

GMC additional position statement on academic training in a less than full-time setting – January 2012

Purpose of this document

1. Further to our [position statement on less than full-time training \(LTFT\)](#) issued in October 2011, we have received calls for further clarification on the position of academic trainees.

Context

2. We strongly support trainees who wish to obtain training in academic medicine. Such doctors are crucial to the future of British healthcare because they are so closely involved with teaching and training future generations of doctors, as well as carrying out medical research that will benefit future patients.

3. Academic trainees should have the same opportunities to work flexibly as other doctors in training. Although they are a relatively small cohort (see annex) the position statement we issued in October 2011 on LTFT is as relevant to academic trainees as it is to other trainees.

Clarification of the position of appointments of academic trainees to less than full-time training posts

4. The key elements of the statement which covers academic training programmes are:

a. Depending on eligibility and resources, trainees should be allowed to undertake training placements at percentages which are less than full time. Training programmes will be extended accordingly. Under normal circumstances the minimum percentage for LTFT should be 50%.

b. In exceptional individual circumstances, trainees may be allowed to undertake training at less than 50% of full time. These circumstances should be considered by the trainee's deanery and should have the support of the Postgraduate Dean or their deputy. A placement at less than 50% of full time should be for a maximum of 12 months and should be subject to regular review to ensure appropriate career progression during the time.

- c. No trainee should undertake a placement at less than 20% of full time. Placements at less than 20% would not allow continuity of training, appropriate presence in the training place and coverage of different aspects of the curriculum.
- d. All LTFT placements should have the approval of the Postgraduate Dean or their deputy. They should meet the needs of the trainee, be appropriate for the training establishment and make best use of resources.
- e. Academic training programmes may be appropriate for LTFT trainees, but these should be discussed on an individual basis with the Postgraduate Dean. Under normal circumstances, an academic training placement done at less than full time should be a minimum of 50% of the full-time placement.

The role of Postgraduate Deans

- 5. The appointment to less than full-time training posts must be for Postgraduate Deans to determine in light of local discussion, resources and within the parameters set out in the statement. We recognise that academic trainees have a variety of working patterns including modular training and split training. If they are also working flexibly these need to be taken into consideration so that the clinical and academic requirements can both be met in the entirety of the programme.
- 6. If trainees wish to discuss their individual circumstances, they should contact their Postgraduate Dean in the first instance.

Annex

Extract from the biannual survey for the period 1 November 2010 to 30 April 2011 (including data from all deaneries across the UK except London)

The overall number of LTFT trainees (across all grades but excluding FTSTA and LAT) for this reporting period is **3777**.

The total number of LTFT academic trainees in all deaneries in April 2011 was **36**.

The percentage of LTFT academic trainees compared to all LTFT trainees was **1%**.

