



Royal Devon
University Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

ROYAL DEVON & EXETER FOUNDATION NHS TRUST

JOB DESCRIPTION

NORMAN CAPENER SPINAL SURGERY FELLOWSHIP

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1. INTRODUCTION

Exeter's excellence in Trauma and Orthopaedic surgery has a worldwide reputation for excellence. The Norman Capener Spinal Surgery Fellowship is dedicated to the advancements of the theory and practice of all aspects of spinal surgery and is based at the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Centre, Exeter. The Fellows will work alongside the 8 Spinal Consultants.

The Exeter Spinal Unit covers a wide catchment area across Devon and Cornwall providing routine, emergency and complex spinal reconstruction surgery while also acting as a tertiary referral centre outside this region.

A full range of spinal disorders ranging from degenerative pathologies through to tumour resection and reconstruction surgery in all regions of the spine, (cervical, thoracic, thoracolumbar and lumbar) are treated.

The Spinal Fellow will be instructed on the basic principles of evaluation and treatment of the spinal patients. He/she will gain experience in the exposure of the entire spine including posterior and importantly the anterior and lateral approaches to the spine. The Fellow will also gain experience in the use of the operating microscope and various neural decompression techniques including microsurgery and minimally invasive techniques.

The Fellow will also gain experience in anterior and posterior reconstruction techniques with a full range of spinal instrumentation methods undertaken in the unit and instructed.

Spinal deformity correction surgery is also regularly carried out in Exeter, which is the main spinal deformity centre for Devon and Cornwall.

2. HOSPITALS AND SERVICES

For an overall description of the main hospitals and services of the Unit, see Appendix A.

The Royal Devon & Exeter Foundation NHS Trust comprises all the acute District General Hospital facilities and is managed day - to - day by an Executive Group comprising seven Clinical Directors (with management contracts) a Chief Executive, Medical Director and Directors of Finance, Nursing and Service Improvement , Human Resources, Operations and (ex officio) the Chairman of the Medical Staff Committee.

3. THE WORK OF THE ORTHOPAEDIC DIRECTORATE

Orthopaedic Directorate.

The Directorate of Orthopaedics, Trauma & Rheumatology is based at the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Centre (PEOC) in Exeter.

The PEOC presently provides routine and specialist orthopaedic work for residents of Exeter, plus East and Mid Devon. The staff comprises 34 Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons, 6 Senior Registrars, 9 Orthopaedic Fellows and 12 SHO's. The PEOC provides a comprehensive range of routine elective orthopaedic surgery and specialist surgery, particularly for disorders of the spine, hip, knee and shoulder and orthopaedic disorders in children.

Outpatient clinics are held at the PEOC and include several specialist clinics in hand surgery, CDH, joint replacement, cerebral palsy, paediatrics, spinal deformity, knee clinic and shoulder clinic. Pre-admission assessment clinics are held in Exeter, and peripheral orthopaedic clinics are held at Tiverton, Axminster, Exmouth and Okehampton.

The Exeter Orthopaedic Consultants also have operating commitments in Exmouth, Sidmouth and Tiverton.

4. THE JOB ITSELF

4.1 **TITLE:** Orthopaedic Spinal Fellow

4.2 **RELATIONSHIPS:** The employer is the Royal Devon & Exeter Foundation NHS Trust. The post is based on a whole time appointment.

4.3 **DUTIES OF THE POST:**

The duties of the Fellow will be to assist in the running of the spinal service.

The spinal fellow is shared amongst the 6 full time Orthopaedic Spinal Consultants; the weekly programme for each team will be as follows.

	1.	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI
AM		Theatre	Theatre	OPD	Theatre	Spinal MDT & Pre-assessment
PM		Theatre	Theatre	OPD	Theatre	Research

	2.	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI
AM		OPD	Theatre	Theatre	Theatre	Spinal MDT & Pre-assessment
PM		Research	Theatre	Theatre	Theatre	OPD

It is expected that the spinal fellow engage in at least one research project, aiming at least at presenting the material at the annual BASS and BSS spinal meetings. It will be expected that the fellow produces at least one paper for publication.

5. MAIN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

5.1 **SALARY SCALE** : £70,425 plus Allowances

5.2 **ANNUAL LEAVE:** 27 – 32 days depending on NHS service - day off in lieu for each Public Holiday worked).

5.3 **STUDY LEAVE:** 10 days per annum.

5.4 **DATE OF VACANCY:** February 2026

5.5 **REGISTRATION:** All hospital Medical and Dental Staff are required to be appropriately registered with the General Medical Council to practice in this country. Such staff must ensure that registration is maintained for the duration of the appointment. Overseas graduates should note that full registration does not necessarily preclude the need for a period of clinical attachment and assessment.

5.6 MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

The Trust indemnifies all staff for the work that is carried out on the Trust's behalf; however, junior doctors are encouraged to retain membership of a medical defence organisation for their own peace of mind and protection. The annual subscriptions for most junior doctors are relatively modest and tax deductible.

5.7 MEDICAL EXAMINATION

All initial appointments to the NHS are made subject to satisfactory medical evidence being produced. The Trust reserves the right to make any offer of appointment subject to the receipt of such medical evidence including examination where this is deemed necessary.

In the interests of all staff and patients it may be desirable and necessary for periodic medical checks to be undertaken in addition to those on initial appointment.

It is also important to be immunised against the following:

Tetanus, Polio, Rubella, Hepatitis B, Tuberculosis

Covid vaccination status

5.8 IONISING RADIATION REGULATIONS - STATUTORY INSTRUMENT NO. 778

Statutory instrument No. 778 requires you to be authorised to clinically direct medical radiation exposures. Failure to comply with this statutory instrument would severely inhibit your clinical activity and would mean that you could not fulfill the terms of your employment. You are reminded that generally it is necessary, and under these circumstances you will be required to provide a certificate to this effect upon arrival or at least to attend the first course arranged in Exeter or Torbay.

5.9 REFERENCES

All staff appointments are made subject to the receipt of two satisfactory references, one of which will be from the current or most recent employer.

6. ACADEMIC FACILITIES

The Peninsula Medical School:

The Peninsula Medical School is founded on a unique partnership between the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth and the NHS within Devon and Cornwall. The school was established on 1 August

2000 and commenced delivery of the Undergraduate Programme in Autumn 2002. In addition to undergraduate teaching the mission includes a commitment to the delivery of Postgraduate Education including a new Masters programme which commenced in 2002. All teaching is underpinned by a strong research base with research focused in the Institute of Biomedical and Clinical Science, Institute of Health and Social Care and the Institute of Clinical Education. Drawing on the strengths of not one but two Universities and multiple health care partners throughout Devon and Cornwall, the PMS has devised an exciting and innovative degree programme.

Years one and two of the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree programme lay the scientific foundations for the future years of the course. Students are introduced to clinical methods and begin acquisition of a range of transferable skills, learning science within a clinical context. The programme reflects the belief that doctors need to adopt a socially accountable approach to their work and to understand the human and societal impact of disease as well as the community-wide context of contemporary health care provision. The curriculum is structured around the human life cycle and the first year student studies human physical and psychological development from birth through to death. 70% is “core”, providing the knowledge and abilities essential for entry into the Pre-registration House Officer year and 30% is comprised of Special Study Units, which allow students to select areas of interest to study in depth. In the second year students revisit the human life cycle, this time with an emphasis on disease and the pathological and psychological impact of illness. The Years 3 and 4 programme moves away from the traditional curriculum model to reflect today’s evolving models of care. Known as ‘Pathways of Care’, Years 3 and 4 reflects the patient experience of care in acute, primary and community care settings. Learning is patient centred. In year five students learn the job of medicine and start to develop their understanding of principles of practice in the NHS. Students are involved in a series of apprenticeship attachments; to consultants across the South West and to Principal General Practitioners on a one-to-one basis throughout Devon (Plymouth, Exeter, Barnstaple and Torbay) and Cornwall (Truro).

There is great scope for staff in NHS Partner Organisations to become involved in all aspects of the Peninsula Medical School curriculum for undergraduate education; for example, clinicians may be engaged with PMS as Clinical Skills Tutors, SSU Providers, and Academic Mentors.

The Institute of Biomedical and Clinical Science has developed several core “platform” technologies, accessed by a range of clinician scientists. These include: molecular genetics; clinical microvascular research; cell and molecular biology laboratories; the peninsula MRI facility on the St Luke’s Campus. Research in the field of diabetes and microvascular science is particularly strong with the University of Exeter being awarded a Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher Education in 2005 for the work of Professor Andrew Hattersley and his team entitled “Using genetics to improve clinical care for diabetic patients”. The Institute of Health and Social Care Research possesses core skills in epidemiology (including genetic epidemiology), health technology assessment, concordance, access to services and systematic reviews. Further details of the research strategy of the School and its partners can be accessed on www.pms.ac.uk

The Research and Development Support Unit (RDSU)

The Trust holds a contract from the Department of Health to host a Peninsula wide Research and Development Support Unit to facilitate NHS R&D in the implementation of Evidence Based Practice

in the research community. This Peninsula Unit, which was formed from three highly successful units, involves networks throughout the Peninsula embracing both Primary Care Secondary Care and supports all professional groups.

7. CANVASSING

Candidates are asked to note that canvassing of any member of the Advisory Appointments Committee will disqualify (see Statutory Instrument 1982 No. 276 paragraph 8 (1)(b)). This should not deter candidates from seeking information as below.

8. ACCESS TO CHILDREN

The person appointed to this post may have substantial access to children under the provisions of Joint Circular No. HC (88) 9 HOC 8/88 WHC (88) 10. Applicants are, therefore, advised that in the event that your appointment is recommended you will be asked to complete a form disclosing any convictions, bind-over orders or cautions, and to give permission in writing for a police check to be carried out. Refusal to do so could prevent further consideration of the application. Attention is drawn to the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) (Amendment) Order 1986, which allow convictions that are spent to be disclosed for this purpose by the police and to be taken into account in deciding whether to engage an applicant.

9. REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS

This post is not protected by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1974. You must disclose all information about all convictions (if any) in a Court of Law, no matter when they occurred. This information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

The Trust welcomes informal enquiries; The relevant people to speak to are as follows:

Mr Henry Budd (Clinical Lead) or Mr Oliver Stokes

Consultant Orthopaedic Spinal Surgeons
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