Academic F2

JOB DESCRIPTION

Research Training with Academic Training Opportunities

4 month rotation (one post)

Neurology/Neuroimmunology

Lead Academic: Prof Denise Fitzgerald

Co-Supervisors: Dr Gavin McDonnell, Dr Stella Hughes

Centre: Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine

Contact Details: d.fitzgerald@qub.ac.uk

Outline of the post

Prior to starting the placement

Following successful application, you are invited to visit the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine to discuss the placement with Academic and Clinical Supervisors. This will help with planning a suitable research project and academic exposure. For this post, Clinical Neurologists Dr Gavin McDonnell and/or Dr Stella Hughes will serve as co-supervisors

Generic academic skills

By undertaking an academic F2 placement you will gain insights into clinical academic medicine through regular interactions with the Academic and Clinical Supervisors, Clinical Academics in training, University scientific staff and postgraduate research students. This placement is designed to develop your knowledge, skills and aptitudes for academic medicine and to foster interest in a long-term clinical academic career.

Academic component

On joining the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine you will have an appraisal meeting to review your learning portfolio and agree the educational objectives for this F2 placement. You will receive feedback from your supervisors throughout the 4-month attachment with regular assessment to ensure academic competencies are achieved.

Research skills

1. A research project can be chosen in one of a number of topics relevant to neurology with an emphasis on inflammatory and demyelinating diseases. These include immunology, stem cell biology, neuroscience, regenerative biology, neuropathology, therapeutic intervention and clinical trialling. The project will be supervised by a team of supervisors to include at least one academic and one clinician. A clinical doctoral fellow may also contribute to the supervision. Ideally, the research project will form the basis of an abstract to be submitted to a national meeting.
2. Research training: It is envisaged you will be able to complete a number of research project tasks (e.g. learn about the research governance issues relevant to clinical academic research; undertake a literature review; interrogate a database; collate laboratory results; undertake scientific writing; presentation of data in an abstract, as a poster and/or oral presentation). To assist in this you will spend some time in the Multiple Sclerosis research cluster laboratories in the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine (WWIEM). Trainees may also have an opportunity assist in current clinical trials and receive training in the basics of trial methodology, ethics and governance.
3. Mentorship: You will have access to experienced clinical and academic staff who are available to provide longer term advice and encouragement to help you pursue a career in academic medicine as well as clinical academics that collaborate with the QUB MS Research cluster.

Teaching skills

Neurology has active undergraduate and postgraduate educational opportunities.
1. You will be encouraged to participate in the undergraduate teaching of medical students (SSC, seminar and ward-based clinical teaching). This teaching may be directly observed by your academic supervisors or other staff from the Centre for Medical Education with opportunities for feedback to improve your confidence and competence.
2. Formal postgraduate education includes weekly research group meetings, research and clinical governance sessions held in the within the WWIEM and within the wider clinical neurology and clinical trial groups.

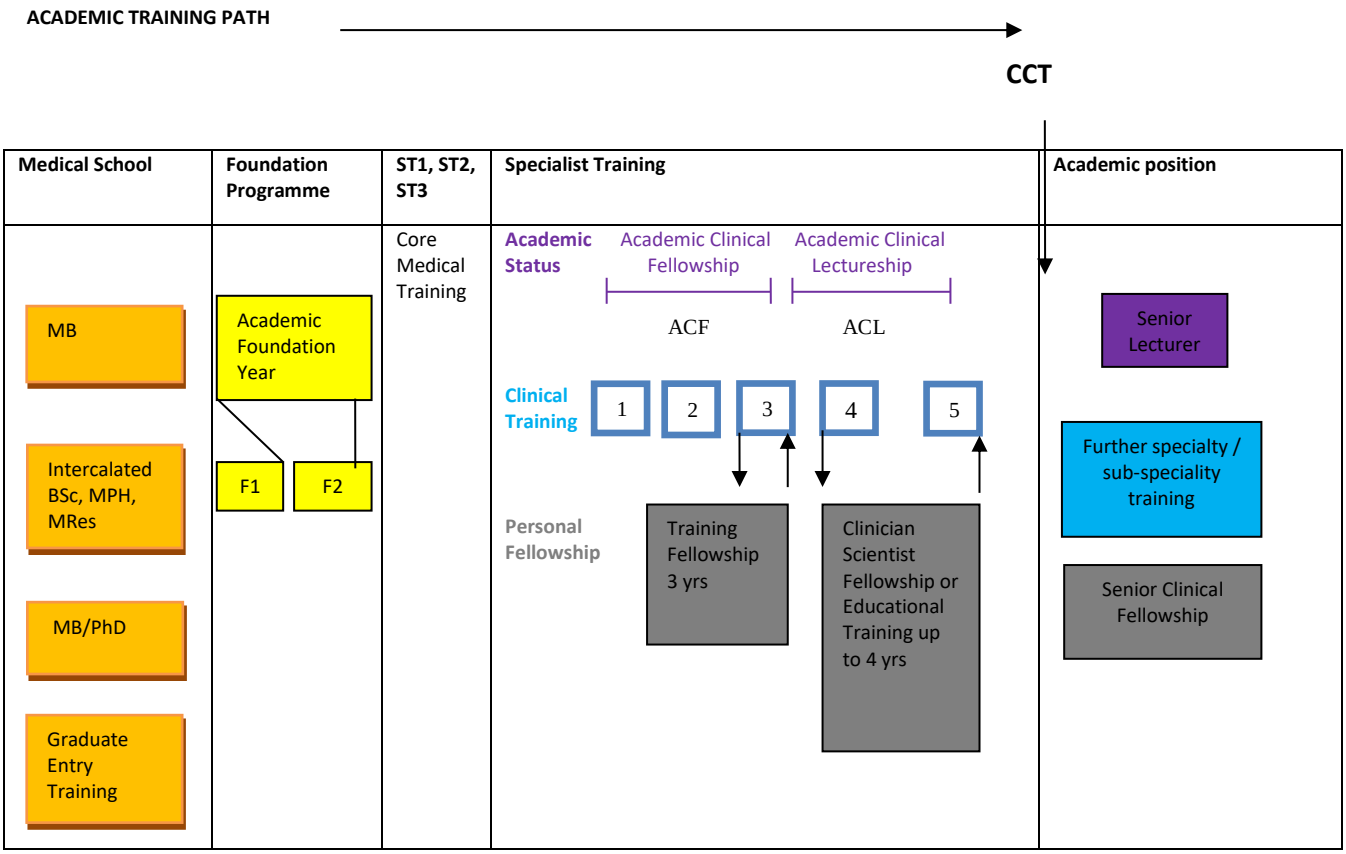
Clinical component

There will be F2-level clinical feedback, appraisal and assessment as documented in the Foundation Programme Curriculum (www.mmc.nhs.uk). You will have particular opportunities to expand your knowledge of management of neurological diseases in an outpatient setting with attendance at a weekly outpatient clinic where you will be expected to see new patients and some review patients. This will provide numerous encounters suitable for recording F2 competencies in mini-CEX and CBD formats. You will also gain experience of dictating letters to fellow health professional and patients (an important generic skill). It will also be expected that you will be preparing for and sitting the Part 1 MRCP exam or equivalent during the Academic F2 year.

Provisional job plans
This job plan has been designed to introduce the successful candidate to major areas of clinical and academic neurology and neuroimunology. Training in library and journal access will be provided in addition to the clinical training on the relevant hospital IT systems pertinent to neurology practice.

Example Template

	Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**
a.m.	MS Research labs (WWIEM)	Neurosciences Grand Rounds and progress meeting	MS clinic	MS Research Cluster meetings	MS clinic
p.m.	Project work	Project work	MDT/Neuroinflammatory imaging meetings	CPD/Literature review	Clinical Trials



The timings of personal fellowships are indicative – there should be flexibility according to individual career progression

Academic F2 : Academic F2 training posts are for 4 months.
This will be with two other rotations one of which will be a General Medicine attachment.

ACF/ACL: Trainees already appointed at ST3 or above are eligible to apply.
Trainees who have undertaken postgraduate research (PhD or MD) should have already submitted their thesis, or be within three months of submission.