

ROYAL DEVON UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

JOB DESCRIPTION

**Clinical Fellow in Ophthalmology
(Cornea/Anterior Segment)**

WEST OF ENGLAND EYE UNIT, ROYAL DEVON & EXETER HOSPITAL

The West of England Eye Unit (WEEU) is part of the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, a teaching hospital which is part of the Royal Devon University HealthCare NHS Foundation Trust and associated with the University of Exeter Medical School. WEEU formed when the ophthalmology department moved to the main Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital Wonford site in 1993, having previously been housed in the West of England Eye Infirmary, the second established Eye Infirmary in England after Moorfields Eye Hospital.

The department also has satellite community clinics and operating facilities at Axminster, Tiverton and Sidmouth Hospitals. There is also a high volume cataract service located at Exeter Nightingale Hospital. There are currently 16 ophthalmology consultants covering all subspecialities who are supported by ophthalmology trainees rotating in the Peninsula Deanery, Ophthalmology Fellows and a large team of ophthalmic practitioners.

THE POST

Title: Clinical Fellow (Cornea/Anterior Segment)
Salary: ST3+ £55,329.00 - £63,152.00
Annual Leave: 27 days or 32 days (Depending on years' service)
Study Leave: 30 days

Training Objectives:

The aim of this fellowship is to prepare the candidate for independent practice as a consultant ophthalmologist with a special interest in Cornea and Anterior segment surgery

The West of England Eye Unit provides an ophthalmic service to Exeter, Mid Devon and East Devon, primarily covering a population of 450,000, however the tertiary level corneal service receives a larger population of patients from a wider area which includes North Devon and parts of Cornwall, Somerset and Dorset. The service performs approximately 125 corneal transplants per year.

The corneal service is led by Mr Harry Roberts and Mr Nathaniel Knox Cartwright and supported by ophthalmologists in training, specialist nurses and hospital optometrists. In addition it is strengthened by an excellent optometry team, which provides ectasia monitoring and contact lens services.

The department offers all forms of modern lamellar corneal transplant techniques and anterior segment surgery including

- Endothelial transplant (DMEK, DSAEK)
- Sutured transplants (DALK, PK, mushroom PK)
- Anterior segment reconstruction including secondary IOLs and Artificial Iris
- Complex cataract surgery
- Corneal neurotisation

The newly opened Nightingale Unit offers high volume cataract surgery. If the candidate has an interest in developing their skills in high volume cataract surgery then there is the opportunity for them to attend this new and exciting cataract surgery hub.

Proposed Timetable

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Corneal Clinic Wonford HR	Corneal Clinic Wonford HR	Theatre Wonford HR	Study	Corneal Clinic Wonford
ED	Study	Cornea Clinic Wonford HR	General Clinic Wonford AC	Theatre Wonford HR

PLEASE NOTE

Timetable above is intended to give an indication of likely mix of sessions in this post but is subject to change depending on needs of service and theatre availability. Some sessions may take place at Axminster or Exeter Nightingale Hospitals.

FACILITIES

Theatre Facilities

The 2 main ophthalmology operating theatres in the eye unit are located within the Eye Unit and both have ceiling mounted Leica operating microscopes. Each theatre has modern Stellaris machines for cataract surgery. All corneal surgery is performed at the theatres located at the Wonford site and is complemented by a Moria Microkeratome.

Axminster Hospital has a fully equipped eye theatre for cataract and oculoplastic procedures.

Exeter Nightingale has a fully equipped theatre for cataract surgery.

Out-Patients

The main Out-patient Eye Department has approximately 15 examination rooms plus separate areas for orthoptics, optometry and ocular photography. The department is well equipped with OCT, Humphrey Visual field Machine, Optos retinal photography, Pentacam and MS-39 corneal topo/tomography. There is OCT-A and Fluorescein Angiography available. There is a B-Scan and UBM ultrasound. There are separate rooms for Retinal laser and SLT/YAG laser.

The Department has excellent electrodiagnostic studies instruments and this service is run in conjunction with the Department of Neurophysiology.

The Glaucoma Unit is on the hospital's Heavitree Site with an additional 5 examination rooms plus a Trio laser.

Community outpatient clinics are held at Axminster, Sidmouth and Tiverton hospitals.

Teaching/Research

Every Friday afternoon during term time is devoted to teaching for the deanery trainees. This involves teaching sessions within the Unit and with adjacent units on a combined basis approximately once a month. There is also dedicated corneal teaching at Wednesday lunchtimes. In addition, there are sub-regional and regional meetings within the South West. The teaching programme involves invited speakers, Consultant Ophthalmologists and trainees along with regular audit meetings.

The Medical Library is housed within the Medical School building, but the West of England Eye Unit has its own library which has on line access to all the major ophthalmic journals. The Research and Development Support Unit provides statistical and study help. Research, audit and quality improvement projects by the Fellows is encouraged at all stages. The West of England Eye Unit has a strong record of published research.

University of Exeter Medical School

The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital is the main teaching site for the University of Exeter Medical School. Undergraduate facilities are on site, as well as on the St Luke's campus near by. The RILD (Research, innovation, learning and development) building opened in 2014, and connects to the medical School building. The unit has 4th and 5th year students most weeks, and the Fellow is encouraged to be involved in their teaching.

The unit also has Optometry Students from the University of Plymouth and Orthoptics Students.

ON CALL COMMITMENT

The Ophthalmic Fellows take part in the first on call ophthalmology rota. This is typically on a 1 in 8 basis, although this may vary depending on staffing numbers.

MAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The post is for a period starting August 2024.

All appointments are subject to full registration with the General Medical Council. Appointment is also subject to a satisfactory health check and co-operation with the Occupational Health Departments is requested.

The applicant is entitled to a total of 27 days Annual leave and up to 10 days paid Study leave per annum.

EXETER AND SURROUNDING AREA

Exeter is a city of 130,000 people located on Exe river and near to the sea (Exmouth is 8km away). The Exeter and local 'Heart of Devon' area has a population of 500,000. The beautiful Exe estuary starts in the Exeter suburb of Topsham, which like Exeter is an ancient port. Exeter is a very pleasant place to live, with one of the finest cathedrals in England, excellent shopping facilities, good rail and bus services, excellent road links and an expanding airport. There are daily flights all over the UK and Ireland, with many wider European services including daily flights to London, Paris and Amsterdam. Dartmoor and Exmoor national parks are very close, as are the beaches of Devon and Cornwall. There are many cycling paths within and around the city, including the Topsham to Exmouth cycleway, along the Exe estuary.
