

National Institute for Academic Anaesthesia

Recommendations for Fellowships in Anaesthesia, Intensive Care and Pain Medicine

The Royal College of Anaesthetists and the National Institute for Academic Anaesthesia regard research as an essential pillar in the practice of anaesthesia and its related specialties. All trainees should be able to evaluate the evidence-base of current and new treatments and techniques. Trainees who are seeking an academic career will ideally enrol in the Walport training scheme. However, many wish to become research-active consultants and, in preparation for this, undertake a Research Fellowship for a limited period (normally 1 year). There are many of these posts available within the UK but the training offered is variable. This document gives minimum requirements for a Research Fellowship post of 1-year duration.

Local requirements

The following should be provided by the local employing institution:

- (i) At least 50% of the time should be dedicated to academic work with no clinical responsibilities.
- (ii) A well defined training and research programme for the duration of the post.
- (iii) At least one research project which is funded, approved and ready for data collection at the start of the fellowship.
- (iv) A nominated, suitably qualified academic supervisor.
- (v) Access to appropriate library and IT facilities.

Knowledge

- (i) NHS Research governance framework.
- (ii) Ethical issues in research.
- (iii) Legislation on clinical trials.
- (iv) Good clinical practice in clinical trials.
- (v) Appropriate guidelines and legislation around laboratory-based research (if the fellowship is laboratory-based).
- (vi) Research methodology including searching the literature, approval process, consent, study design, basic statistics, interpretation of results and laboratory techniques (if appropriate).
- (vii) Research funding and grant applications.

Competencies

- (i) Developing a protocol.

- (ii) Application for ethical, NHS Trust and regulatory approval for a research project.
- (iii) Consenting a patient for research.
- (iv) Ability to collect and record research data.
- (v) Analysis of research data.
- (vi) Management of a research project.
- (vii) Write and submit scientific papers.
- (viii) Verbal presentation of research data.

Output

- (i) Presentation of data at a scientific meeting.
- (ii) Authorship of at least 2 scientific papers.
- (iii) Authorship of 1 literature review.

Dave Rowbotham & Ravi Mahajan

July 2008