

GP (ST3) ACADEMIC RESEARCH TRAINING SCHEME (GPARTS) POST INFORMATION

Background:

The General Practice Academic Research Training Scheme (GPARTS) has been operating since 1999 and for most years during that time has provided an enhanced training opportunity for at least two GP trainees per year.

GPARTS is designed to provide GPs trainees with an opportunity to develop and nurture research skills in research relevant to General Practice & Primary Care alongside their GP training. GPARTS is a fully funded 2-year supervised scheme in conjunction with GP Academics at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU). It provides a structured approach to research training and the GPART scheme prides itself on the development of a strong community of young researchers who support one another under the guidance of established GP and other academics.

The scheme is relevant to those interested in developing a clinical research career focussed on General Practice / Primary Care but the experience gained is equally relevant to a host of future roles in General Practice / Primary Care that will require a structured, systematic and critical approach. Successful candidates can expect to:

- Learn how to think more critically
- Develop a foundational knowledge for research including:
 - development of a research question
 - research design
 - research methodologies
 - ethical considerations of research
 - conducting and carrying out a research project
 - public and patient involvement in research
 - preparation, presentation and dissemination of results
- Develop a range of broader and transferable skills including:
 - IT Skills
 - report writing
 - giving presentations
- Develop links with others in the GP research community - locally, nationally and internationally

GPARTS – Mission, Vision and Values

Mission:

Nurturing capability, fostering critical thinking, and inspiring leadership in research among future General Practitioners.

Vision:

To be a thriving community for research expertise supporting a network of primary care communities conducting high-quality research of relevance to general practice and of benefit of all.

Values:

Community-focussed
Patient-centred
Clinically relevant
Scholarly
Mutually-supportive
Collaborative
Open
Inclusive

GPARTS Post Specifics:

Three posts are available based in conjunction with General Practice academics at Queen's University Belfast and the School of Medicine at Ulster University. Clinical duties will be undertaken within suitable Practices in the trainee's current training locality.

Each post involves a two-year appointment with dual aims:

1. To enable the GP Specialty trainees to become competent trained General Practitioners and gain membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners.
2. To provide a basic training in the principles of research with particular emphasis on research in primary care.

During the first year the successful applicant will spend four sessions each week working in clinical general practice, two sessions in their local GP ST3 day release group and four sessions engaged in research training and practice. Regular weekly tutorials, usually based in their practices, take place with individual trainers on clinical topics. In addition, there is an organised research training meeting during term time throughout the year for all GPARTS trainees which is facilitated by their academic supervisors. Additional input to these sessions is organised, as appropriate, to enhance learning in specific areas of research expertise. GPARTS trainees are encouraged to design and undertake a small research project in an area of mutual interest between trainee and trainer, upholding the values set out above.

During the second year of appointment, the GPARTS trainee spends four sessions each week engaged in clinical activity and continues to work in order to meet the requirements for satisfactory completion of a Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in General Practice. The remainder of the week is spent in conducting the research project which was planned in the first year of appointment and in attending courses of relevance to primary care research.

The GPARTS trainees will usually be registered for a postgraduate Master of Philosophy degree within either the School of Medicine at Queen's University or the School of Medicine at Ulster University. Of the three GPARTS offered places, two will be offered MPhil places attached to Queen's University Belfast and one will be offered an MPhil place attached to Ulster University Derry~Londonderry. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to state their preference and those preferences will be allocated in respect of rankings following interviews. As enrolled students, GPARTS trainees will have the opportunity to participate in various university activities, and have the opportunity for personal development and involvement in teaching and assessment during the second year in post.

Information Sessions:

An interactive information session for those interested in applying will be available via Zoom. Come along to meet some of the current GPARTS.

This will take place between 1-2pm on the following date:

- 23rd November 2023

If you would like to be included in this session please email gpspecialtytraining.nimdt@hscni.net to request a link.

Further queries should be directed towards:
Email: gpspecialtytraining.nimdt@hscni.net