Proposed Curriculum for research training

This is intended as a rough guide only since not all competencies will apply to all research. In addition there are competences that are not listed that will be required for some types of research. It is important to recognize that these competencies represent a base-line and are not a guarantee that the trainee will be able to obtain competitive entry to higher academic training. It is anticipated that trainees will move through the 3 levels at different rates depending on how much research time they have, and whether they have done any research or have obtained a Higher Degree before starting their clinical training. For trainees working within a university setting, it is expected that the university guidelines, targets and expectations will inform planning and assessment of progress. In all cases research supervisors will need to be the final arbiters of whether an individual is making adequate progress. This is particularly the case for clinical trainees doing the research option one day a week. For guidance it is suggested that clinical trainees should have completed the basic level of competences by the end of his/her first year (ST4).

The job titles in these competences refer to England and may be different in parts of the UK with devolved administrations. For example, lecturer posts are different in Scotland, and neither Wales, Scotland nor Northern Ireland have Academic Clinical Fellow posts at the time of writing. Please check with local clinical academics for equivalences and application of the competences.

The term "Research supervisor" refers to the individual who acts as the supervisor of the trainee's research time, and can include i) a full/part- time NHS clinician who is engaged in research ii)a university based clinical academic iii) a university based non clinical academic.

Royal College of Psychiatrists competences have not been included for Training Fellows undertaking higher degrees. As these trainees will be registered post graduate students of a university department, the university will be responsible for determining progress.

In order that trainees can attain these competences, it is important that they have access to basic facilities and equipment. A minimum requirement is regular use of a desk, chair, telephone, lockable cupboard for personal effects and computer access.

	Competency	**Level**	**Suggested assessor**
Basic level *Eg Academic Clinical Fellows Year 1* *or* *Clinical trainees ST4*	Pub Med searching	Able to search for authors and subjects on library data bases & select articles relevant to course of study	Research supervisor**
	Use of library	Familiar with way the University library operates& can use effectively	Librarian
	Literature review	Can write a comprehensive literature review of a proposed topic of study	Research supervisor
	Computerised statistical packages SPSS STATA or equivalent	Can enter data and analyse using appropriate statistical procedures	Research supervisor/data manager
	Basic/ advanced statistics course or statistics journal club	Is familiar with the standard and/or advanced statistical procedures relevant to the topic of study	Statistician
	Power calculations*	Knows how to calculate statistical power and can undertake power calculations for proposed research	Statistician/ Research supervisor
	Study protocol and hypothesis testing	Can formulate hypotheses and write a study protocol relevant to the topic of study. Can draw up a realistic time line for the proposed study	Research supervisor
	Ethics application and approval*	Understands the work of research ethics committees & any ethical implications of the proposed research. Can apply successfully to the Ethics Committee (if relevant)	Research supervisor and Ethics Committee
*if not required for his/her own research the trainee should nonetheless learn how to do these &/or attend relevant courses to achieve the competency	Trust Research and Development application and approval*	Understands the implications for the local NHS Trust of research and applies successfully for R&D approval (if relevant)	Research supervisor and local R&D Office
	Study specific training - examples include neuroimaging technologies, diagnostic interviewing, basic laboratory induction &/or basic laboratory techniques	Identifies own learning requirements for proposed study & undertakes these. Becomes proficient in the necessary technical skills	Research supervisor
	Pilot study	Can plan & execute a pilot study for proposed research. Can modify study design in light of pilot study findings	Research supervisor

Intermediate level *Eg ACF year 2/3* *Clinical trainee ST5*	Data collection	Can organise data collection in systematic way & able to modify protocol to overcome difficulties. Can adhere to time lines	Research supervisor
	Handling & storage of confidential information	Understands the need to maintain subject confidentiality & provides suitable storage for study materials	Research supervisor
	Data entry	Able to enter data on to standard computerised software EXCEL, STATA SPSS etc	Research supervisor
	Quality control	Able to put in place procedures to ensure quality of data is maintained. This included studies to ensure good inter-rater reliability	Research supervisor
Higher level *Eg ACF year 2/3* *or* *Walport Clinical Lecturer (ST4)* *or* *Clinical Trainee (ST6)*	Data Analysis	Able to prepare tables and results for study	Research supervisor
	Papers written	Able to compare findings with other studies and understands weaknesses and strengths of study design. Can interpret results in light of these	Research supervisor
	Papers submitted & published	Knowledge of suitable journals for own type of research & can select most appropriate. Understands importance of following submission instructions. Can respond constructively to referees' comments.	Research supervisor
	Dissemination	Can present own research at meetings and conferences	Research supervisor
	Future plans	Can formulate new ideas for research arising out of published work	Research supervisor/Head of Academic Department
	ACFs only	Can successfully apply for a training fellowship to undertake a higher degree	