



**ACADEMIC CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP (ACF)  
For Dental Core training (DCT)**

**In Dentistry**

**GENERIC JOB DESCRIPTION**

**February 2021**

## **DENTAL Academic Clinical Training**

### **Introduction**

Queen's University Belfast in partnership with the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency (Northern Ireland Postgraduate Deanery) and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust offer a pathway of academic clinical training opportunities in research and education. These posts offer candidates a comprehensive experience in clinical academic dentistry to work alongside internationally recognised clinicians and researchers. We are seeking highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals wishing to excel in both clinical and academic training and who have the ambition to be the next generation of world leading academic clinicians.

Applications for ACF posts are invited from existing Foundation Dentists and DCT1's and DCT2's in Dentistry. The ACF post is normally for 2 years. During this period it is expected that the ACF will participate in clinical training with an integrated period of 25% of whole time equivalent academic research training in the specialty to which they are appointed. They will prepare an application for an externally funded clinical research training fellowship to undertake a PhD.

### **Deferring the start date of a core training programme**

Applicants can normally only defer the start of an ACF post on statutory grounds such as personal ill health or maternity leave. Commencement cannot be deferred for reasons such as research. Applicants who have had a period of ill health or maternity during the training programme from which they are applying will be permitted to defer their entry to an ACF post by the same period of time (whole time equivalent).

### **Areas of Research and Clinical Training Opportunities**

No specific areas of research training are specified but should align with current research strategy and activity in QUB. Appointed trainees will be expected to join a Research or Education Centre in the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences in Queen's University, Belfast. The Centres are listed below and further information is available on the web <http://www.qub.ac.uk/schools/mdbs/>

- The Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research (PGJCCR)
- Centre for Public Health (CPH)
- Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine (WWIEM)
- Centre for Medical Education (CME)
- Centre for Dental Education (CDE)

Each candidate will be supported from a host Research Centre or Educational Research within CME/CDE (as above). **A letter of support from the Centre Director of your research project must be submitted with this application.**

Normally candidates will have support from a Principal Investigator as a supervisor in one of the Centres within the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences. Successful candidates who do not have a clinical academic supervisor will be allocated to a Principal Investigator (PI) in one of the Centres appropriate to their area of research interest.

### **Organisation of the Programme**

#### **Academic Base**

Academic Research and Education Centres within the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences, Queen's University, Belfast.

#### **Clinical Base**

Dental Hospital, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.

#### **Training Structure**

Core clinical competencies will be gained as necessary through access to the essential elements of the training curriculum. The clinical training provides an appropriate and wide range of clinical opportunities and has a strong track record in DCT training rotation. It is expected that the successful candidate will rotate in at least two Core Dental specialties. (Oral surgery and oral medicine, restorative dentistry, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry etc.)

### **Post Details**

**Title:** Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF)

### **Brief Outline**

Individualised clinical rotations, dependent on level of experience, will be based within the Dental Hospital. In all posts there will be a significant research contribution. For those entering at ACF level this will allow trainees to undergo research training and begin a programme of research to develop an application for an externally funded PhD programme.

### **Teaching**

The post holder will contribute to the undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes within the School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Sciences and will be involved in the assessment of students. In addition, they will have personal mentoring responsibilities for a small group of students on the BDS.

**Clinical Duties**

There will be agreed clinical duties in each of the posts in accordance with training needs and will be agreed with the appropriate training committee at NIMDTA.

## Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF)

### Objectives of the Training Programme

To obtain core competencies in Dentistry at DCT level

To undertake a programme in research methodology

To identify an area of clinical interest to base an application for an externally funded PhD programme

### Main Activities and Responsibilities

This is normally a 2 year full-time training post. The successful applicant will have achieved evidence of clinical academic achievement and ideally have experience of research. They should be aiming to pursue a career in academic Dentistry and to develop a programme of research to apply for a PhD studentship. ACF posts will be 25% research time.

### Research

The successful candidate will be expected to develop an area of research interest and apply for research training fellowships e.g. to MRC, Wellcome Trust, Northern Ireland HSC R & D Division. This will be in consultation with the Director of the Centre to which the trainee is appointed.

## EMPLOYEE SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	WHEN EVALUATED <sup>1</sup>
<b>EDUCATION &amp; QUALIFICATIONS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A BDS or equivalent dental qualification recognised by the General Dental Council</li> <li>• Registered with the GDC by the time of appointment</li> <li>• Successfully applicants will have completed the DCT recruitment process in parallel to allow benchmarking for the DCT post prior to taking up the C post.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MFDS/ MJDF or equivalent</li> <li>• Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Education or other relevant area</li> <li>• Other degrees held at time of application e.g. BSc, MSc, PhD or Dip/MSc in sedation</li> </ul>	Application form
<b>EXPERIENCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have evidence that their present level of achievement and performance is commensurate with the totality of their period of training.</li> <li>• Have evidence that their career progression is consistent with their personal circumstances.</li> <li>• Evidence of postgraduate, clinical Dentistry experience.</li> <li>• Up-to-date clinical experience in a range of contemporary techniques and practices in core Dentistry.</li> <li>• Evidence of contributing to teaching &amp; learning of others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of relevant academic &amp; research achievements, e.g. intercalated degrees, prizes, awards, distinctions, publications, presentations, other achievements.</li> <li>• Evidence of active participation in audit.</li> <li>• Evidence of participation in clinical/ laboratory research.</li> <li>• Evidence of publications</li> </ul>	Application form and Interview
<b>CAREER PROGRESSION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has evidence of achievement of Foundation competences from a UK Dental Foundation training programme or equivalent, at the time of appointment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has evidence of undertaking appropriate courses commensurate with career progression and intentions</li> <li>• Experience in either GDS or PCDS above that of Foundation Training</li> </ul>	Application Form
<b>Clinical Skills – clinical knowledge and expertise</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates good patient care skills</li> <li>• Capacity to apply sound clinical knowledge and judgment to problems</li> <li>• Ability to prioritise clinical need</li> <li>• Demonstrates appropriate technical and clinical competence and evidence of the development of diagnostic skills and clinical judgment</li> </ul>		Application form Interview/selection centre References

<b>PRESENTATION</b>		
<p><b>Excellent written and spoken English.</b></p> <p>A presentation that demonstrates a logical approach to developing a research project and the research plans are integrated with clinical training path</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Capacity to think beyond the obvious, with analytical and flexible mind.</li> <li>ii. Capacity to bring a range of approaches to problem solving.</li> </ul>		Interview
<b>RESEARCH PLAN</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACF- Plan to develop a competitive research project suitable for external peer-reviewed funding to allow the applicant to undertake a PhD (evaluated at interview)</li> </ul>	Extracurricular activities / achievements relevant to medicine.	Application form Interview
<b>ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH SKILLS</b>		
<p>Understanding of basic research principles, methodology &amp; ethics, with potential to contribute to research commensurate with level of appointment.</p> <p>Audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrates understanding of the principles of audit/ clinical governance/ quality improvement</li> <li>• Evidence of participation in audit/ service evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of relevant academic and research achievements, e.g. degrees, awards</li> <li>• Publications</li> <li>• Conference presentations/posters</li> </ul> <p>Audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of leading at least one audit with 2 completed audit cycles</li> </ul> <p>Teaching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence of delivering undergraduate or postgraduate teaching, or teaching Dental Care Professionals</li> <li>• Teaching qualification e.g. PG Certificate in Education, or other teaching training</li> </ul>	Application form Interview
<b>INTREGRATION OF CLINICAL AND ACADEMIC TRAINING</b>		
<p>Demonstrates knowledge of training programme, relevant curriculum, competency progression, requirements for ARCP &amp; commitment to own development.</p> <p>N.B. Each 12 months of ACF training should count to 12 months clinical training.</p>		Interview

<b>RESEARCH ETHICS AND CLINICAL GOVERNANCE</b>		
Demonstrates awareness of clinical governance, research ethics principles, safety, confidentiality & consent. Awareness of importance of being the patients' advocate, clinical governance & Responsibility of an NHS employee.		Interview
<b>SPECIAL FACTORS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfactory Vetting/Barring Scheme</li> <li>Up to date clinical experience and fit to practice safely. Meets professional health requirements (in line with GDC standards)</li> </ul>		Application form References  RTW checks Access NI Checks Application form Pre-employment health screening
<b>PROBITY</b>		
<b>Professional Integrity:</b> Takes responsibility for own actions, demonstrates honesty and reliability, demonstrates respect for the rights of all. Demonstrates awareness of ethical principles, safety, confidentiality & consent. Awareness of importance of being the patients' advocate, clinical governance & responsibilities of an NHS employee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrates altruism – evidence of the ability to attend to the needs of others with an awareness of their rights and equal opportunities</li> </ul>	Application form Interview References
<b>COMMITMENT TO ACADEMIC DENTISTRY</b>		
<b>Learning &amp; Development:</b> Shows realistic insight into the relevant training and the demands of lifestyle. Demonstrates knowledge of training programme & commitment to own development. Shows critical & enquiring approach to knowledge acquisition, commitment to self-directed learning & reflective/analytical approach to practice.		Application form Interview References

1 'when evaluated' is indicative, but may be carried out at any time throughout the selection process

2 'A selection criteria is a process not a place. It involves a number of selection activities that may be delivered within the Unit of Application.

3 Any time periods specified in this person specification refer to full time equivalent