Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry under Mental Health theme (ST1-ST4)

1. Job Title: Academic Clinical Fellow in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

2. Duration of post: 3-year fixed term.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
Research training will be at the UCL Division of Psychiatry, based at the Bloomsbury Campus.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
The protected academic time is 25% FTE over the three-year post, or nine months in total. The research component will normally be organised as a nine-month block release, although a shorter block release plus weekly research days may be agreed according to the needs of the trainee, the project, and the clinical training programme.

5. Description of research component of programme
The academic component will take place in the UCL Division of Psychiatry, with opportunities to work across UCL's child and adolescent mental health research environment. Professor Argyris Stringaris is Chair of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, whose research is in developing **Clinical and computational approaches to youth mental health**, using cutting-edge neuroscience and computational psychiatry on mood and its regulation via the **A**nxiety, Self-**I**mage and **M**ood (AIM lab) which he co-directs with Professor Georgina Krebs.

The research spans epidemiology and causal questions (e.g. how does seasonal and temperature variation affect mood and anxiety in young people), and neurocomputational approaches (e.g. what are the mechanisms underlying successful treatments in anxiety and depression treatment) in work funded by the Wellcome Trust and NIHR. His work also focuses on questions of normativity in clinical practice in relation to decisions about when to treat young people. Another academic strand of work is led by Dr Ramya Srinivasan, Associate Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry with an emphasis on youth interventions including social prescribing for young people and interventions using neuromodulation such as transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS). Both Professor Stringaris and Dr Srinivasan are active clinicians with a joint interest in mood dysregulation across development and psychiatric disorders.

The fellow will benefit from UCL’s unique mental health and neuroscience environment. UCL is the UK's top-ranked institution for research power in Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (REF 2021), with more than two-thirds of its research in these fields rated world-leading (4*). It is ranked 5th in the world for Psychology in the QS World University Rankings 2026, and independently ranked 2nd globally for Psychiatry by EduRank (2026), reflecting the depth and international standing of its clinical academic environment. ACFs joining UCL will train within one of the world's top centres for mental health and neuroscience research.

The post is embedded within an interdisciplinary mental health research environment. UCL's Grand Challenge of Mental Health and Wellbeing has a focus on early intervention and young

people, bringing together researchers, clinicians, students and community partners from across the university to deliver transformative, cross-disciplinary research working across traditional academic silos rather than within a single department. Within this wider ecosystem, the fellow will be based in the Division of Psychiatry, part of UCL's Faculty of Brain Sciences, whose research spans epidemiology and big data and applied clinical research, mental health neuroscience (including molecular genetics, cell biology and neuroimaging), and dementia and later-life mental health. The Division links with various Centres across UCL including the UCL Big Data Institute and Centre for Data Science, the UCL Centre of Excellence in Human-Computer interaction, as well as the Institute of Neurology and the Max Planck UCL centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research . This structure gives ACFs direct access to cross-disciplinary collaboration spanning psychiatry, psychology, neuroscience and epidemiology, ensuring that clinical academic training is grounded in one of the UK's most integrated mental health research settings.

The ACF will work with an academic supervisor to refine a research question, develop the appropriate methods, produce outputs, and prepare for a competitive doctoral fellowship application. The trainee will have access to UCL and NIHR academic training in statistics, epidemiology, research governance, clinical trials, computational methods, scientific communication, and grant writing, as appropriate to the project.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme
The clinical component will be organised through the North Central London Child and Adolescent Psychiatry pathway, with placements across the North London NHS Foundation Trust, Whittington Health NHS Trust, and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The entry range is ST1–ST4. Clinical training will be delivered through NHSE-recognised posts in the North Central London/North London Core Training Scheme, with trainees matched up to ST4, subject to satisfactory progress, to complete the three-year ACF post.

Subject to satisfactory progress and programme capacity, the ACF will receive recognised clinical training appropriate to the approved entry level and range, with progression managed through the usual ARCP process.

7. Academic Programme Director name
Prof Argyris Stringaris

8. Clinical Programme Director name
Dr Paula Lopez (North Central London)

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)
Applicants interested in discussing the available research opportunities in this post should contact Prof Stringaris (a.stringaris@ucl.ac.uk) and Dr Srinasavan (ramya.srinivasan@ucl.ac.uk)

10. NHSE contact:
Specialty Team https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home
Recruitment Enquiries - https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home

11. Useful websites for further information IAT Guide | NIHR
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/brain-sciences/psychiatry/people/academic-staff

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/population-health-sciences/ucl-great-ormond-street-institute-child-health-paediatric-mental-health-science

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (A) - YES
The post attracts an NTN with suffix (A) for Academic.

This job description was prepared on 14th August 2026.