Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Psychiatry (Mental Health) CT1-3

1. Job Title. Academic Clinical Fellow in Psychiatry: General Adult North West Training Sector London.

2. Duration of post. The post will be up to 3 years duration and is intended to provide academic training for a future clinical scientist in psychiatry and will be at CT1-3 level depending on the level of training of the successful candidate. The expectation is that the successful candidate will apply for a fellowship to support their PhD or a clinical lectureship if they already have a PhD. They will also complete their core clinical training in psychiatry and completion of College exams leading to Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place. The ACF will be embedded within the Division of Psychiatry at Imperial College London within the Department of Brain Sc (https://www.imperial.ac.uk/brain-sciences/research/psychiatry/). The Department of Brain Sciences and Division of Psychiatry are led by Prof Allan Young.
The Division has internationally recognised strengths in experimental medicine, neuroimaging (PET, MRI and EEG), clinical trials, psychopharmacology, digital mental health and translational neuroscience. Research spans mood disorders, psychosis, addictions, child and adolescent mental health, neuropsychiatry and emerging therapeutic approaches, with a strong emphasis on translating discoveries into improved patient care.
We are a member of the NIHR Mental Health Translational Research Collaboration (MH-TRC) which is a national network of centres of excellence in mental health translational and clinical research. Members of the Division are prominently involved in the major TRCs, including Mood Disorders, Early Psychosis and Addictions.
Imperial College London has an excellent track record in supporting ACFs and ACLs. In Psychiatry, ACFs have successfully obtained funding for their PhD and continued with academic training. Our first ACL was appointed as a Clinical Senior Lecturer within the Division. You will have full access to the support and programmes available to current ACFs in other disciplines (see https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/clinical-academic-training-office/). This will enhance your broader medical and research training opportunities. You will be encouraged to attend courses to provide generic research skills such as ethical aspects of research, good clinical practice and public involvement in research, time management, personal effectiveness, leadership and partner and leader roles.

You will be assigned a mentor in addition to your research and clinical supervisors. You will have access to bursaries to support attendance at conferences as well as consumables for your research.

You will be encouraged to develop your area of interest and skills in an area of expertise within the Division whilst experiencing other areas and technologies within the Department of Brain Sciences. By the end of your first year, you will be concentrating on a particular avenue of research. You will apply for clinical training fellowship for your PhD or consolidating your research for a Lectureship alongside achieving your clinical Membership exams.

We will therefore provide you with high quality training as an ACF to develop you as a high-quality future academic psychiatrist able to exploit the potential of translational research programmes.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time. The arrangements for release for research will be determined individually as part of an Integrated Learning Plan established during the first introductory month of the programme guided by an assessment of the trainees overall educational (Academic and Clinical) needs following discussions with your Educational Supervisor, and supported by the Academic and Clinical Programme Directors. Accordingly, it is expected that the use of day release and block release will normally be mixed with the balance varying from resident doctor to resident doctor according to their need and subject to review over the duration of the 3-year programme. The most likely model is 6-month block with remaining 3-months flexible.

5. Description of research component of programme.
Research opportunities are available across a broad range of internationally recognised programmes including mood disorders, psychosis, addictions, child and adolescent mental health, experimental medicine, neuroimaging, clinical trials, digital psychiatry and precision medicine. Fellows are encouraged to develop an individual research programme aligned to their interests under the supervision of internationally recognised investigators**.**
In addition to Prof Allan Young lead investigators include Associate Professors Martina Di Simplicio Dr David Erritzoe Sameer Jauhar, Ivan Koychev, Tony Goldstone and Prof Anne Lingford-Hughes. Current work includes imaging studies and clinical trials in opioid dependence, characterising the therapeutic potential and neural mechanisms of psychedelics in self-harm, depression, gambling disorder and opioid use disorder, assessment of serotonin release capacity in major depression, using PET-MRI, the potential of GLP-1 agonists to treat addiction, depression, or as disease-modifying interventions in Alzheimer's disease and therapeutic studies (devices, drugs and cognitive remediation) and neuromelanin MRI imaging in bipolar disorder.

The mental health Trusts (Central North West London NHS Foundation Trust & West London NHS Trust) and Imperial College offer clinical and research training in a wide range of aspects of psychiatry including strong research programmes in child and adolescent psychiatry. Both CNWL and WLT have active research programmes and the North London Research Delivery Network is closely associated with both Trusts.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme. The clinical component will be delivered by a partnership of the North West London Psychiatric Training Scheme and the 2 major providers of Mental Health Services (CNWL and West London Trust) in the North West London Sector. Training will take place in a bespoke ACF clinical rotation organised across a number of participating hospitals and selected posts in the North West Training Sector of London, including St Charles (North Kensington), Chelsea and Westminster, Charing Cross (Hammersmith), Ealing, West Middlesex (Hounslow), Northwick Park, Central Middlesex and Hillingdon Hospitals. We are fortunate in having a large pool of enthusiastic trainers with excellent posts who are eager to be involved with training ACFs.

The standard training trajectory post qualification is for a resident doctor to complete three years of core training and during that time to gain their Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Candidates would also be expected to participate in workplace-based training and assessment and to meet ARCP criteria for progression through training. For candidates appointed at CT2 or CT3 level progression to ST4 would be dependent on both success in the MRCPsych and the ARCP process.

Clinical Training will be thoroughly integrated with the academic programme and will be adapted according to your needs with the opportunity to experience placements with respected trainers in General Adult and sub-specialty posts. The sector also has a strong reputation for training excellence in Leadership,

Communication, Psychotherapy and Teaching Skills. You will attend the recently revised and reinvigorated sector based MRCPsych fortnightly day release course.

7. Academic Programme Director. Dr Sameer Jauhar, Imperial College London.

8. Clinical Programme Director Dr Sukh Bahia, Director of Medical Education CNWL

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)
For Research: Dr Sameer Jauhar, Division of Psychiatry, Dept of Brain Sciences, Imperial College London, Commonwealth Building, Hammersmith campus, 160 Du Cane Road, London W12 0NN. hu@ic.ac.uk; PA: n.hickey@ic.ac.uk

For Clinical: Dr Alison Conway, alisonconway@nhs.net

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

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (A)

Yes

This job description was prepared on 14th August 2026