



Faculty of
**Medical Leadership
and Management**

NHS
England



Fellow information pack

National Medical Director's Clinical
Fellow Scheme 2025/26

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About the scheme

To help build an NHS that is fit for the future, we need effective, high quality clinical leadership.

The National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow Scheme provides a unique opportunity to develop as an effective and impactful leader. Participants will bring their clinical expertise to inform and lead projects that directly contribute to national healthcare priorities, helping to improve experiences and outcomes for patients. They will take forward the skills, learning and networks in their future medical leadership journey.

This scheme is designed for doctors in training that demonstrate leadership potential and aspirations. Applications are welcomed from doctors in training from all specialties who have completed both years of foundation training by the start of the fellowship, on 1 September each year.

The scheme works as an apprenticeship model, with clinical fellows stepping out of clinical practice for 12 months, working closely with senior leaders and teams in national healthcare organisations. This offers an unparalleled opportunity to develop a range of skills including leadership and management, health policy development, project management, research and analysis, communications, and collaboration.

Within their host organisations, clinical fellows lead on key projects which contribute to national healthcare priorities including patient safety, primary care, prevention, cancer and emergency preparedness, and resilience and response.

The Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management (FMLM) manages the scheme on behalf of NHS England. As part of the component development programme, FMLM brings together clinical fellows from specialties such as pharmacy, medicine, dentistry from across the UK.

Good luck with your application.

Best wishes,

Professor Stephen H Powis.
National Medical Director, NHS England.



Eligibility and selection criteria

Candidates must meet the following **eligibility requirementsⁱ** to apply for the scheme:

Qualifications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MBBS or equivalent primary medical qualification.ⁱⁱⁱ <p>For public health specialty trainees from a background other than medicine (only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - First degree (1st or 2:1 or equivalent grade).
Eligibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligible for full registration with, and hold a current licence to practice from, the GMC at time of intended start date.^{ii, iii, iv} - Hold 12 months' experience after full GMC registration, and evidence of achievement of foundation competencies with resultant award of a FACD5.2 or equivalent, in line with GMC standards / Good Medical Practice by intended start date.^{iii, iv} - Be a doctor in training, or eligible for training.ⁱⁱⁱ - Completed both years of foundation training by intended start date.^{iii, iv} - Must not have completed specialist training by intended start date.^{iv} - Eligible to work in the UK or participate in this scheme according to visa requirements. - Applicants will be up to date, fit to practise safely and aware of own training needs. <p>For public health specialty trainees from a background other than medicine (only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be on the UK public health specialty training scheme and enrolled with the Faculty of Public Health.
Language skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demonstrable skills in written and spoken English, adequate to enable effective communication. - Medical or public health training undertaken in English; or the following scores achieved in the academic International English Language Testing System (IELTS), in a single sitting, no more than 24 months prior to the date of application: Overall 7.0, Speaking 7.0, Listening 7.0, Reading 7.0, Writing 7.0 - Adequate communication skills, but where evidence is not in one of the above forms, alternative supporting evidence of language skills^v must be provided.
Career progression
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide complete details of employment history. - Evidence that career progression is consistent with personal circumstances. - Evidence that the present level of achievement and performance is commensurate with the totality of the period of training.
Application completion
<p>All sections of the application form completed fully according to written guidelines.</p>

ⁱ 'When evaluated' is indicative but may be carried out at any time throughout the selection process.

ⁱⁱ The GMC introduced the licence to practise in 2009. Any doctor wishing to practise in the UK after this date must be both registered with and hold a licence to practise from the GMC at time of appointment.

ⁱⁱⁱ Eligibility criteria not applicable to public health specialty trainees from a background other than medicine.

^{iv} 'Intended start date' refers to the date at which the post commences, not (necessarily) the time an offer is accepted. For 2025/26 posts this will be in September 2025, unless a different start date is specifically indicated in advance by the employing organisation.

^v An example of alternative evidence could be testimony from a clinical/educational supervisor, in the form of a signed letter (this will be subject to review by any organisation to which you apply).

In addition to the eligibility requirements listed on the previous page, the **personal specification** found below will be used as part of the assessment process at the application and interview stages of the recruitment process:

Knowledge and experience
<p>Essential:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evidence of involvement in leadership and management commensurate with experience, with reflection of personal impact.- Demonstrates the values and behaviours articulated in the FMLM Leadership and Management Standards for Medical Professionals in all aspects of practice.- Demonstrates an understanding of NHS management and resources.- Evidence of effective team working and leadership, supported by multi-source feedback or other workplace-based assessments.- Good knowledge of the English healthcare system including education, research, service provision, regulation, career structures, medical politics and ethical issues.- Interest in/knowledge of the delivery of safe effective healthcare services.- Evidence of post qualifying and continuing professional development.- Demonstrates clear leadership aspirations.- Demonstrates understanding of the basic principles of audit, clinical risk management, evidence-based practice, patient safety, and clinical QI initiatives.- Evidence of involvement in quality improvement (QI) or completed audit cycle with impact.- Experience of teaching in a formal setting.- Experience of providing coaching and mentoring.- Evidence of clinical excellence through prizes, awards, presentations, and papers. <p>Desirable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Additional qualifications, e.g. intercalated degree, BSc, BA, Masters, MBA, PhD or equivalent.- Evidence of achievement outside of clinical specialty.- Evidence of effective leadership in and outside medicine, e.g. voluntary work.- Insight into issues facing English healthcare services.- Understanding of population health.- Experience of using QI tools to deliver measurable QI.- Experience of regular teaching, formal teaching role or organisation of teaching programmes.- Experience of guideline or policy development.

Skills, values and behaviours

Essential:

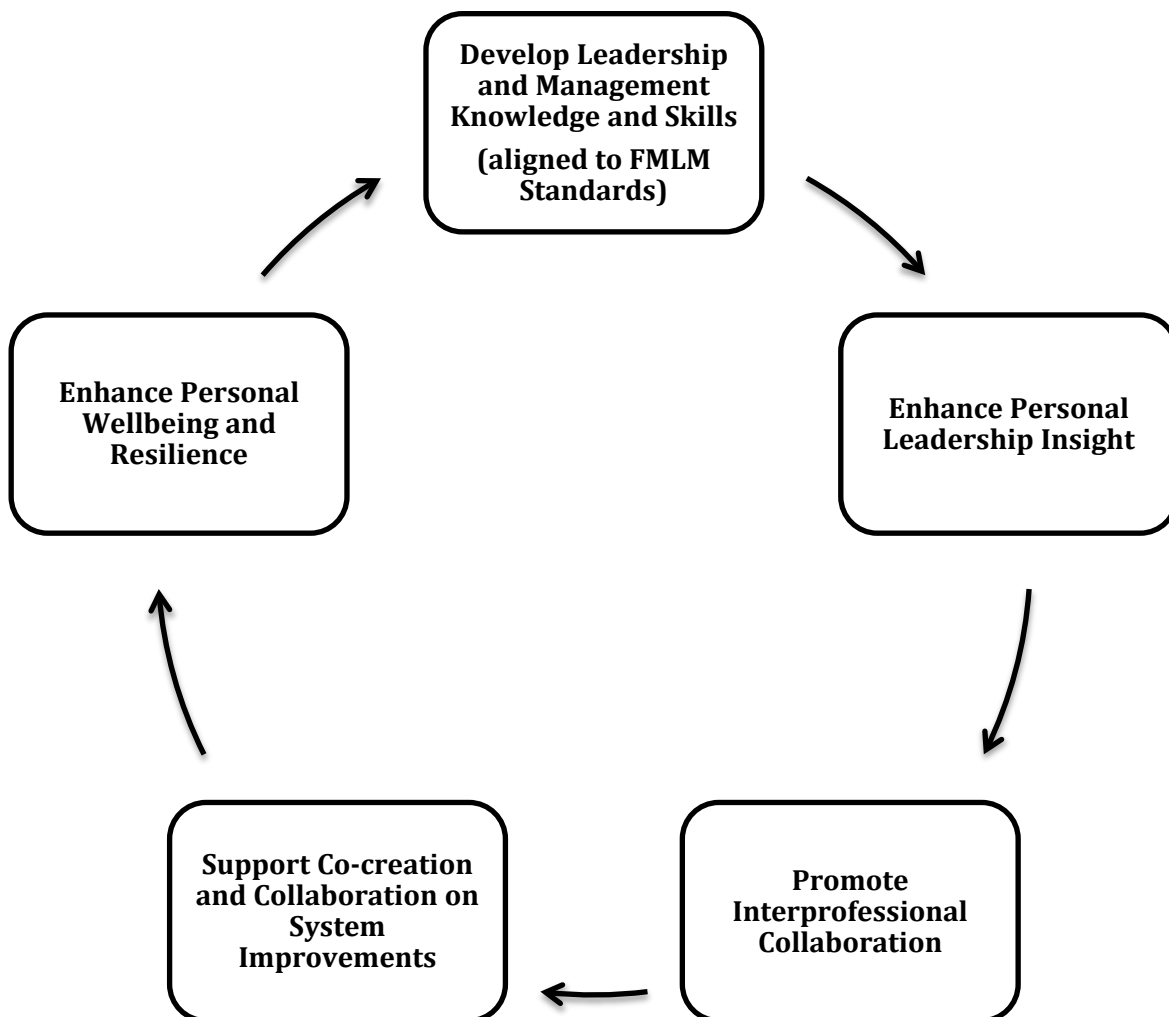
- Shows initiative, drive and enthusiasm.
- Commitment to personal and professional development.
- Seeks and acts on feedback regarding own effectiveness and areas for development.
- Values diversity and difference and operates with integrity and openness.
- Reflects on past performance and applies learning to current practice.
- Ability to work and lead effectively in multi-professional teams.
- Is organised and is able to plan and manage/prioritise time and information effectively.
- Capability to work with long time scales for delivery within agencies with differing priorities.
- Ability to cope under pressure and to manage uncertainty, demonstrates initiative and resilience.
- Capacity to take responsibility for own actions.
- Quick to understand new information and adapt to new environment.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, demonstrating clarity and prioritisation in written/spoken communication.
- Capacity to adapt language to the situation, build rapport, listen, persuade and negotiate
- Good problem solving and decision-making skills.
- Demonstrates probity in all aspects of professional life.
- Excellent IT skills.

Desirable:

- Seeks and acts on feedback regarding own effectiveness and areas for development.
- Reflects on past performance and applies learning to current practice.
- Writing experience in clinical and/or non-clinical topics or peer reviewed publications and/or other communication medium (e.g. blog, letters, etc.).
- Experience of presenting complex information.
- Leadership skills gained within the NHS or elsewhere.

Learning Outcomes

Learning objectives will be agreed locally with hosts and line managers but the high-level objectives below outline the key knowledge, skills, and professional competencies that clinical fellows are expected to achieve during their fellowship. Designed to guide both personal and professional development, these objectives provide a clear framework for fellows to advance their clinical expertise, engage in meaningful research, and develop leadership capabilities in healthcare settings. By focusing on patient-centered care, evidence-based practice, and interprofessional collaboration, working to SMART objectives will ensure that fellows are well-prepared to contribute to the evolving landscape of healthcare and excel in their specialised fields.



Recruitment timeline

The recruitment timeline* for the 2025/26 scheme is as follows:

Dates*	Stage
3 March 2025	Applications open.
30 March 2025	Applications close.
8 April 2025	Candidates notified of shortlisting outcomes.
11 April 2025	Virtual Host Evening – SAVE THE DATE.
15-17 April 2025	Virtual interviews – SAVE THE DATE.
21 April 2025	Candidates notified of interview outcomes.
September 2025	Scheme commences.

**Dates may be subject to change.*

Application guidance

Application stage

Applications must be received online via an application form on the FMLM website by 9pm GMT on 30 March 2025. Applications received beyond this time will not be accepted.

Drafting and submitting your application

Candidates will provide personal and professional information. Candidates should refer to the selection criteria in this document and the FMLM's Leadership and Management Standards when answering all questions.

- Successful candidates should be able to express important information concisely.
- Application form answers will be assessed against the selection criteria, and evidence will be sought to demonstrate this throughout applications, interviews and references.
- All criteria will be assessed appropriately against each candidate's career level.
- Shortlisting is conducted against rigorous criteria and is undertaken anonymously.
- Do not unsubscribe to bulk emails, as this will prevent us from contacting you regarding your application.
- We are committed to ensuring we facilitate equitable recruitment; please let us know if you have any issues with the accessibility of the process.
- Please ensure you keep a copy of your application form responses locally as we cannot be held responsible for any loss of data during the application completion process.

Data protection

- The data we collect is held by the National Medical Director's England Clinical Fellow Scheme, a joint partnership between the Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management (FMLM) and NHS England.
- The information you provide, including relevant and sensitive personal data, will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679 and the UK Data Protection Act 2018. It will only be shared with individuals and organisations directly involved in the administration and operation of the scheme, where such sharing is lawful, necessary, and proportionate to the scheme's objectives. Appropriate safeguards will be in place to protect your data and ensure compliance with data protection principles.

Shortlisting stage

Candidates will be notified of shortlisting outcomes week commencing 7 April 2025.

Host evening

A virtual host evening event will take place via Zoom for all shortlisted applicants to attend on 11 April between 6–8pm GMT. This is a helpful networking session for shortlisted prospective fellows to have the opportunity to talk to host organisations to understand more about each organisation and the type of work you might be involved in as part of your fellowship. You will meet in small groups with each host representative(s) to hear about the organisation and ask questions of the host and current clinical fellows. Job descriptions and event link will be released to shortlisted candidates before the host evening.

Secondment preferences

After the host evening, shortlisted candidates will be asked to rank the host organisations that they would be prepared to work at; this must be submitted by 9pm GMT on 2 May 2025. If successfully appointed to the scheme, there will then be a matching process based on performance at interview and ranking preferences.

Please note:

- Candidates should only rank placements that they are prepared and able to accept, as it may mean that they need to relocate or travel to the host organisation on a regular basis, noting that hosts are unable to pay a relocation allowance.
- Some organisations have more than one site/office across the UK. You may be expected to travel between sites by your host organisation so ensure that you read the job descriptions thoroughly before submitting your preferences.
- Successful candidates will only be offered the post that is allocated; there is no option to change posts so preferences should be carefully considered.
- FMLM is unable to facilitate changing posts or movement between offices.

Interview stage

Interviews will be held virtually on 15-17 April 2025.

Before the interview
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Shortlisted candidates will be sent available interview slots, which are given on a first come first served basis. Interviews will be held virtually for maximum accessibility; Therefore, alternative dates are not available.- Shortlisted candidates will be sent a link to the interview platform and will need to submit the following information <u>at least 72 hours before</u> the interview:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Photo ID (a passport or driving licence) to confirm your identity.2. Those IN a training programme: provide written support/consent of Out-of-Programme-Experience (OOPE) from your Training Programme Director, or equivalent.3. Those NOT IN a training programme or without a successive training post (e.g. FY2): provide written support that a contract extension will be approved. <p>Non-UK/EU applicants will be contacted separately with regards to confirming their right to work status.</p>
During the interview
<p>The interview process will last for approximately one hour and is comprised of a scenario task (released one week before the interview) and a question and answer-based panel interview.</p>
After the interview
<p>All candidates will be notified of the outcome within one week of interviews.</p> <p><u>Successful candidates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Successful candidates will be sent guidance on next steps.- Candidates will need to submit a reference within two weeks of accepting the post from their most recent employer. Appointment is subject to satisfactory receipt of a reference.- Successful candidates will not receive feedback from the interview; this is due to capacity and the high volume of candidates. <p><u>Unsuccessful candidates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Unsuccessful candidates will be sent feedback on their interview within six weeks of interview.

Appointment conditions

Salary arrangements

- Clinical fellows will be paid according to the appropriate NHS graded base pay scale in place as at 1 September 2025 at the next training grade that they would have progressed to in their successive training post.
- For secondments, successful candidates retain their current employment contract and terms. The employing organisation will continue to pay all salary and associated on-costs (NI, pension, etc.) and will be reimbursed by the host organisation by prior mutual arrangement.
- For candidates with pay protection: salary is capped at the top nodal point of the NHS base pay scale for doctors in training.
- Posts wherein the clinical fellow lives and works in London attract London weighting. N.B.: If the host is London-based and the clinical fellow works remotely from elsewhere, this does not apply.
- Once in post, agreed work-related travel expenses should be negotiated between the clinical fellow and the host organisation. Relocation and daily commuting fees are not covered. Secondment contracts vary so, if successful, individuals will need to consider their contract and discuss expenses with their substantive employer and host organisation.

Out of programme arrangements

For candidates in training programmes:

- Applicants in training programmes must inform their respective LETB or Deanery and employers of a possible out-of-programme experience **on application** to allow timely conversations regarding arrangements for secondment.
- Candidates will need to declare that they have discussed support for possible out-of-programme experience with the relevant Training Programme Director, or equivalent, on the application form.
- Applicants invited to interview are required to submit written approval/support of OOPE.
- Successful candidates must contact their nominated HR and finance leads to notify them of appointment at the very earliest opportunity and will need to arrange a secondment contract. Full guidance will be provided to successful candidates upon appointment.
- For GP trainees with an expected CCT completion date around or before 1 September 2025, an appointment to the scheme would extend training at the grade they have reached to ensure completion of the scheme within the shorter training window. This should be discussed with the relevant training supervisor upon application.

For candidates NOT in training programmes/completed foundation training (FY2) without a successive training place:

- Successful candidates who are not currently in training programmes and will not require OOPE.
- For those without a successive training programme or contracted role, please see 'Contractual arrangements' overleaf.

Important note: Early discussions with the relevant training supervisors, HR partners and finance leads are required. Failure to do so may result in requests for OOPE and secondment contracts being rejected locally, and a fellowship post being delayed or withdrawn.

Contractual arrangements

- FMLM will confirm posts in writing and provide successful candidates with full guidance of the next steps in arranging contracts.
- Shortlisted candidates should confirm the name and contact details of the nominated employee HR partner and finance lead as you will need to contact them on immediate appointment, if successful, to commence secondment arrangements. You will also need to provide these details to your host organisation's HR and finance departments on appointment.

For candidates IN training programmes or with successive training posts:

- Successful applicants will be appointed to the scheme by way of a secondment arrangement from existing employers. It is the responsibility of the appointed successful candidate to arrange contractual arrangements between employers and the host organisation.

For candidates between training programmes/completed foundation training (FY2) without a successive training post:

- The fellowship is facilitated as a secondment from an employing organisation.
- Trainees who will not be in a training programme as of 1 September 2025 (e.g. FY2) must still be employed by an NHS trust, Lead Employer, or organisation for the purpose of participating in the scheme.
- Candidates should contact their Training Programme Director/educational supervisor and local HR contact or partner immediately upon application to seek support in principle for gaining a contract extension for one year to facilitate a place on the scheme for the entire secondment period, in lieu of a successive employer.
- Written support will be sought at invitation to interview stage.

Important note: FMLM does not participate in the arrangement of out-of-programme experience or secondment contracts. Candidates are expected to facilitate this directly with their LETB/Deaneries, employers, and host organisations.

Host organisations and posts

A full list of 2025/26 host organisations will be made available to shortlisted candidates. The scheme makes every effort to identify posts outside of London.

Shortlisted candidates are invited to an online host evening, where they will have the opportunity to meet with senior leaders and clinical fellows from each host organisation to find out more about the organisation and opportunities available.

Less than full time posts

- Some posts will be available as less than full time (LTFT) or flexible. This will be detailed in the job descriptions for each host organisation.
- Due to the intensive nature of the scheme and the window being limited to 12 months, LTFT posts are usually offered as 0.8 FTE.
- All requests for LTFT or flexible working will be considered by host organisations on a post-by-post basis and the decision as to whether this can be accommodated will reside with them.
- A schedule for the development programme will be made available in summer 2025. Full attendance is required, regardless of LTFT post status.

Insights from clinical fellows



TESTIMONIAL

The FMLM NMD CFS scheme has been invaluable. It offers a rare opportunity for early-career clinicians like myself to connect with inspiring leaders and develop crucial leadership and management skills. The chance to work alongside senior healthcare figures is unparalleled, providing invaluable insight into influencing and driving positive change within the NHS. I highly recommend this fellowship to any driven clinician eager to make a difference.

Dr. Raykal Sim, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25, Deloitte



TESTIMONIAL

The NMD's clinical fellowship has been an incredible opportunity out of clinical medicine and into civil service and corporate work experience in healthcare leadership and management. It's a dedicated year to develop skills in leadership and team-working, policy and research at a national level. In my secondment at the Care Quality Commission, I've led projects on AI regulation in healthcare, influenced primary and secondary care policy and been a medical advisor inspecting hospitals and GPs across the country. The fellowship has provided unparalleled access to networks of healthcare leaders and is a platform for your views to make impactful population-level changes in this space. I look forward to using the skills from this fellowship as a platform for my career, to combine with my clinical practice.

Dr. Tafsir Ahmed, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow to Care Quality Commission 2024/25 and GP Registrar



TESTIMONIAL

The FMLM scheme has been a unique opportunity to take time in a focussed year outside of training to better understand the landscape of healthcare we as doctors work within. Learning how large organisations such as the GMC work, how to work effectively within them, and how they interrelate to each other has given me valuable experience I will develop further in my future consultant career. It has been a fantastic opportunity for me and I wish all applicants the best of luck.

Dr. Alan Abraham, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25



TESTIMONIAL

My fellowship experience has been incredibly rewarding, offering valuable insights into national policy implementation and opportunities to provide my clinical perspective. It has deepened my understanding of the structure of the NHSE organisation, how teams collaborate, and how national teams interact with local systems.



Dr. Emily Phillips, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25



TESTIMONIAL

The fellowship has been a unique opportunity to contribute to change with a systems-level impact. Learning from experienced leaders has given me a broader perspective on the complexities of the NHS and the collaborative skills needed to navigate these challenges effectively.



Dr. Yasmin Moore, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25, NHSE



TESTIMONIAL

My time on the National Medical Director's Fellowship at Bupa UK has been an incredible learning experience. Coming from the NHS and clinical practice, it's been eye-opening to see healthcare from a different perspective and collaborate with experienced, supportive teams across multiple disciplines. I've worked on real-world challenges, learned from inspiring leaders, and developed skills I wouldn't have gained otherwise. I'd recommend it to anyone looking to push themselves, broaden their knowledge, and build the skillsets to help scale their impact as a clinician in healthcare.



Dr. Shaswath Ganapathi, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25, BUPA

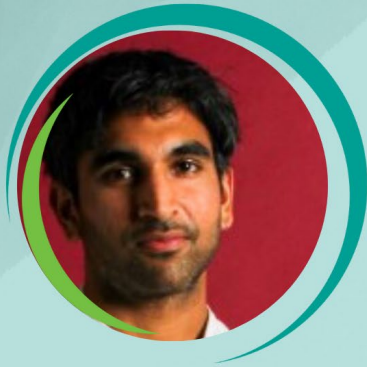


TESTIMONIAL

As a National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow at NICE, I have received outstanding guidance from senior medical leaders. This role has provided dedicated time to explore my interests while offering valuable insight into the workings of a large, independent organisation and its engagement with stakeholders. It has also given me the opportunity to collaborate across multidisciplinary clinical and non-clinical teams, broadening my skills beyond the operating theatre and deepening my understanding of how major healthcare decisions are made.



Dr. Jarin Noronha, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25



TESTIMONIAL

As NMD Fellow to the Chief Medical Advisor of the UKHSA I am currently leading a national project demonstrating the relationship between vaccine uptake and socioeconomic deprivation in the HPV vaccine programme (and wider adolescent vaccine programme). As an ear, nose and throat/head and neck registrar this project is of special interest to me as HPV vaccination status will have a strong relationship to future head and neck cancer. The fellowship has allowed me the privilege of working with a range of leaders and the flexibility to lead on a project of great relevance to my career.

Dr. Muhammad Ibaad Alvi, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25, UKHSA



TESTIMONIAL

This fellowship has been an unparalleled opportunity to gain a system-wide perspective on healthcare, bridging policy, operations, and frontline delivery. Working across NHS England and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges has offered unique insights into leadership at the highest levels, while also grounding me in the realities of implementation. Observing and engaging with brilliant leaders has been both inspiring and invaluable, shaping a deeper understanding of how change happens in the NHS.

Dr. Abid Ali Khan, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25



TESTIMONIAL

This fellowship has been an invaluable experience for starting to understand how the plethora of NHS organisations, arms-length bodies and the wider health ecosystem interact. The opportunity to meet with and work alongside senior staff has provided unparalleled exposure to how they navigate complexity, make strategic trade-offs and demonstrate leadership. Whilst alongside the other fellows you are part of a learning clinical leadership community.

As a GP registrar interested in health inequalities and population health, this fellowship may well have changed my career trajectory. But also, I feel that through my clinical expertise and academic experience I have been able to make a meaningful contribution to health policy that improves patient care.

Dr. Adam Harvey-Sullivan, National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow 24/25, Primary Care at NHS England

Frequently asked questions

Eligibility

1. I am approaching or just past my CCT date. Am I still eligible to apply?

You are eligible to apply provided you will not gain CCT before 1 September 2025.

For GP trainees, if successful, an appointment to the scheme would extend training at the grade they have reached to ensure completion of the scheme within the shorter training window.

Candidates who have completed training by 1 September 2025, regardless of the number of years of training they have undergone, are not eligible for this scheme. You must clearly state your expected CCT date on your application.

2. I am a Foundation Year 1 doctor. Can I apply?

Unfortunately, you are not yet eligible to apply, as you will not have gained your Foundation competencies (certificate FACD 5.2) before 1 September 2025. Please consider applying for the scheme in future years.

3. I do not have a medical degree. Can I apply?

This scheme is only open to doctors in training with a primary medical qualification, with full GMC registration or public health specialty trainees from a background other than medicine that meet eligibility requirements.

FMLM runs equivalent clinical fellows' schemes that are open to other professions. For further details, visit the FMLM website.

4. I am an SAS doctor. Can I apply?

This scheme is specifically designed to the needs of doctors in training, therefore you are not eligible to apply. Please stay in contact with FMLM, as we are continually developing new bespoke schemes and resources to meet the needs of various groups of clinicians.

5. I am a doctor but am currently not in a training programme. Am I eligible?

The scheme is open to all doctors on a UK recognised training scheme who have completed both years of foundation training or equivalent by 1 September 2025 across all specialties. This can include candidates currently out-of-programme, e.g. pursuing a higher degree.

Candidates are eligible providing they have a primary medical qualification, full GMC registration and do not expect to gain CCT on or before 1 September 2025.

If successful, trainees outside of a programme are required to be employed by an organisation in order to facilitate a secondment contract for the purpose of taking up the scheme.

6. I am a past National Medical Director's Clinical Fellow. Can I reapply?

Doctors that have been through the scheme are not permitted to reapply for the scheme.

Training

7. I am currently applying for a training post that starts in August. What should I do?

You should continue with that application in parallel to this one. If you are successfully appointed as a clinical fellow, you may find yourself in the difficult position of having to give up the training post. You will then need to contact your deanery to discuss either resigning from your clinical post, or deferring it, if possible. If you are successfully appointed to the scheme, and you choose to give up a training post, you will have to re-apply the following year.

8. I have a clinical training post. Would I have to give this up?

This depends on your stage of training and your deanery regulations. The [Gold Guide](#) stipulates: “The start of training for both core and specialty training may normally only be deferred on statutory grounds (e.g. maternity/paternity/adoption leave, ill health)” (section 3.38) and that time out-of-programme “will not normally be agreed until a trainee has been in a training programme for at least one year of training (unless at the time of appointment, deferral of the start of the programme has been agreed for leave on statutory grounds)” (section 3.162).

Hence trainees entering the first year of core or specialty training may not be permitted to defer their clinical post by their deanery. For successful candidates, this may mean giving up your clinical training post and reapplying in the next round. Those entering higher training posts (e.g. ST3+) may also not be permitted to defer their clinical post by their deanery.

For other grades, depending on your training arrangements, you should arrange to come to this role as an out-of-programme experience (OOPE, or equivalent). Given that most deaneries stipulate six months’ notice for OOPE placements, you must start this conversation with your deanery early (i.e. on submitting your application form).

9. During the year, can I combine participation on the scheme with my clinical training?

Where less than full time posts are available, a job description pack will be released to shortlisted candidates, which will specify these posts. Based on the intensive nature of the clinical fellow experience and feedback from alumni, you would be encouraged to carefully consider workloads and capacity alongside personal and other professional commitments.

10. Can I count this role towards my training?

The scheme is a valuable out-of-programme developmental experience; it does not count towards training but does count towards CPD.

11. Can international or EEA doctors apply?

The scheme is open to all doctors in training, across all specialties who have full GMC registration, are in training and are eligible to work in the UK or participate in this scheme according to visa and immigration requirements.

Some host organisations may have specific visa restrictions relevant to their area of work. This will be made clear in the job description.

If you are uncertain whether your visa entitles you to work in the UK and participate in this scheme, please seek further information from the UK Visas and Immigration website at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration. Please note that participating organisations, including FMLM, NHS England and NHS Improvement or host organisations are unable to provide sponsorship to international candidates.

Application

12. Can I defer entry to the scheme?

We are unable to accept applications for deferred entry to the scheme. All posts will commence in September 2025.

Successful approval for Out-of-Programme Experience is required for participation, across specialties and training grades. Therefore, if you are interested in the scheme you are encouraged to discuss this with your training programme director, educational supervisor or equivalent, and apply this year and defer your current training post.

Please keep in mind that if you are a Foundation Year 2 Doctor, and depending on your deanery, you must be willing to give up your training post and re-apply in the next round.

13. Can I speak to any of the current clinical fellows in person or over the telephone?

Given the number of applicants for this scheme, we are unable to provide contact details for current clinical fellows. If shortlisted, you will have the opportunity to meet current fellows during a Host Evening to hear about their fellowship experiences and to ask questions.

If directly contacted via other channels, current clinical fellows will not discuss any specifics or provide additional details around the selection process.

14. What sorts of things should I be considering in deciding to apply for the scheme?

When considering applying, be sure to have a conversation with your employer and escalate the request to your executive team, as their support is essential and written proof will be required should you progress through the recruitment process. Being successfully appointed to the scheme is a brilliant opportunity and is accordingly a significant commitment. Given the intensity of the scheme and its 12-month duration, conversations with family and/or support networks are also recommended, to ensure the commitment required is understood and supported, should you be successful.

Contact us

For further information or enquiries, please contact:



clinicalfellowscheme@fmlm.ac.uk



www.fmlm.ac.uk/CFS-NMD



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