

Job Descriptions from a FY2 Trainee's Point of View.

Rheumatology Academic Placement

Who will I work with?

You will be the only FY2 doing academic rheumatology and the project you work on will vary from person to person. You will work for a consultant rheumatologist (likely to be either Dr Harvey or Dr Dennison) and will have regular meetings with Professor Cooper to assess your progress. You will also work closely with statisticians and research nurses based at the MRC.

What are the hours like?

The hours are generally nine to five however you will need to do some reading in your spare time as there is always lots' going on!!

What might a typical day involve?

Each day varies greatly which is part of the fun of the job and you have to make up your own timetable....so you need to be quite motivated! On a Monday morning, you will start by going to the RSH for a rheumatology clinic. This is very well supervised and you either sit in with the consultant or see a few of the less complex patients and then report back. In the afternoon, you will get on with either the literature review or some statistical analysis. On Tuesdays, the morning is spent researching and in the afternoon I go to an USS lesson as part of the MAVIDOS trial (but this is mainly as I want to do O+G).

On Wednesdays, in the morning you will run a recruiting clinic for the MAVIDOS trial, this involves discussing the ins and outs of the trial with them. Again this is extremely well supervised and there are always lots of very experienced research nurses around to answer all your silly questions! In the afternoon, you can go to an antenatal clinic.

Thursdays is purely a research day.

Fridays you might carry out some research in the morning and then go to a joint injection clinic in the afternoon. This is run by the rheumatology SpRs and they are always very keen to teach.

Once a week, you will also have a meeting with your supervisor to check your progress and discuss any problems that you may have.

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What teaching/learning opportunities are there?

There is a Wednesday lunchtime academic meeting that you are encouraged to try to attend. There is also academic teaching one Friday a month on various different topics such as "How to make a good research question?" This job is all about learning methodologies for research and learning a bit more about the opportunities a career in research has to offer.