

Institutional information – key facts for inclusion as appropriate

Support statements must be personal to your application to avoid the same document being submitted for different people from the same source. The NIHR have fed back that they expect tailored and personal statements of organisational support so, if you use some of the text below, it needs to be refined to connect with your own situation, context, focus of project, career to date and plans for the future.

You should also check with the relevant NIHR infrastructure in advance of submission that they are happy to support you and/or be mentioned in your submission as in some cases the NIHR (and other funders) will email the infrastructure director following your submission to confirm they support your application.

Brief information that describes research excellence of both organisations pertinent to your proposal is generally required. Start with your substantive employer, and then weave in the honorary organisation.

Work up as a Word document in conjunction with your supervisor. Submit to relevant School, Faculty and/or Trust division/care group/department to the named person who will confirm participation on the system and may, for some schemes, have to make the final submission on behalf of the host institution. This might be the Faculty Associate Dean for Research, Deputy Head of School (Research) or relevant Head of Department or Care Group. They should review, augment and discuss the text with you, as necessary.

University – generic information

You are not expected to use all of this generic information. Recent feedback from the NIHR says they really don't want reams of text extolling the virtues of the institution, but rather it should be personalised to the applicant and the project. Think carefully how you demonstrate the excellence of your chosen academic partner in your chosen area of research.

The University of Southampton's outstanding research and impact has been recognised in the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021) results. Research by 1,412 Southampton academics – comprising 3,227 research outputs, 104 impact case studies, and 25 environment statement.

Ninety-two per cent of the University's research has been classed as 'world leading' (4) or 'internationally excellent' (3*), placing Southampton in the top 10 per cent of submitting institution and ranked seventh among universities that submitted to more than one Unit of Assessment ('non-specialist' universities) across the sector.*

The University of Southampton is a founding signatory of the Athena SWAN Charter. The University has held a Silver Athena SWAN award since 2016.

The University of Southampton Doctoral College provides a focal point for the training and development of researchers across the university who are enrolled on a PhD programme. In addition, the Centre for Higher Education Practice (CHEP) provides opportunities for the academic professional development of all staff, (research, education and enterprise) and works collaboratively with colleagues across the University, promoting professional development sessions via Staffbook, the online booking system. CHEP is notable for offering the PGCAP programme and fellowship accreditation with Advance HE, the funding intensive programme, writing retreats, and CPD sessions. CHEP hosts communities of practice including the KEE-CoP for knowledge exchange and enterprise, and signposts to relevant resources for research staff at all career levels via the Researcher Development Hub.

UK league table rankings

- *20th overall and 2nd for Physiotherapy with 11 subject areas in the top 10 in The Complete University Guide 2025*
- *19th in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2025*
- *22nd overall and 1st for Midwifery - with a total of 7 of subject areas in the top 10 in The Guardian University Guide 2025*

International league table rankings

- *80th in the QS World University Rankings (2025), and joint 12th in the UK.*

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- 6 subjects in the global top 50, according to QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024: Nursing (11), Archaeology (36), Earth and Marine Sciences (38), Geophysics (42), Geology (46) and Statistics and Operational Research (4)
 - Also in the top 100 globally, according to QS World University Rankings by Subject 2024: Civil & Structural Engineering; Physics and Astronomy; Electrical & Electronic Engineering; Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing Engineering; Medicine; Accounting and Finance.
 - 115th in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2025 and 14th among UK universities listed. Explore the full World University Rankings and UK Best Universities: [World University Rankings 2025 | Times Higher Education \(THE\)](#)

Student satisfaction

The National Student Survey (NSS) gathers feedback from mainly final-year undergraduates about their time in UK universities. Highlights from the NSS 2024 results include:

- 85% of our students were satisfied with the teaching on their course
- 87% of our students were satisfied with the learning resources provided by the University
- 90% of our students agreed that staff were good at explaining things
- 87% of our students agreed that their course was intellectually stimulating

Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF)

The University of Southampton's outstanding business and public engagement activities have been recognised as among the best in England in the 2024 Knowledge Exchange Framework (KEF).

The University received top ratings in several categories, including in public engagement, IP and commercialisation, working with the public and third sector, and working with business.

The second highest rating ('high engagement') was awarded for the University's research partnerships, local growth and regeneration and CPD and graduate start-ups.

These results place Southampton at or above the average in all areas when compared to other similarly large, research-intensive and broad-discipline English universities.

In partnership with University Hospital Southampton

A foundation of its success has been the strong partnership between the University of Southampton and University Hospital Southampton. The relationship draws strength from the very best of Southampton's basic science research in biomedicine, psychology, social sciences, electronics and computer science and mathematics and allows us to continually pursue excellence in health and social care research, education and professional practice.

University Research group

This is by far the most important bit. Describe the research group/department and key people in it who will support the fellowship holder, how the research project and person will be aligned with this focus and expertise, describe any facilities and resources available and what 'support' you will get from group, e.g. seminars, departmental meetings, being part of doctoral and post-doctoral community.

School of Health Sciences

Generic information

The School of Health Sciences in the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences is internationally acknowledged as the leading centre for research in Nursing, Allied Health Professions, and Health Sciences in the UK. The School is ranked 11th in World for Nursing (QS ranking 2025), 1st in UK for Midwifery (Guardian 2025), 9th in UK Mental Health Nursing (Guardian 2025), 3rd in UK for Physiotherapy (Guardian 2025), and 4th in UK for Occupational Therapy (Complete University Guide 2025).

The School delivers world-leading health and care research to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Wessex, the UK and beyond. All aspects of the School's research environment were judged in REF 2021 to be conducive to producing research of world-leading quality and enabling outstanding impact in terms of its vitality and sustainability. The panel noted clear and concise strategic direction of research, particularly in clinical partnerships, sustainability and ongoing development of international collaborations. 93% of our research outputs were judged to be of internationally excellent or world-leading quality in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 80% of research impact case studies submitted were judged to have led to outstanding impact in terms of their reach and significance. These excellent results confirm our position as a leading research-intensive School. The School's research strategy is based on strong links with the NHS and other healthcare organisations in collaboration with leading figures from a range of clinical professions, and research. Our research also helps to prepare the healthcare leaders of the future feeding into the School's educational and enterprise programmes, and vice versa, giving our students the opportunity to work with cutting-edge research teams, in research groups: Health Workforce & System, Centre for Psychosocial Research in Cancer (Centric+), Child & Adolescent Health, Ageing and Dementia, Long-term Conditions, Active Living for Health, Medicine Management, Bladder & Bowel, and Skin Health.

We are proud to host research infrastructures which are fully integrated within the School and our strategy, particularly NIHR Applied Research Centre (ARC) Wessex. We are also embedded in the NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), delivering on specific research objectives.

Clinical academic development

Our Health Sciences academics have a long history and leading track record in nurturing and supporting nurses, midwives and AHPs (NMAHPs) across the entire career trajectory from pre-doctoral to senior investigator, within a strong culture of inter-disciplinary research. We have a leading role with the NIHR ARC Wessex and within the School of Health Sciences are strongly committed to supporting a range of fellowships (e.g. NIHR, Diabetes UK, Versus Arthritis UK, UKRI, ESRC). From 2014, we have extended and expanded our post-doctoral clinical academic capacity for NMAHPs (56 awards: Senior Investigators, Senior Fellowships, Advanced Fellowships, Senior Clinical Lectureship, Clinical Lectureship) and 68 NIHR, ARC and School/Trust partnership funded clinical academic PGR students have been awarded. Since 2006, we have supported many internships and NIHR funded MRes studentships (119 awards), successfully building capacity in research knowledge as a pre doctoral pipeline.

XXX will benefit from career development support specific to non-medical clinical academic career pathways. They will participate as part of our larger clinical academic team of senior researchers, Early Career Researchers and PhD students in additional activities that focus career development. They will also work alongside the established multidisciplinary researchers housed in the clinical academic facility, funded through URKI and EU projects e.g. EU Marie Curie Integrated Training Network 'STINTS'. The purpose-built facility provides open plan research space, conference rooms and specialist laboratories to support research (including a biomechanics laboratory, imaging facilities and a CAT2 biochemistry lab).

For inclusion in Doctoral fellowship applications:

In addition to the Doctoral College training focused on transferable skills and employability, we offer a Health Sciences doctoral training programme. This consists of the taught component of the MRes, with modules focused on clinical and health research, specifically design & methods, conducting research, planning research, quantitative and qualitative methods from the clinical and health research perspective. In addition, we run regular PGR student forum sessions which provide more in-depth discussion on topics requested by the students, for example ethics and approvals, patient and public involvement. Finally, students are invited to attend the Health Sciences seminar series and have opportunities to present via their research groups.

Faculty of Medicine

Generic information

The Faculty of Medicine leads innovative learning and discovery for better health across the life course. The Faculty aims to establish its reputation as an internationally recognised Medical School (placed =81st in the 2024 QS global subject rankings), and to secure its place as one of the UK's leading Medical Schools, building upon three distinctive features: our strong partnership with the local NHS (particularly University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust - UHS) to deliver translational research and equip the next generation of doctors to work in a rapidly-changing environment; collaborations at the life sciences interface with engineering, mathematics, computing, chemistry and nanotechnology; and exploitation of the enterprise agenda to maximise the impact of our education and research.

Our research will focus on four key approaches:

- *Combining basic mechanistic and clinical research to deliver internationally-leading research and resultant outputs*
- *Early clinical translation, utilising and fostering links with the NHS*
- *Interdisciplinary collaborations, through the UoS Institute for Life Sciences (IfLS)*
- *Enterprise and innovation*

Our research falls within five key themes:

- *Cancer Sciences*
- *Healthy Ageing and Multi-Morbidity*
- *Infection and Microbial Science*
- *Developmental Sciences and Regenerative Medicine*
- *Population Science*

Supporting these themes are five cross-cutting research methodology platforms that guide investment in equipment, core facilities and technical support:

- *Cell Biology & Chemistry of Life*
- *Immunology*
- *Clinical Trials & Experimental Medicine*
- *Systems Biology*
- *Data Science*

We are proud to host research centres/units which are fully integrated within the Faculty and our strategy.

The Centre for Cancer Immunology. We undertake interdisciplinary research involving scientists and clinicians. Through worldwide collaborations, we combine our expertise to understand and develop potential new treatments for cancer.

[Centre for Cancer Immunology | University of Southampton](#)

Southampton Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (ECMC) delivers access to world class experimental cancer medicine for the population of southern England and beyond.

[Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre | University of Southampton](#)

The **NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre** takes new discoveries, treatments and technologies into the clinic, using unique tools, facilities and world-changing expertise.

[NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre | University of Southampton](#)

The **NIHR Southampton Clinical Research Facility** is an extensive, dedicated space for early-stage clinical research located at Southampton General Hospital.

[NIHR Southampton Clinical Research Facility | University of Southampton](#)

The **NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) Wessex** conduct applied health research with our partners and others in the health and care sector, alongside patients and members of the public.

Applied health research aims to address the immediate issues facing the health and social care system. We also help bring research evidence into practice and provide training for the local workforce.

[National Institute for Health and Care Research \(NIHR\) Applied Research Collaboration Wessex | University of Southampton](#)

The **Southampton NIHR School for Primary Care Research** is one of nine in a partnership of leading academic centres for primary care research in England. We work to increase the evidence base for primary care practice through high quality research and strategic leadership, and to build capacity in primary care with a well established training programme

[NIHR School for Primary Care Research](#)

The **Southampton Clinical Trials Unit (SCTU)** delivers world-leading clinical trials of innovative new treatments and diagnostic tools. Our trials directly influence routine clinical practice for the benefit of patients.

[Southampton Clinical Trials Unit \(SCTU\) | University of Southampton](#)

The **MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Centre** (Director, Professor Nicholas Harvey) was established in 2021, following reconfiguration from the forerunning MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Unit. At the MRC LEC, we study the determinants of musculoskeletal and metabolic disease throughout the lifecourse.

[MRC Lifecourse Epidemiology Centre | University of Southampton](#)

i-NutriLife is a Diet and Health Open Innovation Research Club (OIRC) Innovation Hub. OIRC is a network funded by the UK Research and Innovation Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council that promotes collaborations between academia and industry in the diet, nutrition and health space.

[Innovative Nutrition Solutions for Lifecourse Health | University of Southampton](#)

The Faculty hosts the **NIHR Research Support Service (RSS)** Hub delivered by University of Southampton and Partners. The Hub provides support in all areas of applied health and care research, especially in public health research conducted outside of the NHS, and other under-researched areas.

[Research Support Service Hub delivered by University of Southampton and Partners | NIHR](#)

The **Clinical Informatics Research Unit (CIRU)** operates as an applied research and enterprise unit within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Southampton. We have over 20 years of experience in providing clinical research solutions and services across the globe, advancing data excellence, quality, management, and improving research conduct. CIRU works across the 7 continents including Europe, North America, South America, Oceania, Australasia, Asia, and Africa.

[CIRU](#)

The School of Healthcare Enterprise and Innovation (SHEI) is home to research-focused businesses tackling major issues in healthcare. We also provide a consultancy service and run a purpose-built teaching lab to improve health outcomes for young people.

[Healthcare Enterprise & Innovation | University of Southampton](#)

SHEI knowledge exchange and enterprise units include:

EViR advances the practices of health-related research and research funding

Member organisations from around the world collaborate in EViR to develop new approaches to increase the value of health-related research.

[Ensuring value in research - EViR](#)

Hatch use their expertise and extensive network of researchers and partners to access the best minds and the latest thinking to drive meaningful change

[home - hatch](#)

Southampton Health Technology Assessments Centre (SHTAC) is a leading centre for health technology assessment and health services research in the UK. Our expertise in evidence synthesis, health economics and information science informs timely policy decisions on the use of new healthcare technology and services, directly benefitting patients and ensuring good value for money for our health

[Southampton Health Technology Assessments Centre | University of Southampton](#)

LifeLab is a unique initiative created by the University of Southampton in collaboration with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), Southampton Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and University Hospital Southampton. At a purpose built 'lab' in University Hospital Southampton, young people take part in fun and engaging sessions, conduct experiments, meet scientists, and learn first-hand why and how to lead healthier lives.

[LifeLab Online](#)

Clinical academic development

The Southampton Clinical Academic Training Scheme (SoCATS) brings together the Faculty of Medicine and Health Education England-Wessex (HEE-W) to support the development of our Specialised Foundation Programme (SFP) trainees, Academic Clinical Fellows (ACFs) and Clinical Lecturers (CLs).

SFP trainees involved with research are provided with monthly training throughout year 1 on research methods. There is a four-month rotation in year 2 for an academic placement with hands-on research and weekly academic training sessions throughout the post.

ACFs and CLs can access funding to undertake a wide range of training opportunities (research methodology, epidemiology, statistics, etc.) to support their development. Trainees can also access workshops on scientific writing, abstract writing, poster presentations, supervisory skills and research impact. Professional development workshops include time management, leadership skills, building/managing research teams, public engagement, and teaching skills. Mentoring for clinical academic trainees is facilitated via the Faculty Mentoring Scheme.

ACFs and CLs can access funding to attend conferences to disseminate their research findings, as well as other research related events. Financial support is available to fund training to support academic development.

As a result of the rigorous scientific training received many of our former or current ACFs and CLs have made significant discoveries in their field of research and have published these findings in international journals. This includes publications in Lancet, Nature Medicine, Nature Genetics, British Medical Journal, Lancet Oncology, Lancet Infectious Diseases, Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA, Gut, American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Cancer Research, Clinical Cancer Research, Brain, Blood, and many other reputable journals.

Career progression through fellowships is supported via three Fellowship Champions and six Fellowship Mentors based within the Faculty. The University Research and Innovation Services team provide bespoke advice and assistance with fellowship and grant applications.

Since the inception of our Integrated Academic Training programme over 120 NIHR funded ACFs have completed their ACF with the majority continuing research once their post has come to an end.

We have an excellent track record of CLs being awarded intermediate or advanced fellowships, including Career Development Fellowships (NIHR, MRC, Pathological Society, Fulbright Scholarship), Postdoctoral Fellowships (NIHR, Wellcome Trust) and Clinician Scientist/Advanced Clinician Scientist Fellowships (CRUK, MRC).

SoCATS has a network of Academic Leads who can provide information specific to their specialty. Details are available on the SoCATS website. (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/socats/index.page>).

NOTE – Further information on SoCATS can be found on our [website](#) and [Intranet site](#) (UoS login required).

Support for Early Career Researchers and Technical Staff

The Postdoctoral Association (PDA)

The Faculty of Medicine PDA aims to enhance the development of early career staff, nurturing careers and helping each individual to achieve their professional goals.

[FoM Postdoctoral Association](#)

The PDA has a Steering Committee with at least postdoctoral researcher and one academic member from each of the Faculty's Schools to ensure the association works in partnership with our postdoctoral researchers to provide what they need. Postdoctoral research staff are automatically members of the association and are encouraged to take part in the events facilitated through the PDA. Activities include our annual PDA Christmas Lecture delivered by a distinguished speaker and events to highlight career opportunities.

The PDA advertises teaching opportunities for ECRs within the Faculty and relevant funding awards that are available.

Seminars and workshops on topics requested by early career staff are provided through our 'Transferable skills programme. Topics include Starting a family in academia; getting the most from your appraisal; Fellowships: A path to independence; Work:life balance; and Academic promotion. Additional ECR training opportunities include session on abstract writing; oral presentation skills; excellent poster presentations; and narrative CVs. All research related staff can access sessions on more general topics including research integrity, open research, and trusted research, delivered by The University Centre for Higher Education Practice or the Faculty Research Support Office.

We coordinate our Faculty Dean's Awards which recognise the work performed by the early career staff outside of their academic achievements. Excellent supervision is also recognised through the Dean's Award for Most Supportive PI (for postdoctoral researchers) and Dean's Award for Most Supportive Supervisor (PGRs).

[Dean's Awards](#)

Peer support within the postdoctoral researcher community is facilitated via a dedicated Microsoft Teams channel where exchanges between postdocs ECRs can take place. The Teams channel is also used to advertise relevant events.

Researcher Development Concordat

We uphold the Researcher Development Concordat and proactively worked to raise both postdoctoral research staff (postdocs) and PI awareness of the Concordat and embed appropriate behaviours across the Faculty. A strong focus is on postdoc training and development and the commitment to enable all postdocs to have access to 10 days of personal development time.

[Concordat](#)

Technical Staff support and development

The University is a signatory to the Technician Commitment to ensure visibility, recognition and career development for technicians working in the Faculty. We have expanded eligibility to ECR training programmes and provide opportunities to present at PGR/ECR research conferences to technical staff to recognise their contribution to the research environment.

[The Technician Commitment](#)

Our Faculty promotes recognition of the contribution our technical staff make to research. We highlight the importance of recognising this through appropriate co-authorship or direct acknowledgement, in accordance with the University Guidance on Technicians and Publication Attribution.

[Technicians and Publications Fair Attribution Guidance FINAL v1.0 190321.pdf](#)

Mentoring for all staff

Mentoring involves meeting with someone who has no connection with your day-to-day work life, providing you with safe space to explore your thoughts and options. Mentoring has been shown to have real value for diverse early career staff, for those who mentor them, and for the institution in terms of improving research success, recruitment and retention of staff¹. Mentoring is also valued by funding bodies and Athena Swan committees.

The Faculty has a well-established Mentoring Scheme facilitated through our Faculty Mentoring Committee. The Committee run a Language of Mentoring workshop every year to explain what mentoring is and to develop confidence in mentoring techniques. A database of mentors is available to help individuals identify a suitable mentor. Regular 'find me a mentor' sessions are offered where members of the Mentoring Committee help match mentees with potential mentors.

Specific mentoring options highlighted to our staff include;

- *Maternity, paternity, adoption and family mentoring*
- *Academic Intersectionality Mentoring in Medical Schools*
- *Public-patient engagement and mentoring*

- *PGCAP and PREP mentoring*
- *Peer mentoring, including peer mentoring for promotion*

[Medicine Mentoring - Home](#)

Fellowship Mentoring

The Faculty of Medicine has fellowship mentors in each School of the Faculty who offer advice and support for those wishing to apply for a fellowship in their School.

A dedicated intranet (SharePoint) site highlights both our Fellowship Mentors and various other options for support and advice this is available. We work closely with colleagues across the University and our key partner University Hospital Southampton to ensure anyone interested in taking up a fellowship is appropriately supported.

[Faculty of Medicine Fellowship Support - Home](#)

Annual Research Conference

The Faculty hosts an annual two-day research conference which provides the opportunity for PGR students, postdocs, clinical academic trainees and technical staff involved in medicine related research to present their work and network with colleagues from across the University and our local NHS partners.

[Annual Faculty of Medicine Research Conference 2024](#)

Faculty of Medicine Resource Library

Applicants may also wish to review the 'FoM Resource Library' which includes a Faculty Infographic and Faculty presentation slides.

[FoM Resource Library](#)

UHS Trust – generic information

Again you don't have to use all of this – refer to relevant areas as needed and specific to context of your own research and situation. So if you are doing research that aligns with expertise and focus of the BRC for example, mention that, and what the BRC will offer in terms of support and development.

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust is one of the largest acute teaching trusts in England, with a staff of 13,000 with a turnover of more than £1bn (2020-21). It provides hospital services for 1.9 million people living in Southampton and southern Hampshire and specialist services including neurosciences, respiratory medicine, cancer, cardiovascular, obstetrics and specialist children's services to more than 3.7 million people in central southern England and the Channel Islands. The Trust is also a designated major trauma centre, one of only two places in the south of England to offer adults and children full major trauma care provision.

UHS gained foundation trust status on 1 October 2011.

Every year, our staff see more than 650,000 people at outpatient appointments, deal with 150,000 attendances in the emergency department, and treat around 160,000 inpatients and day patients, including over 75,000 emergency admissions. In addition, the Trust delivers more than 100 outpatient clinics across the south of England to keep services local for patients.

Research is an integral part of University Hospital Southampton's mission to constantly improve and be able to offer better care to our patients. The Trust's Research Strategy (2017-2022) "Research for All", and UHS Clinical Strategy (2020-2025) lay out the Trust vision that research is fundamental to everything we do, embedded in the delivery of care.

One of the UK's largest University Hospitals, between 19/20 and 2023/24 UHS recruited a total of 68,245 participants into NIHR portfolio studies. 3,670 was commercial and 14,501 was interventional. At the end of 2023/24 UHS ranked 15 out of acute Trusts for recruitment/11 for complexity weighted recruitment/10 for commercial recruitment. 75% of studies closed in 2023/24 met time to target. 64% of studies set-up in 2023/24 met 40 days from date site selection to site confirmation of capacity and capability.

The University of Southampton (UoS) and University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust's (UHS) research partnership extends from fundamental laboratory based science, through joint management of large-scale, externally funded translational research infrastructure, to collaborative implementation of research interventions into practice. The partnership has in place a strategic agreement and robust governance designed to govern and contract for their frequent research collaboration.

The partnership is realised through a combination of joint strategic investment, a physical University presence within the Trust at Southampton General Hospital and a collaborative approach to working. This essential base for the University at the heart of the NHS ensures it is positioned to undertake timely and relevant research into service provision and intervention, informed by collaboration with clinical colleagues at the forefront of NHS practice. The two institutions seek to foster a collaborative approach to research, through joint working arrangements, the sharing of best practice, and regular operational and strategic steering groups, in an administrative, academic and clinical context.

UHS is committed to developing a culture of inclusion, diversity and belonging. The 'Actionable Allyship' programme is being rolled out across all staff, encouraging confidence to have positive discussions around all aspects of inclusion and belonging, and to challenge microaggressions and inequalities in the moment. Additional health and wellbeing support measures for staff were implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including designation of a wellbeing guardian on the board of directors.

The Clinical Informatics Research Unit has achieved much in the field of health service data research and has developed the EDGE Clinical Research Management system enabling investigators nationwide to manage their clinical research data optimally.

The Trust has a dedicated grants team who can provide advice and support on aspects such as managing the research grant, looking after the budget and developing an annual report of progress.

Material on your clinical department

Ask your supervisors and other senior academics who are in the dept and clinical mentors to support this section. Describe the ethos, culture and research and innovation strengths of particular dept and the Trust as a clinical centre of excellence. Mention if, for example, there are seminars or research group meetings that you can access. Also, the presence of medical academic clinical fellows, other nurse/AHP clinical academics and medical senior investigators who will support and encourage.

Southampton NIHR infrastructure – generic information

If your research is aligned with the BRC or the NIHR ARC Wessex make sure you talk to the training lead of the relevant bit of BRC (Nutrition – Mark Johnson, Respiratory and Allergy, and Perioperative and Critical Care – Malcolm West, and Microbiology, Immunology and Infection, and Data, Health and Society TBC), or NIHR ARC (Richard Trowbridge or Kinda Ibrahim, deputy directors of NIHR ARC Wessex) and they can help you add text about ‘trainee’ support as relevant to your area of focus.

*Embedded in the heart of the hospital is the **NIHR Clinical Research Facility (CRF)** (2022-2027 award £10.5m) which facilitates over 500+ active studies each year and consistently recruits a high number of participants with the CRF hosting >16,800 visits on average each financial year. In 2023/24 the CRF had 585 active studies with 6888 research participants and >16,800 participant visits (including vaccine hub) in over 19 different health categories, including early phase cancer trials. The satellite CRF Vaccine Hub, part of the Wessex Vaccine Research Hub Model (covering Southampton, Portsmouth, Bournemouth and Weymouth) continues to support the CRF with participant vaccine study visits recorded as >630 in 2023/24. The CRF had 24 active First in Human studies during 2023/2024 across the health categories of Cancer, Infection, Neurological, Metabolic and Endocrine, Musculoskeletal and cardiovascular health. The CRF facilitates early phase industry and non-commercial studies to phase 1 standards, industry funded academic-led translational research and engagement with industry including SMEs and experimental medicine.*

The Southampton Clinical Trials Unit (SCTU) delivers world-leading clinical trials of innovative new treatments and diagnostic tools. We work in partnership with investigators to deliver high-quality trials that will directly influence routine clinical practice for the benefit of patients. We work at the forefront of innovative clinical research, taking discoveries from the laboratory into the clinic to provide the treatments and medical interventions of the future. Our team has expertise in the design, conduct and analysis of multi-centre, interventional clinical trials and other well-designed studies. We are a UK Clinical Research Collaboration registered CTU that receives core funding from Cancer Research UK with additional funding from the NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), and we are part of the South Central NIHR Research Support Service (RSS). For an informal chat about how we might be able to help you, email Professor Gareth Griffiths at ctuadmin@soton.ac.uk.

***Wessex Investigational Sciences Hub (WISH)** laboratory is a Good Laboratory Practice regulated immunology laboratory with genomics and molecular microbiology facilities. Part NIHR funded, it is a quality-regulated research environment and is approved by several external governance bodies. It hosts the CR UK Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre, unique in the UK for its focus on immunotherapy and immunomonitoring, in addition to the Wessex NHS Genomic Medicine Centre.*

*The **NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)** (£25m award 2022-2027) brings together five themes (Nutrition, Lifecourse and Metabolism, Respiratory and Allergy, Data health and Society, Microbiology, Immunology and Infection and Perioperative and Critical Care), two core partners (University Hospital Southampton and University of Southampton) and a network of collaborations across Wessex, the UK and internationally. Our vision is to enhance health and quality-of-life by improving resilience to disease, injury and the consequences of ageing across the lifecourse through translation of world-class experimental medicine combined with our seven foundational principles of focus, integration, democratisation, person-centredness, inclusivity, collaboration and efficiency.*

***NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Wessex (ARC) - Oct 2019 to March 2026** NIHR awarded ARC Core funding of £11.9m, with further NIHR additional funding of £6.2m, in total £18m+. In addition, NIHR ARC Wessex secures supplementary income from NHS partners, and NHS England to co-fund Projects and Capacity Building opportunities. NIHR ARC Wessex is a partnership between the NHS, Local authorities, Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Dorset Integrated Care Boards, four Universities, charities, local authorities,*

and other organisations across the Wessex region. The ARC Wessex programme of research addresses four areas related to the health and social care needs of our community: Ageing & Dementia, Healthy Communities, Long term Conditions, Workforce & Health Systems, alongside a Mental Health hub.

Academic career development forms a central component of the ARC Wessex strategy to develop the research skills and talents of the ARC Wessex community and make a substantial contribution to fostering a world class research environment in applied health and social care research. XXX will become a member of our Academy (200+ members) which offers a diverse and collaborative network by which we pool resources to support a variety of events, regular 'check-in' meetings and have set up on-line resources and top tips for Academy members to remain connected throughout the course of their awards and beyond.

In January 2025, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust who host the ARC, will make an application for further NIHR funding. If successful this will cover a five year term from April 2026 to March 2031. Outcome expected Oct 2025.

The University of Southampton's Primary Care Research Centre is a member of the [NIHR School for Primary Care Research \(SPCR\)](#). NIHR research schools are national collaborations between leading academic centres that fund research in primary care, public health and social care. This new phase of the SPCR has an explicit aim to strengthen the primary care research sector more broadly, covering sectors such as community nursing and pharmacy as well as general practice. Funding of £22 million started in April 2021 for five years.

The [NIHR Research Support Service \(RSS-SC\)](#) provides research design and methodological support to researchers, including qualitative research, health economics and PPI capabilities. The RSS also delivers training including an annual NIHR focussed grant application workshop. Sited at Southampton General Hospital, the hub is a collaboration between 15 units in Southampton, Portsmouth and Oxford.

These centres amount to significant NIHR investment and come together to form the supporting pillars of the Southampton clinical research partnership.

Southampton Academy of Research (SoAR) - generic information

Operating across the Trust/University partnership, SoAR is University Hospital Southampton's pan professional hub for health-related research career training and development. The creation of the Academy is evidence of the Trust's serious commitment to research capacity building. SoAR supports the development of policies relevant to researcher career development across the Trust/University partnership to ensure both institutions work in ways that meet the principles and obligation statements of NIHR.

SoAR benefits

The applicant (name) may take advantage of the resources and support offered by the Academy, including:

- Engagement with other researchers across all stages of career path and across professions and disciplines, through events and networking opportunities.
- Access to a multidisciplinary research career development team for career advice, support and information, including participation in regular one-to-one clinics.
- Short, free training courses addressing practical researcher development skills such as writing Pathways to Impact statements, writing quality papers, networking and influencing strategies.
- Access to information and advice about internship and fellowship funding calls for healthcare professionals (HCP) and medical doctors, including the Research Leaders Programme.
- A Spring School featuring topics such as impact, collaboration and researcher well-being.
- A regular SoAR update in the weekly UHS R&D newsletter, including training information, fellowship and development opportunities.
- Support to source an appropriate mentor.
- Support to navigate and problem solve any challenges that might arise in working across the Trust/University interface.

APPENDIX

Example support statements

1. With kind permission of Alasdair Munro:

I am delighted to support Alasdair Munro's application for a Clinical Research Training Fellowship and will provide senior mentorship during the duration of the award. Alasdair is an ideal candidate for an NIHR training fellowship which will be conducted using equipment provided by the new £2.8 M. NIHR antimicrobial resistance capital award to Southampton. He gained a first-class honours degree from the University of Southampton and was an outstanding student.

Alasdair has progressed rapidly and seamlessly through the clinical training pathway, gaining a national training number in paediatric medicine and his MRCPCH. He has demonstrated a clear interest in clinical academic medicine since his medical student project where he excelled in a project requiring complex data analysis. He has been self-motivated in conducting clinical research projects that he has published while in clinical training posts, including in the area of real-world diagnostics. He was appointed against strong competition for his current post as NIHR Clinical Research Facility fellow, and has impressed us greatly.

In his current post, Alasdair has shown great energy and ability, leading on the set up of complex noncommercial and commercial phase 1 trials of antibiotics and new vaccines. He has taken an interest in biofilm infections and diagnostic technologies, writing a review and working across Faculties to put his Fellowship proposal together. This clinical feasibility study will translate a new imaging solution for diagnosing resistant bacteria in biofilms, which fits very well with his clinical training and interest in diagnostics. Alasdair has developed the proposal himself, working with his supervisors to carry out a PhD aligning with both the current national/global priority area of preventing antimicrobial resistance and to current expertise and interfaculty work at the University of Southampton, Southampton BRC/CRF and National Biofilm Innovation Centre.

Alasdair will be supported by an excellent supervisory team at the University of Southampton, each an emerging leader in their respective fields. Saul Faust is Director of the NIHR Clinical Research Facility who leads the Faculty of Medicine and BRC input to the National Biofilm Innovation Centre (NBIC). Jeremy Webb is an international authority on pseudomonal biofilms who is co-chief investigator NBIC, itself hosted by the University of Southampton. Sumeet Mahajan is a global academic leader in Raman spectroscopy and engineering.

This Fellowship will give Alasdair an excellent training in cutting edge technologies and interdisciplinary research that can be widely applied to address human disease. We clearly need to mentor and develop such translational clinical scientists to harness the potential of emerging technologies. Alasdair's strong academic background and stage in his clinical training makes him an ideal candidate for an NIHR Clinical Doctoral Fellowship to develop such skills.

2. With kind permission of Andrew Bates:

We first became aware of Andrew during his work at Royal Bournemouth Hospital. He took responsibility for delivering our Fit4Surgery portfolio, recruiting significant participant numbers with exceptional commitment, desire and dedication. Andrew secured an HEE/NIHR Internship award, further establishing our partnership as we hosted his research placement during this successful and productive programme.

We quickly understood his potential and valuing his contributions, we developed a 12-month secondment. He has become an integral member of the Critical Care Research team, so we have been delighted to appoint him on a permanent basis, as research manager. This is a Clinical Academic Post. He is developing a translational

clinical service and managing a team of junior research staff. We are committed to supporting a 50:50 clinical: fellowship role. With our support, we feel he has the attributes and desire to forge a leading clinical academic career within this exemplar service.

Given his extensive experience of research delivery and management, we gave serious consideration to steering Andrew towards a doctoral training programme. On reflection, we felt that developing Andrew's individual research identity and relevant methodological skills would be better served through the PCAF level award.

Andrew's PCAF programme will be hosted by a partnership between University Hospital Southampton and University of Southampton. This established research partnership has enabled the Southampton Academy of Research to harness the potential of our health-related research workforce, driving the next generation of clinical discoveries and supporting them to advance knowledge and improve care. While keeping his primary hospital contract, Andrew will gain access to training, facilities and networking opportunities at the University, via an extension of his established honorary contract. The Faculty of Medicine and School of Health Sciences will collaborate with the NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre, Critical Care Research Area, to ensure that he receives the highest quality of support.

The School of Health Sciences is internationally acknowledged as the leading centre for research in Nursing, Allied Health Professions, and Health Sciences in the UK, with a strong track record with NIHR personal awards. The School's aim is to build and sustain world-leading applied health research that will lead to real improvements in health care. Research environment and research impact were both rated world-leading (4) in REF 2014. The School has an excellent reputation for cutting edge multidisciplinary research based on strong links with the NHS and other healthcare organisations. The research strategy is aimed at generating the highest quality research and making a real difference to people's lives.*

The Faculty of Medicine leads innovative learning and discovery for better health across the life course and is an internationally recognised Medical School (placed in the top 100 in 2014 in the QS global subject rankings). To secure our place as one of the UK's leading Medical Schools, we are building upon three distinctive features: our strong partnership with the local NHS providers, to deliver translational research and equip the next generation of healthcare professionals to work in a rapidly-changing environment; collaborations at the life sciences interface with technology; and exploitation of the enterprise agenda to maximise the impact of our education and research.

The Faculty's transferable skills programme will provide a wide range of training opportunities for Andrew. The programme has been developed in-line with the Vitae Researcher Development Framework. It includes a range of workshops including scientific writing, presentation skills, mentoring and interview skills.

The Critical Care Research team is a group of clinicians and clinical scientists engaged in research to meet key unmet needs in critical illness across the life-course, with particular attention to the acute patient pathway, of which Andrew has vast clinical, teaching and now research experience. Fit4Surgery is a world-leading clinical and research programme, aiming to improve patient outcome throughout their surgical journey. Leadership from internationally renowned Professors, Mike Grocott, Sandy Jack and Denny Levett with whom Andrew already has close working relationships, will provide a fertile environment for his PCAF and subsequent research career development, in this, his chosen field for research.

We believe that the quality of his clinical academic support is assured, not just by our institutional track record in delivering research and supporting clinical academic development, but also by the quality of his confirmed supervisor/ mentorship team. Andrew's principal academic mentor is Associate Professor Steve Wootton. Dr Wootton is the infrastructure and training lead of NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre and a member of the NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre. He has played a leading role in the design and delivery of

principal national educational initiatives. He has successfully supervised to completion 18 PhD and 4 MD students. He will take primary responsibility for ensuring that, post-PCAF, Andrew is equipped to deliver the highest quality of application for the NIHR Doctoral Fellowship Programme.

Dr Chloe Grimmett is an NIHR post-doctoral fellow, working out of University of Southampton School of Health Sciences. She has a strong research track record. With established expertise in qualitative methodology, she will support Andrew's key methodological training need. Her support ensures the involvement and collaboration of the FoHS. As an NIHR award holder, Chloe will mentor Andrew's progression through this career pathway.

Kay Mitchell is a critical care nurse researcher with significant personal research output and experience in promotion of clinical academic careers for healthcare professionals. She is a founder member of Southampton Academy of Research a research partnership which is focussed on developing an integrated approach to training and career development. Andrew will be welcomed into this network, provided with key training and networking opportunities. Kay is a newly appointed 70@70 Senior Nurse Leader, leaving her as a perfectly placed mentor to develop Andrew's PCAF programme to doctoral fellowship and beyond.

We have been consistently impressed with the quality of Andrew's work, driven by hard-work and determination to forge a successful clinical academic career. This is matched by our determination to support this aspiration. We feel confident that our collaborative efforts will result in Andrew delivering a successful fellowship and subsequent progression through the HEE / ICA programme.