

NIHR ACF Research Training Programme

Each medical and dental school must provide a formal taught Research Training Programme (RTP) available to all NIHR ACFs. The aim of this is to provide NIHR ACFs with generic research training.

- For each NIHR ACF there must be a clear and personalised academic training plan that articulates with the clinical training plan.
- Each NIHR ACF will have a timetable that establishes protected time for research and taught modules (day and/or block release). The balance of clinical and academic training periods should be designed to meet overall training goals.
- It is recommended that each NIHR ACF should be seen by their academic supervisor at least monthly.
- Each host medical or dental school must have in place a research training programme available to NIHR ACFs, that covers at least the following areas:
 - Statistics, bioinformatics, clinical trial design
 - Epidemiology
 - Ethical aspects of clinical research
 - Project design, planning, costing and management
 - Research governance and the regulatory framework for research
 - GCP
 - Patient and public involvement in research
 - Refereeing of papers and grant applications
 - Diversity and equal opportunities in research, and cultural competence
 - Time management and personal effectiveness
 - Leadership: Practitioner, Partner and Leader roles
- Access to relevant modules in fields such as sociology, ergonomics, engineering etc. to develop multi- and inter-disciplinary thinking is encouraged.
- Where the focus of the research is education research, or where otherwise appropriate, the NIHR ACF should have opportunities to develop learning and teaching skills as part of the taught programme.
- Each NIHR ACF Research Training Programme (which may include research elements as well as taught elements) must be credit bearing and capable of leading to a Masters level qualification (e.g. MRes or MEd) or of gaining exemption from

corresponding elements of a Masters level qualification especially where such a qualification is a precondition to pursuing research leading to the award of a PhD. Although gaining a Masters level qualification is not a compulsory part of the NIHR ACF research training programme, NIHR does encourage this where possible and feasible.

- Regional collaboration across medical and dental schools is encouraged.
- It is expected that training elements made available to NIHR ACFs will also be made available to other mainstream clinical trainees on related NIHR academic training programmes who wish to explore these subject areas. This would include nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, and healthcare scientists