# Round Two - Applicant Information Pack: 2023/24 Approved Clinician Training

Development offer for Speciality and Specialists Doctors in Psychiatry

## Introduction

NHSE WT&E is offering a development opportunity for Specialty and Specialist Doctors (SAS doctors) in psychiatry to be supported in gaining Approved Clinician[[1]](#footnote-2) Status via the portfolio route which includes the completion of a commissioned training programme.

**AC training programme is comprised of two components:**

* Firstly, completion of a commissioned taught programme that provide learners with 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. The training programme will be delivered by a commissioned training provider.
* Secondly, 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 elements are then drawn together in a practice portfolio, which is physically submitted to a regional panel for approval. If successful, the individual is identified and licensed as an Approved Clinician. They are then qualified to act as a Responsible Clinician for the care of one or more patients, whereupon they go on to collate evidence for reapproval every five years.

We currently have approximately ten training places for the AC training programme available nationally. These places will be allocated using the Mental Health weighted population formula and divided between all NHSE regions. These places are subject to change and could potentially be higher.

## Support available from NHSE for learners to complete the AC training

* Tuition fees for learners on a NHSE commissioned Approved Clinician training programme. These are paid by NHSE directly to the education provider. This is subject to successful selection through the stage one selection process by NHSE WT&E and then a the second stage selection undertaken by the Higher Education Provider.
* Training support to the trust at £41,800 per year for up to 24 months (or until the AC trainee submits their portfolio to the approval panel) to provide backfill for the trainee to be released from their clinical role which will be paid directly from NHSE to the employer.

The training support funding is to ensure that the trainees are provided sufficient protected learning time, to ensure appropriate mentoring/supervision for the trainee and to support protected time to develop the portfolio. The trainee should be released from their clinical work for one day a week.

## Taught programme education providers and training offer

We will endeavour to accommodate preferences but allocation on your preferred programme is not guaranteed, you may be allocated to the places available.

The education providers offering the NHSE-funded postgraduate training programmes in mental health law are as follows:

* **University of Exeter (CEDAR)** - Start: February 2024
  + Delivery mode and duration: postgraduate certificate over 18 months. The university if currently planning a blended approach of face to face and online delivery.
  + [University of Exeter Prospectus](https://healtheducationengland.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/MentalHealth/PNRT/AC-RC/SAS%202023_24/2022_23%20course%20information/Cedar%20MPAC%20c3%20flyer%20final.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=pNwgXp)
* **University of East Anglia (UEA)** - Start: February 2024
  + Delivery mode and duration: CPD course running from February-July 2024. The university is currently planning a blended approach of face to face and/or online delivery in support of trainees’ geographical locations.
  + [UEA Prospectus](https://healtheducationengland.sharepoint.com/sites/MentalHealth/PNRT/Forms/AllItems.aspx?ct=1696416101978&or=Teams%2DHL&ga=1&LOF=1&id=%2Fsites%2FMentalHealth%2FPNRT%2FAC%2DRC%2FSAS%202023%5F24%2F2023%5F24%20course%20information%2FUEA%20Flyer%20%2D%20Mental%20Health%20Law%20CPD%20Programme%20Proposal%20%2D%202024%2Epdf&viewid=4787c3b3%2D69bd%2D4ed9%2Dbd82%2Dcb92b16a5857&parent=%2Fsites%2FMentalHealth%2FPNRT%2FAC%2DRC%2FSAS%202023%5F24%2F2023%5F24%20course%20information)

## Recruitment Process

**Applications Open - 4 December 2023**

**Applications Closed - 18 December 2023**

**Stage 1: Assessment and selection of candidates (NHSE)**

**Provisional offers to be made –**

Applicant names shared with education providers (NHSE)

**Stage 2: Education provider application and assessment**

**Education providers will contact selected individuals with taught programme application – Date TBC**

**Educational providers will make offers to successful candidates – Date TBC**

**Webinar will take place for successful candidates and their respective medical directors**

## Stage 1: assessment and selection of candidates (NHSE)

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 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 1 February 2024.
4. Support from the Medical Director with agreement that the candidate can be released from the clinical post for one day a week.
5. Availability of a mentor who is an existing local AC.

## Application

To apply, please complete all the following:

* Complete the online application form available [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=K5Gn_5ewMUGcD9DoB1Wyq5q9FyK6TplNgg_6NhgkwnVUNFVMUDZQTTNEM09ESFIwNE1BVFBUQzQxVS4u)
* Ensure that your Medical Director has completed the Medical Director approval form [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=K5Gn_5ewMUGcD9DoB1Wyq5q9FyK6TplNgg_6NhgkwnVUMkk5NllPWldNN0RYQjI3SVpYTVlHVTlDWS4u)

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

## Stage 2 Education provider application and assessment

### **Overview**

The Stage 2 application process for the Approved Clinician (AC) training offered in 2023/24 to Specialty and Specialist Doctors (SAS doctors) in psychiatry who have been successful on the NHS England (NHSE) Stage 1 application process.

Those successful in Stage 1 NHSE application process need to follow onto Stage 2 application process for the education provider that they have been allocated.

# 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/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=K5Gn_5ewMUGcD9DoB1Wyq5q9FyK6TplNgg_6NhgkwnVUNFVMUDZQTTNEM09ESFIwNE1BVFBUQzQxVS4u)This formrequests the following information from applicants to the programme.

Before continuing with this application please set aside approximately 1 hour to complete, you will **not**be able to save information in this form to complete later.

**Personal Information:**  
Your name  
Work email address  
Phone number  
Name of your trust  
Name of your trust's medical director  
 **Section 12 approval:**  
  
The date of your initial section 12 approval  
Clarity as to whether there has been a gap in your approval in the last 12 months  
  
**Current and Previous Job Posts:**You are able to add up to 10 posts showing 7 years of experience  
  
Job title  
Whether the role or substantive or locum  
Whether the role is full time or less  
Start and finish dates  
The setting of the post (inpatient, community, liaison, crisis etc)  
The psychiatric specialities/sub-specialities   
 **Exposure to work involving the Mental Health Act:**  
For the last 2 posts held only  
Approximate number of MHA assessments carried out per annum over the past 3 years  
Does the team you work(ed) in look after CTO patients?  
Does the team you work(ed) in look after patients detained under the MHA?  
Details of whether the position involved tribunal input/attendance?  
 **Details of up to 5 relevant qualifications:**  
Qualification  
Awarding body  
Date awarded  
 **Details of other experience and achievements in the respective domains:**

Please note responses to questions in this section will be capped at 250 words  
Research experience  
Teaching and education  
Quality improvement projects  
Awards and prizes received  
Any other achievements  **Detailing your planned use of AC Status in 300 words.**

## Appendix B

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

The Medical Director is asked to complete the [**SAS Doctor Approved Clinician Training; Medical Director Approval Form 2023.**](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=K5Gn_5ewMUGcD9DoB1Wyq5q9FyK6TplNgg_6NhgkwnVUMkk5NllPWldNN0RYQjI3SVpYTVlHVTlDWS4u)This form confirms the following information:

* Personal and contact information of the Medical Director.
* Confirmation of the name of the doctor chosen for the training opportunity.
* Confirmation that the selected applicant is a substantive SAS Doctor in their respective trust if this applicant is locum or otherwise.
* Agreement that by submitting the form the Medical Director confirms their support in releasing the applicant for the training opportunity, making job planning adjustments to enable the applicant to have one day a week dedicated to this opportunity, provision of an experiences Approved Clinician mentor, providing of study leave and travel expenses for the doctor to attend the training programme and induction course.

## Appendix C

### University of Exeter

#### Application process

There are 3 (three) phases to the registration which include the university’s own review of the applications to ensure their suitability for the training, as well as the CEDAR, and the central admissions phases.

Stage 1 successful candidates will be provided the training application in **January 2024 date TBC**.

Deadline for applications would typically allow for a week window for application forms to be filled in and submitted.

Application forms will be reviewed and sent to central admission for university registration process to commence by **the beginning of February 2023**.

#### Academic information

The academic component consists of 12 (twelve) days / sessions of teaching, 9 (nine) action learning sets and 3 (three) individual tutorials across an 18-month programme starting on 17 March 2023.

#### Entry requirements

Applicants must be in one of the following professions:

* Social worker
* Registered mental health nurse
* Psychologist
* Occupational therapist.
* SAS doctor

You must have sufficient experience of managing patients subject to the Mental Health Act.

#### Prospectus

* [Please follow here for University of Exeter course information](https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/courses/psychology/mpac/)

### University of East Anglia (UEA)

#### Application process

#### Academic information

The course will begin with an introduction and orientation including the Service User Prospective of being detained under MHA. Course prospectus will then start on 1 March with the final session, currently planned as a face-to-face session, on 12 July.

#### Entry requirements

The programme is intended for senior clinician s who are being supported by their employer to develop a Portfolio as a Multi -Professional Approved Clinician. The programme will however not formally check qualifications or employment status of applicants.

#### Prospectus

* UEA will provide the link to their course information at a later date.

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)