

Clinical Attachments (CA) in UHL – Information for CA's

Clinical attachments are a useful and practical way of gaining knowledge of primary (general practice) and secondary (hospital) care. This leads to a greater understanding of NHS culture and delivery healthcare in the United Kingdom. It is also a good educational opportunity in learning how competitive posts are and how to sharpen up clinical and presentation skills to gain success with appointment.

It is important for you to realise that clinical attachments are purely an observership. In practice you can undertake tasks that are performed by final year medical students such as inserting IV cannulae, bladder catheterisation, assisting at operations etc. under supervision.

A clinical attachment will give you an opportunity to observe outpatient and theatre sessions together with attendance at postgraduate meetings such as Radiology, Pathology, Grand Rounds and departmental teaching sessions. Individual consultants, who agree to take on a trainee for a clinical attachment, are not under any obligation to do so and only do this to be helpful and give someone a start in their career.

Process for placement

It is up to the individual doctor to arrange the clinical attachment. This is best done by making an appointment through an individual consultants secretary and gaining his/her permission.

Once this has been agreed the consultant should confirm that they are accepting you for a placement by writing to HR Governance Team, HR Recruitment Services, Level 2 Jarvis Building, Leicester Royal Infirmary – or emailing hrtransactionalteam@uhl-tr.nhs.uk, confirming the duration and including a copy of your current C.V. Upon receipt of this correspondence and payment you will be issued with a letter of authority and confidentiality form. Please remember there should be a minimum of at least 2 weeks notice before you are due to commence.

At present a charge is made to cover health and employment clearance costs on a non-profit making basis. The current charge is £150.00 per attachment and must be paid before the attachment commences. This is non-refundable. Cheques should be made payable to University Hospitals of Leicester, and sent to HR Shared Services at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, after a particular consultant has accepted you for placement. Individual doctors will also have to pay for their own accommodation and subsistence and an enhanced CRB check if this is deemed necessary for your particular placement.

You must have appropriate health clearance **before** you commence your placement. When accepted by an individual consultant you should therefore approach Occupational Health for clearance. The Occupational Health department will then confirm your medical clearance to your supervising consultant. Your letter of authority is not valid until health clearance is confirmed. You will also need to sign a confidentiality form and return it to Medical HR.

A single clinical attachment is usually sufficient and therefore we do not normally grant clinical attachments to those who have already undertaken an attachment in another deanery.

The maximum allowed for clinical attachments is 6 weeks and ideally 4 weeks are sufficient.

Flowchart for Clinical Attachment Process within UHL

Potential Clinical Attachment



Approach to individual Consultant from the potential Clinical Attachment



Consultant accepts individual for CA placement usually 4-6 weeks.
Give sufficient notice usually at least 2 weeks before commencement.

CA to apply for OH clearance.

Consultant writes to Med HR confirming acceptance of CA & duration agreed. Sends current CV with letter. Dept to clarify if enhanced CRB check necessary.

Health clearance received – Consultant notified.

CA pays fee to Medical HR

Letter of Authority issued to CA (cc OH & Cons) & Confidentiality form returned to Medical HR.

Approved Clinical Attachment Placement.

CA allowed to commence.

