

### **Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Medicine For Specialised Foundation Programme Trainees**

Queen's University Belfast (QUB) has an international reputation in academic medicine and the strategic vision of the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences is to develop and promote a world-class, research-led medical community. Recognising the need for the development of a cohort of appropriately qualified medical graduates, we are offering a research intensive, student oriented **Specialised Foundation Programme (SFP)** with the option of completing a **Certificate in Academic Medicine**, that will provide high quality candidates with the research skills required to further develop their careers.

The Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Medicine will comprise of an appraisal meeting to review the trainee's learning portfolio and agree the educational objectives for the SFP placement. In the initial period of the attachment the trainee will be expected to present the background and rationale for the research project to the supervisor and research group. Following a period of data collection and analysis they will carry out a further oral presentation of their research results. Upon completion of the attachment a 1000 word extended abstract summarising the research hypothesis, methodology, results and conclusions is to be submitted within three weeks. Trainees are expected to meet with supervisors in the months leading up to the post maximise the usefulness of the four month placement.

A research project can be chosen in one of a number of relevant topics and the project will be supervised by an experienced clinical academic. If possible, the research project will form the basis of an abstract to be submitted to a national meeting.

The overall Educational Objectives are to:

1. To equip students with the knowledge and skills to understand the principles of academic medicine.
2. To provide students with the opportunity to participate in original and high quality research.
3. To develop student's skills in critical analysis of the scientific literature and scientific writing of research articles.
4. To mentor students in the skills required to produce high quality research proposals.
5. To expand students capacity for self-directed and life-long learning.



#### **Educational Opportunities:**

The Academic Foundation Year 2 programme provides a wealth of opportunities to develop a wide range of research skills such as the ability to:

- 1) Analyse and interpret data.

- 2) Adopt various research approaches and combine information from different sources to develop a research plan.
- 3) Evaluate ethical issues in research
- 4) Critically evaluate scientific literature
- 5) Apply analytical, numerical and creative thinking skills
- 6) Work independently and take responsibility for own learning
- 7) Demonstrate effective oral and written communication skills including the presentation of scientific information
- 8) Manage time effectively and prioritize tasks
- 9) Develop knowledge and skills which contribute to the development of others, through active participation in teamwork and group learning opportunities
- 10) Use information technology in particular the recording of information and data retrieval
- 11) Discuss research approaches, techniques and design in academic medicine.
- 12) Discuss research ethics in relation to studies in humans and animals and correctly apply established principles and legislation to these areas of research
- 13) Critically analyse research approaches in their chosen discipline
- 14) Explain techniques that will underpin the research design of their research project
- 15) Develop and present a research proposal for their research project
- 16) Write an extended abstract based on established guidelines for a chosen journal

**Particular strengths of this placement:**

The opportunities offered by the Academic Foundation programme and the Postgraduate Certificate in Academic medicine provide the skills necessary to become an enquiring and thoughtful doctor. As Academic Foundation doctors you will be taking the first steps along the path of integrating research ideas into your clinical practice. By developing a research project, collecting data, analysing and interpreting results and presenting your findings you will gain a range of essential research skills. This programme will provide you with the skills necessary to become a thoughtful and innovative clinician whether you chose to pursue an academic or clinical career path.

**Illustrative Timetable (clinical duties and regular educational sessions):**

	<b>9am-12pm</b>	<b>12pm-5pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Research</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Out patient clinics</b>	<b>Clinical Education</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Research</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Out patient clinics</b>	<b>Research</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Research</b>	<b>Research</b>

Please also refer to the job descriptions available on the [SFP QUB webpages](#) for more illustrative placement timetables which are specific to certain disciplines. You should also liaise with your supervisor in advance of your placement commencing to discuss further.

**Meetings: Specify Weekly / Monthly**

Weekly Research Group meetings: Regular Seminars, Multidisciplinary meetings

**Fees & Funding:** Trainees undertaking the Certificate will be liable for the University’s standard tuition fees which can be found [here](#). We would like to emphasise that the Certificate of Academic Medicine/Dentistry is not compulsory for SFPs.

**How to Apply:**

Details on how to apply for the **Academic Foundation Year 2 Programme**, are available on NIMDTA webpages (<http://www.nimdtg.gov.uk/recruitment/foundation-recruitment/>). On acceptance to this scheme you will be eligible to apply for the Certificate in Academic Medicine.

**Academic Foundation Year 2 Programme Team at QUB:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>SURNAME</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Educational Roles</b>
<b>Dr</b>	<b>TURKINGTON</b>	<b>Richard</b>	<b>Director of Clinical Academic Training</b>
<b>Dr</b>	<b>Cunningham</b>	<b>Emma</b>	<b>SFP Programme Co-Ordinator</b>

Get in Touch: Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the programme team at QUB or NIMDTA if you have any questions.

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