

New academic training pathways for medical and dental graduates

**A guide to programs starting on or after
1st August 2007**



igniting our potential

Introduction

Training opportunities are now in place for doctors and dentists with the potential to become leaders in clinical research and education.

These innovative training pathways were set out in the report: *Medically and dentally qualified academic staff: Recommendations for training the researchers and educators of the future*¹.

If you are about to enter specialty training or are an existing specialist registrar and have the potential to be an outstanding researcher and/or educationalist, you will be able to compete for the new academic clinical fellowships starting on or after 1 August 2007.

If you have recently obtained a PhD/MD (or equivalent) and have specialty training experience, you will be able to compete for the new clinical lectureships.

The New Academic Clinical Fellowship Phase

▶ What is the new academic clinical fellowship?

The new Academic Clinical Fellowship is targeted at doctors and dentists in the early years of specialty training. It provides a clinical and academic training environment to help the Academic Clinical Fellow prepare a competitive application for a training fellowship for a higher degree (e.g. Department of Health, Wellcome Trust, Medical Research Council) or, if applicable, a postdoctoral fellowship. Funding is available for a maximum of three years (up to four years for GP Academic Clinical Fellows).

▶ Who can apply?

Depending on the local training programme, applications will be invited from foundation doctors, Senior House Officers and/or existing specialist registrars (this will depend on the grade of trainee the programme can accommodate). Dentists with equivalent experience will also be eligible. Doctors or dentists who already hold a relevant PhD can also apply. This will enable preparation of post-doctoral research applications.

▶ Where are the academic clinical fellowships located?

The Research Capacity Development Programme website (www.nccrcd.nhs.uk) has a full list of the fellowships on offer. Please check the site to see if there are opportunities in your field of interest and, if so, where. Currently, the fellowships are only available in England and Wales.

▶ How do I apply?

Academic Clinical Fellowship applications will be dealt with using the on-line national application process (MTAS). You will be able to make up to

four selections for specialty training programmes and will have the option of expressing an interest in an Academic Clinical Fellowship attached to the clinical programme if available. There will be a supplementary application form for Academic Clinical Fellowships. Applicants will be assessed against both person specifications at the same time (i.e. in the same interview). An Academic Clinical Fellowship will be offered to candidates who are assessed as suitable for appointment and rank highly enough. Candidates who do not meet the academic requirements, but are suitable for appointment to the specialty in a non-academic programme, will be offered a non-academic training opportunity. This is provided that they rank highly enough compared to the other applicants for the same specialty in that Unit of Application.

In addition to the criteria in the clinical person specifications, applicants will be required to meet the criteria in the academic person specification as well as the eligibility criteria outlined in the paper *'Academic Clinical Fellowships and Clinical Lectureships: Entry, Eligibility, and Exit Points in Relation to MMC'* which can be downloaded from the Research Capacity Development Programme website.

All appointments will be through open competition.

▶ What happens after the academic clinical fellowship phase?

The academic clinical fellowship phase (i.e. an academic clinical fellowship followed by a training fellowship) comes to an end when a higher degree is awarded. On completion of a training fellowship individuals will return to their clinical programme and, at an appropriate point, can apply for clinical lecturer posts.

¹ Academic Careers Sub-Committee of Modernising Medical Careers and the UK Clinical Research Collaboration *Medically and dentally qualified academic staff: Recommendations for training the researchers and educators of the future 2005* <http://www.ukcrc.org>

The New Clinical Lecturer Phase

► What are the new Clinical Lecturer posts?

Clinical Lecturer posts are designed for doctors and dentists with a PhD/MD (or equivalent), who already have specialty training experience. They provide opportunities for post-higher degree research or educational training for doctors and dentists working towards completion of specialty training. Clinical Lecturers are expected to apply for further research funding (e.g. personal fellowships or research grants), or support for continuing educational training.

► Who can apply?

Doctors and dentists who have a relevant MD/PhD (or equivalent) and either hold a national training number (NTN), or meet the entry requirement for specialty training, are eligible to apply. The four year duration of the lectureship may mean that a period of dedicated clinical training is appropriate (either prior to application or during the clinical lectureship) to allow completion of specialty training within the 4-year period. This should be discussed with the training programme director.

► Where are the Clinical Lectureships located?

Information about the Clinical Lectureships on offer is available on the Research Capacity Development Programme website.

► How do I apply?

There will be a separate competition for Clinical Lectureships later in 2007 using a locally-based application process. Recruitment to Clinical Lectureships will not use MTAS. Details will be available from the Research Capacity Development Programme website.

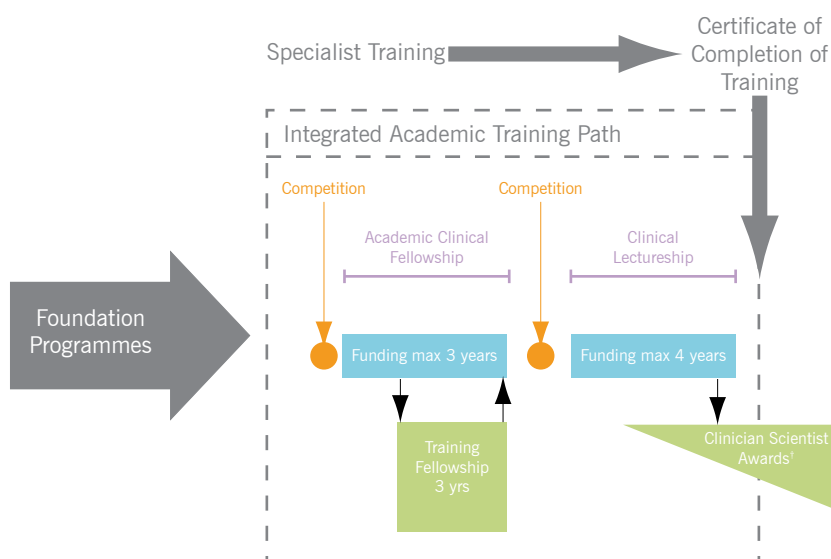
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All appointments will be through open competition.

GP Trainees

Individuals who would like to start GP training, or who are currently in a programme, can apply for Academic Clinical Fellowships that combine GP and academic training. Further details can be found on the Research Capacity Development Programme website. These posts allow time to be set aside for up to four years to develop academic skills, prepare a training fellowship application and complete GP training.

An integrated clinical academic career pathway



The diagram illustrates the broad outline of the Specialist Training phase of the new integrated clinical academic career pathway.

† Trainees in the Clinical Lectureship phase would be expected to apply for clinician scientist awards or some other form of support for further academic activity