Job Description
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Mental Health: General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry University of Plymouth

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

General Psychiatry: CT1, CT2, CT3, ST4
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry: CT1, CT2, CT3, ST4

2. Duration of post:

3 years (FTE)

Candidates working Less Than Full Time (LTFT) or would like should notify the relevant Local Office/Deanery at point of offer of your intention to work LTFT and this will be considered against the national eligibility criteria.

3. Hospitals in which training will take place:

This training post is based in Peninsula Southwest Deanery. Rotations have not been confirmed at this stage. Should you wish to explore this in more detail, please get in touch with the Training Programme Director.

4. Research institutions in which training will take place:

University of Plymouth - https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/faculties/health/pupsmd-research/clinical-academic-training

5. Timetabling of clinical and research time:

75% clinical 25% research in a flexible way during the working week or months in accordance with pre-agreed arrangements between the clinical and academic supervisors.

6. Description of research component of programme

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) is hosted within the University of Plymouth (UoP), a world-leading centre for cross-disciplinary research across the life-course. The fellowship provides training and mentorship in general psychiatry, with the opportunity to develop specialist expertise in Child and adolescent psychiatry particularly children with intellectual disabilities, epilepsy, neuropsychiatry, and primary care mental health.

The fellowship will align with three recognised research programmes:

- Psychiatry of Intellectual Disabilities, led by Professor Rohit Shankar MBE
- Digital and AI and digital inclusion led by Professor John Terry, through the Centre for Intellectual Disabilities Research (CIDER)
- Primary Care Mental Health, led by Professor Richard Byng

The focus spans service evaluation, large-scale data analysis, clinical trials, implementation research, and service evaluation to improve care and reduce inequalities.

Research opportunities for the ACF include:

- Focused literature reviews and systematic evidence syntheses
- Analyses of national and local datasets
- Development and validation of assessment tools
- Investigations into health inequalities and service provision
- Engagement in ongoing and novel clinical trials and implementation studies
- Developing and testing new technologies including early mechanistic processes

The ACF will work with the academic supervisor/s to co-design a research project, with a view to achieving high-quality peer-reviewed publications and developing a competitive external doctoral fellowship application. Trainees will be encouraged to establish research collaborations across UoP and partner organisations, including CIDER, the Clinical Trials Unit (CTU), and PenARC (NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Southwest Peninsula).

Research Environment:

The University of Plymouth offers a vibrant interdisciplinary research environment, with methodologies and expertise spanning:

- Big data and electronic health record (EHR) science
- Digital health technologies
- Pharmacological and non-pharmacological trials
- Computational psychiatry, AI and precision medicine
- Biomarkers, pharmacogenomics, and personalised care approaches

The ACF will join a thriving academic community, including postdoctoral researchers, PhD students, and MSc cohorts within the university. Fellows will benefit from dedicated academic meetings and seminars, fostering peer learning and interdisciplinary exchange.

Training and Development

The fellowship provides structured modules in:

- Epidemiology and biostatistics
- Clinical trials methodology
- Informatics and data science
- Research governance and ethics
- Grant writing and scientific communication

Through this supportive environment, the ACF will gain the skills and mentorship necessary to develop towards an independent clinical academic, contributing to research that informs policy, advances clinical practice, and improves outcomes for people with mental illness or intellectual disability.

7. Description of clinical training component of programme

For details regarding the clinical training programme, please visit the peninsula deanery school webpage. Contact details are available for each of the schools. If you would like information, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

8. Academic Supervisor / Academic Programme Director:

Integrated Academic Training Lead(s):

- Professor Nicola Brennan (nicola.brennan@plymouth.ac.uk)
- Professor Daniel Martin (daniel.martin@plymouth.ac.uk)
- Dr Vicortia Haunton (victoria.haunton@nhs.net)

Academic Lead:

- Professor Rohit Shankar (rohit.shankar@plymouth.ac.uk)

9. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- General Psychiatry:
  - Core: Dr Subhash Gupta (subhash.gupta@nhs.net)
  - Higher: Dr Adarsh Shetty (adarsh.shetty@nhs.net)

- Child and Adolescent Psychiatry:
  - Core: Dr Subhash Gupta (subhash.gupta@nhs.net)
  - Higher: Dr Ben Parker (b.parker5@nhs.net)

10. Deanery contact for further information:

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610
Recruitment Inbox: England.acfrecruitment.sw@nhs.net

11. Useful websites for further information:

NIHR Integrated Academic Training Website: http://www.nihr.ac.uk/IAT

BMA Junior Doctor Pay Scales (link to latest pay Circular): https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/pay/junior-doctors-pay-scales/pay-scales-for-junior-doctors-in-england

University Clinical Academic Training website: https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/faculties/health/pupsmd-research/clinical-academic-training

This job description was prepared in August 2026