

What are the advantages of an ACF over a normal ST3 post?

The training you are applying for is for a five year training programme. Usually SPRs spend 3 years in a district general hospital, and then two years in teaching hospitals. At the end of this time, you will be awarded a CCT in general medicine, endocrinology and diabetes.

Academic trainees spend 9 months in each year in a DGH, with 3 months in the lab. This means that during their second or third year, they can apply for a grant. As soon as such a grant is awarded, SPRs would apply to leave the programme (an OOPE) for 3 years to do a PhD.

At the end of your time as a PhD student, you would normally return to the clinical programme where you left off, and at the end of your training, you would have both a CCT and a PhD.

The current round of ACF posts (to start in August 2010) will be advertised in November, with a closing date of Dec 4th, and interviews on Dec 17th. Posts that remain vacant at the end of 2009 will enter normal recruitment for ST3. Thus current ST2s in core medical training who want an academic career need to apply for these posts.

In addition there are ACF posts in metabolic medicine. In a similar manner to those in Endocrinology and Diabetes, these posts have 9 months of clinical work and 3 months of research. The metabolic medicine posts are based at the Imperial Group of Hospitals, and include clinical and laboratory training.