC specialty as appropriate.

Interviews will be held online. The date will be confirmed to applicants via the Oriel application system.