

Research Fellow for Neurodiversity (0.2 FTE)

Dear Resident Doctor,

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the educational experience and engagement of resident postgraduate doctors in training (RDs), NHS England North West are pleased to offer a new Neurodiversity Research Fellowship opportunity.

This role is designed to enable a short research project looking at whether there is a deficit of informal peer assisted learning (IPAL) in Neurodiverse RDs who have had difficulty with college exams. The project will look at the impact of any deficit and whether support can be put in place to help.

Core Information

- Eligibility: Open to postgraduate doctors in training at or above CT2/ST2
- Training (or equivalent) and will be working in NHS England North West from August/September 2026 at CT2/ST2 or higher.
- Commitment: One protected day per week dedicated to research in Neurodiversity and IPAL.
- Duration: Up to 12 months maximum
- Supervision: Fellows will be supervised by Dr Tim Morris, Training Programme Director, with oversight from Dr Clare Inkster, postgraduate associate dean and the regional postgraduate medical education team.

Rationale & Role Description

IPAL describes the role that peers play in educational attainment. Learning is enhanced through the help and support of peers and where IPAL doesn't happen there can be a barrier to learning. There is increasing awareness of Neurodiversity in the RD and wider doctor community. This project aims to investigate if there is a deficit in IPAL amongst Neurodiverse RDs and if so, does this have an impact on college exam success. This fellowship aims to help identify if there is a need to create a more supportive environment for Neurodiverse RDs around preparation for college exams.

The Neurodiversity Research Fellow will:

- Undertake a research project to improve understanding IPAL amongst Neurodiverse RDs and any effect on educational attainment across all schools and specialties.
- Work with colleagues to identify where improvements can be made and support can be provided.
- Facilitate resident engagement through semi-structured interviews.
- Share best practices and support the development of a more transparent and supportive culture.
- There will be the opportunity to publish and present at regional and national events.

Person Specification

We are looking to appoint a Resident Doctor with the following attributes:

- Interest in medical education, resident wellbeing, or policy.
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills.
- Experience in teaching, research, mentoring, or resident representation is desirable.
- Motivation to develop research and advocacy skills.
- Understanding of Neurodiversity.

Application Process

If you are interested in applying for the role, you will need to be in a training post within a North West hospital from August/September 2026. Then please discuss with your Training Programme Director (TPD), as taking up the role will reduce your clinical time proportionally (e.g. a full-time resident will become 0.8 WTE clinical), and this may affect training progression points and total length of time in training.

To apply for the role, we require a personal statement (maximum 500 words) that demonstrates why you have the required skills and experience to perform the role effectively. Within this statement, please include:

- Your specialty and current level of training (it should be CT2/ST2 or above).
- Evidence that you have discussed this opportunity with your TPD and that they support your application.
- The hospital you will be working in during and after August/September 2026.
- Please send your personal statement to timothyjames.morris@mft.nhs.uk, copying in clare.inkster2@nhs.net

If you have any questions regarding this Fellowship opportunity, please contact timothyjames.morris@mft.nhs.uk