The Academic Unit of Primary Health Care in the University of Bristol, in association with the Severn Deanery GP training scheme, has been awarded a NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programe in general practice. Applicants to the current round for GP training commencing August 2012 who would like to pursue an academic career attached to a very successful academic department are invited to apply for this fellowship.

This programme will provide a two phase, four year training programme for a doctor wishing to pursue a career in academic general practice.

* Hospital phase: two years in hospital/GP posts
* Academic GP registrar phase: two years of integrated academic general practice, with time divided equally between academic work in the Academic Unit of Primary Health Care, University of Bristol, and training as a GP registrar in a local practice which is recognised for undergraduate teaching, accredited for vocational training and is highly research-active.

The objectives of this training programme are to provide:(i) an excellent foundation training in research methods (ii) experience of conducting a specific research project (iii) support for a trainee with outstanding potential in making an application for an externally funded research training fellowship (RTF) eg MRC, Wellcome, NHS R&D to follow on from this post (iv) a limited exposure to and experience of undergraduate teaching (v) high quality and comprehensive vocational training for general practice, leading to successful achievement of the MRCGP qualification, as well as formal accreditation on completion of training (vi) a stimulating intellectual environment and inspiring role models, to introduce GPRs to the opportunities, challenges and excitement of an academic career.

Our unit conducts high quality research addressing questions of priority to the NHS. Much research relates to important clinical areas such as infection in children, mental health and skin disease as well as wider questions of great importance for health policy, for example into patient decision making and organisation of care.The Unit received a very high rating 2008 RAE. We were one of the 5 founding departments of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research. The Unit has an excellent track-record of obtaining externally funded research fellowships.

The Severn Deanery GP school has been in the vanguard of innovation within UK GP training. The Bristol VTS is the most popular and entry requirements are the highest within the deanery. For several years, all exiting doctors have taken and passed the MRCGP with numerous merits and distinctions. The teaching is particularly strong with emphasis on the skills required to give the highest care within inner city populations. The vast majority of those completing the scheme continue to work within the immediate vicinity and join practices that are active in teaching and research.

You will have an academic GP mentor whom you will meet regularly during the two year hospital phase and who will oversee your academic progress throughout the 4 year training programme. At the start of year 3, you will be encouraged to choose a research topic on which you can build a later fellowship application. In addition to regular supervisions with the academic mentor, you will undertake structured research training covering all aspects of designing and conducting a research study, building on the very successful programme already established in the School of Social and Community Medicine in Bristol. Your GP trainer will supervise your work in the practice and provide formal 2 hour tutorials every fortnight. Every three months in years 3 and 4, there will be a joint meeting with your GP trainer and academic supervisor. In addition we will hold annuall UK wide meetings for GP ACFs hosted by each of the involved academic departments. You will also be a member of the Severn Deanery School for Clinical Academic Training, Head of School Professor Debbie Sharp.

At the end of the 4 years we hope that you will have passed your nMRCGP, got your CCT and have been succesful in obtaining an externally funded RTF which will allow you to study for a PhD/MD.

For more information please look at our website ([www.bris.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare](http://www.bris.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare)) or contact Professor Debbie Sharp ([debbie.sharp@bris.ac.uk](mailto:debbie.sharp@bris.ac.uk)) or Dr Bill Irish

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