# SAS Psychiatrists Cohort Three - 2024/25 Approved Clinician Pilot

# Applicant Information Pack:

Development offer for SAS psychiatrists (Speciality Doctors, Specialists and equivalent historic titles)

## Introduction

NHSE WT&E is offering Specialty and Specialist (SAS) psychiatrists working in the NHS in England a training program to support them in their efforts to gain Approved Clinician[[1]](#footnote-2) Status via the portfolio application route.

The AC training program has two components:

* A commissioned university course that provides taught modules to enable them to have a comprehensive understanding of mental health legislation, its application with reference to human rights and ethics, and its application in the best interests of the treatment of people with a mental disorder.
* Experiential knowledge of the application of those laws in the care and support of patients and their families, and demonstration of that knowledge in skills and abilities as observed by an experienced Approved Clinician.

Both components provide the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills to support individual SAS psychiatrists to put together their Approved Clinician portfolio application and submit it to their regional approvals panel.

The available places in this program will be allocated across all NHS England regions using the Mental Health weighted population formula and divided between all NHSE regions.

## Financial support available from NHSE for successful applicants

Successful SAS psychiatrists will benefit from the following support for a period of maximum 24 months (from the beginning of their University Course -February or March 2024- until their AC portfolio application is submitted):

* The University tuition fees for the first part of the program will be paid directly by NHSE WT&E to the University providing this component of the program to the individual doctor.
* A training support grant will be paid to the SAS psychiatrist’s employing NHS trust to provide backfill for the SAS psychiatrist to be released from their clinical duties one day a week throughout their time in this program (from the start of the University component until the submission of the portfolio application or 24 months, whichever is shorter) and for a local AC working in the trust to arrange the experiential part of the program and meet them regularly to discuss portfolio progress. In addition, the training support grant is to be used for travel expenses to attend the taught component and the fees for the AC induction course. It will be paid directly from NHSE to the employer and is in region of £41,800 per SAS doctor per year.

The training support funding is to ensure that the SAS doctors are provided sufficient protected learning time, to ensure appropriate mentoring/supervision for the trainee and to support protected time to develop the portfolio It is expected that SAS doctors on the program are released from their clinical work one day a week and this is protected and clearly job planned

## The University component

The University taught component of the program is provided by 3 Universities: Exeter University, Northumbria University and a third provider to be confirmed. Please see below each University offer. Applicants have the option to submit preference order for individual universities, and we will endeavour to accommodate individual preferences as much as possible but cannot guarantee it.

The education providers offering the NHSE-funded postgraduate training programmes in mental health law to be confirmed:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **TRAINING PROVIDER** | **TRAINING DURATION** | **DELIVERY MODE** |
| Provider 1  (Northumbria University) | 12 months  (dates TBC) | A planned blended approach  of virtual and face to face |
| Provider 2  (TBC) | 12 months  (dates TBC) | A planned blended approach  of virtual and face to face |
| Provider 3  (University Of Exeter) | 12 months  (dates TBC) | A planned blended approach  of virtual and face to face |

## 

## Recruitment Process

## Stage 1: Application and selection of candidates (NHSE WT&E)

The eligibility criteria for this opportunity are:

1. Employment in the NHS on a ***substantive*** national SAS contract (specialty doctor, specialist doctor and the closed associate specialist role). SAS doctors who currently have locum/acting consultant NHS contracts in the same organisation as their substantive SAS contract are eligible.
2. Seven or more years’ experience in Psychiatry (of which 4 or more should have been at a level higher than core trainee).
3. At least 12 months as a Section 12 Approved Doctor by 01/02/2025.
4. Support from the Medical Director of the employing NHS Trust with agreement that the candidate can be released from the clinical post for one day a week and AC mentor will be identified.
5. Availability of a mentor who is an existing local AC.

## To apply, please complete all the following:

* Complete the online application form available [here](https://forms.office.com/e/UyAAcAdbAM)
* Ensure that your Medical Director (no substitutes) has completed the Medical Director approval form [here](https://forms.office.com/e/exq6RMkDvZ)

For any other queries please contact us on [England.SASACRC@nhs.net](mailto:England.SASACRC@nhs.net)

Note that this inbox will not be monitored after 18 December 2024 (closing date of Stage 1 NHSE and WT&E applications)

## Stage 2 Application and assessment (University)

Those successful in Stage 1 who then confirm acceptance of the offer will be passed on their allocated University provider, who will have their own process of applications and selection of into their taught courses. This is Stage 2 of the recruitment process and will be handled by the individual Universities. The specifics of the application process, timescales and forms will be provided as soon as applicants confirm acceptance of the stage 1 offer.

# Appendices

## APPENDIX A

### SAS Doctor Approved Clinician Training; Application Form

Applicants are asked to complete the [**SAS Doctor Approved Clinician Training Application Form.**](https://forms.office.com/e/UyAAcAdbAM)This formrequests the following information from applicants to the programme.

Before continuing with this application please set aside approximately 1.5 hours to complete, **you will not be able to save information in this form to complete at a later date.**

To prepare yourself, the application form will ask you for the following information (you can use the following in this appendix to save and copy across from):

Personal Information

\* Required

1. Applicants First Name \*
2. Applicants surname \*
3. Work email address \*
4. Please provide the name of your employing trust \*
5. Please provide the name of your trust's medical director \*
6. Please provide the work email address of your trust's medical director \*

## Section 12 Approval

1. Please provide the date of your initial Section 12 approval \*
2. If you were re-approved within the past 12 months, please provide clarity as to whether there has been a gap in your approval in the past 12 months, providing the gap dates if applicable\*

## Current and Previous clinical posts

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held? \*
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds) \*
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum \*
4. Was this role full time or less than full time? \*
5. Start date of post month/year \*
6. The setting of the post \*
7. If you selected other for question 14 please state the setting here
8. Add another clinical post?

## Post 2

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum
4. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
5. Start date of post month/year
6. End date of post month/year
7. The setting of the post
8. If you selected other for question 23 please state the setting here
9. Add another clinical post?

## Post 3

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum
4. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
5. Start date of post month/year
6. End date of post month/year
7. The setting of the post
8. If you selected other for question 23 please state the setting here
9. Add another clinical post?

Post 4

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum

1. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
2. Start date of post month/year
3. End date of post month/year
4. The setting of the post
5. If you selected other for question 23 please state the setting here
6. Add another clinical post?

## Post 5

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum
4. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
5. Start date of post month/year
6. End date of post month/year
7. The setting of the post
8. If you selected other for question 23 please state the setting here
9. Add another clinical post?

## Post 6

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum
4. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
5. Start date of post month/year
6. End date of post month/year
7. The setting of the post
8. If you selected other for question 23 please state the setting here
9. Add another clinical post?

## Post 7

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum
4. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
5. Start date of post month/year
6. End date of post month/year
7. The setting of the post
8. If you selected other for question 23 please state the setting here
9. Add another clinical post?

## Post 8

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum
4. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
5. Start date of post month/year
6. End date of post month/year
7. The setting of the post
8. If you selected other for question 23 please state the setting here
9. Add another clinical post?

## Post 9

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum
4. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
5. Start date of post month/year
6. End date of post month/year
7. The setting of the post
8. If you selected other for question 23 please state the setting here
9. Add another clinical post?

## Post 10

1. Is this your current clinical job role or a previous clinical position held?
2. Contractual job title (and seniority within that job title with reference to pay thresholds)
3. Please inform whether the role was substantive or locum
4. Was this role full time or less than fulltime?
5. Start date of post month/year
6. End date of post month/year
7. The setting of the post
8. If you selected other for question 32 please state the setting here

# Exposure to work involving the Mental Health Act - Post 1

1. Please describe your exposure to work involving the use of the Mental Health Act in the last 2 posts held only
2. Approximate number of MHA assessments carried out per annum over the past 3 years. \*
3. Does the team you work(ed) in look after CTO patients? \*
4. Does the team you work(ed) in look after patients detained under the MHA? \*
5. Does the position involve tribunal input/attendance? If so, please provide brief detail of what and how often this has been needed over the past year. \*
6. Do you have another post?

# Exposure to work involving the Mental Health Act - Post 2

1. Please describe your exposure to work involving the use of the Mental Health Act in the last 2 posts held only
2. Approximate number of MHA assessments carried out per annum over the past 3 years.
3. Does the team you work(ed) in look after CTO patients?
4. Does the team you work(ed) in look after patients detained under the MHA?
5. Does the position involve tribunal input/attendance? If so, please provide brief detail of what and how often this has been needed over the past year.

**Qualifications - Please provide up to 5 relevant postgraduate qualifications.**

1. Qualification
2. Date awarded \*
3. Awarding body
4. Add another qualification?

## Qualifications (2nd)

1. Qualification
2. Awarding body
3. Date awarded \*
4. Add another qualification?

## Qualifications (3rd)

1. Qualification
2. Awarding body
3. Date awarded \*
4. Add another qualification?

## Qualifications (4th)

1. Qualification
2. Awarding body
3. Date awarded \*
4. Add another qualification?

## Qualifications (5th)

1. Qualification
2. Awarding body
3. Date awarded \*

# Achievements

**Please detail any other experience and achievements in the respective domains, with approximate dates**

1. Research Experience. Your role in respective projects, outcomes (publications, posters, presentations). Please note responses to questions in this section will be capped at 1,250 characters/250 words. Please do not use any personally identifiable information.

1. Teaching and Education. Completed teaching sessions (audience and session topics), clinical and educational supervision of others (describe who), other educator roles (SASA Tutor or other tutor, associate DME, TPD, Deanery roles etc). Please note responses to questions in this section will be capped at 1,250 characters/250 words. Please do not use any personally identifiable information.
2. Quality Improvement Projects. Completed audits, service development projects, benchmarking and accreditation work etc. Please note responses to questions in this section will be capped at 1,250 characters/250 words. Please do not use any personally identifiable information.

1. Awards and Prizes received. Please note responses to questions in this section will be capped at 1,250 characters/250 words. Please do not use any personally identifiable information.

1. Any other achievements. This list is not exhaustive. Please note responses to questions in this section will be capped at 1,250 characters/250 words. Please do not use any personally identifiable information.

# Planned use of AC Status

1. Please provide a brief description of how you intend to use the AC status once gained. Please note responses to questions in this section will be capped at 1,500 characters/300 words. Please do not use any personally identifiable information.

# Preference of University

1. What is your first choice of university provider for the taught part of this development opportunity. We will endeavour to accommodate preferences but allocation on your

preferred programme is not guaranteed, you may be allocated to the places available.

* University of Exeter
* TBC
* University of Northumbria
* No preference

1. What is your second choice of university provider for the taught part of this development opportunity. We will endeavour to accommodate preferences but allocation on your

preferred programme is not guaranteed, you may be allocated to the places available.

* University of Exeter
* TBC
* University of Northumbria
* No preference

## APPENDIX B

### SAS Doctor Approved Clinician Training; Medical Director Approval Form 2023

Your Trust Medical Director needs to complete the [**SAS Doctor Approved Clinician Training; Medical Director Approval Form 2024.**](https://forms.office.com/e/exq6RMkDvZ)This form confirms the following information:

* Personal and contact information for the Medical Director.
* Confirmation of the name of the doctor the form is for the training opportunity.
* Confirmation that the selected applicant is a **substantive** SAS psychiatrist on the national contract in the trust (and whether they are currently acting up and in what role).

Agreement that by submitting the form the Medical Director confirms their commitment to release the applicant, if successful, from clinical duties one day a week for the duration of the program (max 24 months); reflect this change in their job plan; provide an experienced trust Approved Clinician mentor; provide travel expenses for the doctor to attend the university course programme and the fees and travel expenses for the two day AC induction course.

Please be advised that this form must be completed by the Medical Director for the applicant to be considered for the development opportunity. It is **your responsibility** for this to be completed and submitted before the deadline so we would suggest that you also obtain the form information from your Medical Director via email and also forward it to [England.SASACRC@nhs.net](mailto:England.SASACRC@nhs.net) (you can use the following for your Medical Director to review and answer in an email):

1. Please provide your name \*
2. Please provide your work email address \*
3. Please provide your contact number \*
4. Please provide the name of your trust \*
5. Please provide the name of your chosen doctor for the NHSE Approved Clinician training opportunity \*
6. By responding to this question, I confirm that this doctor is a substantive SAS doctor in this trust **Yes/No** \*
7. Please state here if they are currently working as a locum or acting into a consultant post **Yes/No** \*
8. By submitting this form, I confirm that the following requirements have been met **Yes/No** \*

* I confirm my support in releasing this person for the NHSE Approved Clinician training opportunity.
* Making job planning adjustments to enable them to have one day a week to be dedicated to this training opportunity starting from February 2025 (exact dates to be confirmed), for a maximum of 24 months.
* Providing a mentor who is an experienced Approved Clinician to ensure they have the learning and skill development opportunities needed for the portfolio.
* Providing study leave and travel expenses for the doctor to attend an AC training programme. The course fee will be paid in full by NHSE.
* Providing study leave, paying the course fee and expenses for the doctor to attend an Approved Clinician induction course
* In return of all of the above, the Trust will receive training support in the region of £41,800 per year for up to 24 months (or until the trainee submits their portfolio to the approval panel) which is payable directly from NHSE to the employer.

1. An Approved Clinician (AC) is defined as a mental health professional approved by, or on behalf of, the Secretary of State to act as an Approved Clinician for the purposes of the Mental Health Act 1983 (MHA). Some decisions under the MHA can only be taken by professionals who are ACs.  [↑](#footnote-ref-2)