Job Description
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Prevention and Public Health: Public Health Medicine and Cardiology
University of Bristol

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

Public Health Medicine: ST1, ST2, ST3
Candidates from a BOTM applying to the pilot are able to enter at ST2 or ST3 and must already hold a National Training Number (NTN).

Cardiology: ST1, ST2, ST3, 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 the Severn region. 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.

Cardiology:
IMT1-3 entry: successful applicants will complete IMT within the Severn region though the rotations may change from those currently agreed to facilitate working in Bristol; if from outside the deanery, equivalent arrangements will be made.

ST4 entry: To commence at a DGH within Severn Deanery at the discretion of the Cardiology Training Programme Director. We aim to keep the post close to Bristol where the academic component of the post is likely to be delivered. The third year (ST6) would be based in the Bristol Heart Institute.

Public health medicine service training is based in Local Authority training locations in the North zone of the South West, with a placement with UKHSA South West for health protection training.

4. Research institutions in which training will take place:

University of Bristol - https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/

Cardiology:
Bristol Heart Institute, University of Bristol

Public Health:
Public Health training is based within Population Health Sciences (PHS), Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol: https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/research/population-health-sciences PHS has a strong international standing in population health science, with recognition as a pioneering centre and a strong national profile with academic leadership in areas such as Public Health, Health Protection, Health Services Research, Evidence Synthesis, Primary Care and Surgical Research. The University of Bristol is one of the UK's foremost institutions for

public health research. Our research aims to provide robust evidence on effective ways to improve population health and well-being and reduce health inequalities. We have major strengths in developing complex health interventions and evaluations through cluster RCTs and natural experiments, analysing public health and primary care policy and examining the roles of law and policy in public health, and carrying out evidence synthesis and applied epidemiological studies. Our areas of interest encompass obesity prevention, physical activity, nutrition, infectious diseases, mental health, smoking, alcohol and substance misuse, sexual health, multiple risk behaviours, law, governance, and ethics.

This post will be based in the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit https://hpruebs.nihr.ac.uk/or Centre for Public Health, both within Population Health Sciences.

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

Cardiology:
The Cardiology Research Group in the Bristol Heart Institute is working on two clinical problems closely aligned to the NIHR priorities: First, what is the optimal drug treatment for patients with coronary artery disease and comorbidities? Second, how can we best treat hypertension to prevent progression to heart failure? We are actively engaged in the work of the NIHR Cardiovascular Inequalities Research Consortium led locally by Professor Rachel Johnson.

The ACF will to be involved in the full spectrum of clinical research including mechanistic research developing new drug targets, testing novel interventions in phase 1 and 2 clinical trials, involvement in large scale clinical trials and developing new pathways for treatment. Early translational research is done by the Cardionomics Research group, led by Dr Angus Nightingale, Associate Professor in Cardiology, and Dr Emma Hart, who have identified novel mechanisms of sympathetic activation in hypertension and are testing pharmacological strategies to mitigate this. There are also opportunities to investigate the mechanism of co-enzyme Q10 in treating heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

Dr Tom Johnson, Associate Professor in Cardiology, carries out applied research involving pharmacological manipulation of platelet function in collaboration with the Bristol Clinical Trials and the Bristol NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, which has a major cardiovascular theme. Using informatics and data science, linkage with hospital and Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG) allows granular data sharing. Together with our involvement in the NIHR Health Informatics Collaborative provides an excellent opportunity for the ACF to use high resolution data from primary and secondary care to map patterns of drug treatment for patients with ischaemic heart disease, hypertension and heart failure and develop new therapeutic pathways and interventions. There are opportunities to be involved in intracardiac coronary imaging research where Bristol is a world-leading centre of excellence.

The ACF will join existing cardiology trainees in our Cardiology Research Group including, two NIHR ACFs, and five BHF/MRC Clinical Research Fellows, who have an excellent track record of grant funding and publications. The mix of internationally recognised clinical and scientific researchers within the Bristol Heart Institute creates a positive and dynamic team, making this world-leading centre for translational cardiovascular research and an excellent academic training environment.

Public Health: Public Health

Fellows starting in ST1 without an MSc in Public Health will study for an MSc in Public Health full-time for the first year with the choice of studying at either the University of Bristol or University of Exeter. Following the MSc, the Fellow will spend 3-3.5 days per week on public health service work and the remaining time in the academic centre developing research ideas and writing papers for publication. As research fellowship applications will need to be submitted in the early part of Year 3, a greater amount of academic contact will typically occur in year 2 compared to year 3.

By the third year of the fellowship the Fellow will be expected to have submitted papers for publication in peer reviewed journals and to have presented at national Public Health conferences. Final preparation of the research fellowship application will be led by the candidate with support from their academic trainer, the fellowship supervisor(s) and appropriate research staff in the department. The Fellow may spend time on relevant short research courses run within the school (e.g. epidemiology / regression models / longitudinal data analysis: Short courses | Bristol Medical School | University of Bristol). Regular meetings with the educational supervisor and academic supervisor will continue throughout the year. At the end of the three-year post, post-holders who are successful in obtaining a doctoral fellowship award will apply to the Faculty of Public Health and the Training Programme for time 'out of programme' to complete their PhD.

The post-holder will have access to expert statistical advice when necessary, will receive basic training in computer skills, will have access to a computer for word processing, spreadsheet, graphics and statistical or qualitative software.

7. Description of clinical training component of programme

Cardiology:
Successful applicants will be expected to continue with the clinical training programme within the Severn Deanery appropriate to their stage of training (IMT1-3 or Higher Specialty Cardiology training with entry level at ST4) including completion of curriculum competencies. Candidates will continue to be supported as per non-ACF trainees with named Educational and Clinical supervisors and will have access to all the educational resources and training activities that are available to non-ACF trainees. They will be expected to continue through the usual Annual Review of Competence Progression process.

Depending on the training year that the ACF is in, the appointee will join IMT trainees in Bristol Foundation Trust. The post will involve general medical specialities, acute medicine, and Cardiology. ST4/5 years are likely to be at Southmead Hospital where there is a mix of general cardiology and general internal medicine although this is at the discretion of the Training Programme Director . For ST6 onwards, a full range of sub-speciality interests are available in the Bristol Heart Institute, including interventional cardiology, electrophysiology, imaging, adult congenital heart disease, inherited cardiac conditions and heart failure.

The ACF would gain a broad range of experience as part of the Internal Medicine Training (IMT) rotation which occupies IMT years 1, 2 and 3, and aims to take trainees who have completed the Foundation Programme 2 (or have equivalent experience and qualifications) and complete their training in acute medicine and the medical specialties as outlined in the IMT curriculum. Trainees must meet usual eligibility criteria for IMT 1, 2 or 3 or ST4.

During the 3-year ACF, trainees will have 25% academic time. They should also pass MRCP PACES by the end of the IM3 year. Where possible the rotation will be tailored to the needs of the trainee.

Public Health:

The post-holder will join the South West Public Health training scheme led by the Head of School, Professor Maggie Rae. The post will be supported by established supervisors (one educational, one academic) who will regularly review training needs based on the Faculty of Public Health's assessment guidelines. On the basis of joint review with the Fellow, a suitable training programme will be agreed and regularly updated, to ensure satisfactory progress towards obtaining the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in Public Health. All Fellows will be part of the region's existing programme of Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP). A Public Health tutorial programme is co-ordinated for all trainees within the region.

After appropriate training in Health Protection, the post-holder will participate in the local on-call for UKHSA. This commitment will be no more than on a one in nine basis and will always be supervised by a member of Consultant staff. They will not be placed on the on-call rota until they have completed health protection training (unless this has already been undertaken in another region) and passed the on-call assessment and local induction programme. A local programme of update sessions on Health Protection is led by the Health Protection team at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

To obtain a CCT in Public Health the post-holder will need to complete up to 2 years further training after completion of the Academic Clinical Fellowship, so that CCT requirements are met.

8. Academic Supervisor / Academic Programme Director:

Integrated Academic Training Lead(s):

- Professor Shelley Potter (shelley.potter@bristol.ac.uk)
- Dr Helen Winter (helen.winter@uhbw.nhs.uk)

Academic Lead:

- Public Health Medicine: Professor Ruth Kipping (Ruth.Kipping@bristol.ac.uk)
- Cardiology: Associate Professor Angus Nightingale (angus.nightingale@bristol.ac.uk)

9. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- Public Health Medicine:
  - Professor Maggie Rae (maggie.rae@nhs.net; margaret.rae@dhsc.gov.uk)

- Cardiology:
  - Core (IMT): Dr Abiramy Jeyabalan and Dr Tina Mehta (Abiramy.jeyabalan@nbt.nhs.uk; tmehta@nhs.net)
  - Higher: Dr Mohammad Sahebjala (mohammad.sahebjalal@somersetft.nhs.uk)

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.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/

This job description was prepared September 2026.