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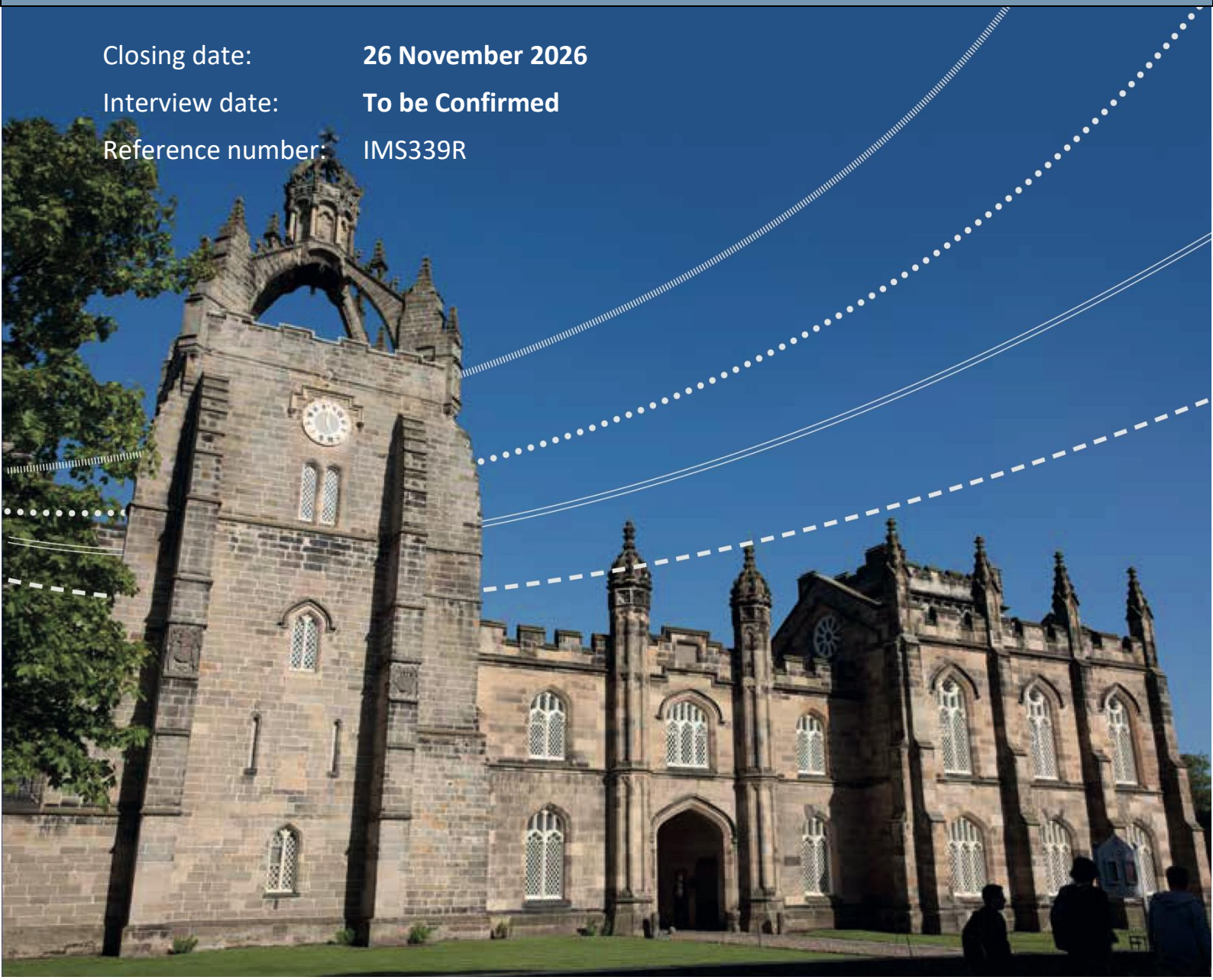
Clinical Research Fellow (Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy)

INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES & NUTRITION

Closing date: **26 November 2026**

Interview date: **To be Confirmed**

Reference number: IMS339R



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INTRODUCTION

We seek to appoint an enthusiastic, motivated clinical research fellow with strong interest in pursuing an academic path in cardiovascular medicine. The successful candidate will join the dynamic Cardiology research group within the Faculty of Medicine, headed by Professor Dana Dawson.

This is a 3-year full time post (start date August 2027), funded through a British Heart Foundation Program Grant. The appointee will conduct highly sophisticated invasive and imaging clinical research to explore the unique mechanistic patho-physiology of takotsubo cardiomyopathy. This is an acute cardiac emergency which predominantly affects women (90%) and is triggered by a precipitant episode of stress. Despite non-obstructed coronary arteries there is severe heart dysfunction, and although the heart function 'normalises' shortly afterwards, these patients have reduced long-term survival. The programme of research will investigate candidate translational mechanisms of pathophysiology in takotsubo cardiomyopathy. Advanced cardiac magnetic resonance (standard high field and the novel field cycling MRI methodology uniquely available in Aberdeen), positron emission tomography with several novel tracers (in Edinburgh and Aberdeen), invasive coronary physiology studies, tissue biopsy and other clinical research techniques will be employed.

The appointee will be part of a translational team and work closely with immunology, thrombosis/fibrinolysis, bioinformatics and clinical colleagues. The goal is that together, the group will provide the leap of science required to understand the full pathway in which this recently described disease triggers and unfolds.

JOB DESCRIPTION

MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ROLE:

The Clinical Research Fellow will be responsible for early identification of patients with acute takotsubo cardiomyopathy and acute myocardial infarction, and for this purpose foster close links with the acute cardiology wards and the cardiac catheterisation laboratory. The appointee will ensure early consent (or ascent) of potential study participants and be responsible for coordination and organisation of both invasive and non-invasive study investigations. They will be responsible for tissue collection and preservation as well as liaison with postdoctoral scientists, molecular chemists and physicists for advanced imaging clinical research scans. The cardiology research team on this project are Dr Nicola Ryan, Dr Andrew Stewart and Dr James Ross in Aberdeen and Professor David Newby in Edinburgh. The appointee will be encouraged to learn translational experimentation and work in collaboration with post-doctoral immunology and thrombosis non-clinical fellows and their respective senior project leads, to develop their laboratory skills if they demonstrate talent and aptitude in this direction. Training will be provided for all aspects of the work. You will be encouraged to attend relevant training courses. It is envisaged that the applicant will be medically qualified, at pre-PhD level, suitably experienced clinically, and registration towards a higher degree will be encouraged.

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KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Research

- Carry out research within the context of the British Heart Foundation Program Grant award, as directed by Professor Dana Dawson and her collaborators

- Become familiar with trial protocols, software and documentation, undergo study-specific training and keeping up to date with Good Clinical Practice accreditation

- Work closely with the clinical teams to identify, make contact and explain the rationale of the research to prospective participants, recruit and retain trial participants, including screening, medical examination of potential trial participants and obtaining informed written consent (and ascent).

- Help ensure trial participants have a good experience of their part-taking in research, including responding to queries when required

- Plan and execute clinical research investigations, such as collection of blood and preparation of peripheral blood mononuclear cells, set-up of invasive coronary physiology and endomyocardial biopsy studies with the relevant specialist consultants, set-up of advanced cardiac magnetic resonance, field cycling magnetic resonance imaging, and specific molecular tracer-enabled positron emission tomography with specialist consultants and medical physicists in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. Ensure that all necessary equipment is prepared for each study.

- Acquire good quality data according to the trial protocol, maintain accurate records, be organised and organise others.

- Analyse the outputs of the clinical research data, present regularly at internal group meetings, draft and submit abstracts, and participate to national and international conferences. Draft manuscripts and submit for academic publications.

- Keep good clinical records of all interactions with participants, ensuring compliance with data protection requirements at all times

Clinical duties

There are no specific clinical duties associated with this post, but depending on the performance of the candidate in the post and their efficiency and success in completing the research protocol, a weekly clinical session may be allocated within the program, subject to regular review. An infrequent help with the supervision of a clinical CPEX list is included in the expectations for the post-holder.

Teaching

There is a regular commitment to the teaching of medical students in the undergraduate teaching programme, which presents an excellent opportunity to introduce those interested undergraduates to how advanced clinical research unfolds.

CANDIDATE BACKGROUND

We are seeking a motivated, values-led enthusiastic individual with a strong interest in developing as a clinical academic with demonstrated good clinical aptitude and an inquisitive mind for translational projects and mechanistic discovery.

Knowledge: You should have a primary medical qualification, MBChB or equivalent (preferably a first or at least a 2:1 from a reputable University), have full GMC registration with a licence to practice in the UK at the time of the appointment. Evidence of achievement of Foundation competences within the NHS is required. Ideally you should be at the stage of specialist training in a relevant clinical specialty (cardiology, acute medicine, but open to others) and hold a UK National Training Number, or at least at the level of Internal Medicine Trainee (IMT) with an interest to pursuing a relevant specialty.

Experience: You should have portfolio evidence of good progress in clinical training programme to date. You should be able to demonstrate the ability to take responsibility for clinical care of cardiology patients that is commensurate with current clinical seniority required of the appointee. You should demonstrate aspiration to an academic career in Cardiology or related specialty.

Skills: You should possess good clinical skills and appropriate IT skills with a basic understanding of statistics and aptitude to learn statistical analysis and graphical representation of results in dedicated programs. You should have excellent communication skills (both written and oral), good interpersonal skills and ability to work constructively with colleagues at all levels. You should have proven organisational abilities, including evidence of effective time-management and negotiating skills. You should be able to think creatively and innovatively and impart enthusiasm for subject, have an enquiring, critical approach to work and be committed to multidisciplinary team working.

Good Clinical Practice accreditation should be in place by the time the post starts.

At interview you should be able to demonstrate enthusiasm for research.

Terms of Appointment

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Clinical scale for Academics below level of Consultant, £52,229 - £68,184 per annum, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here

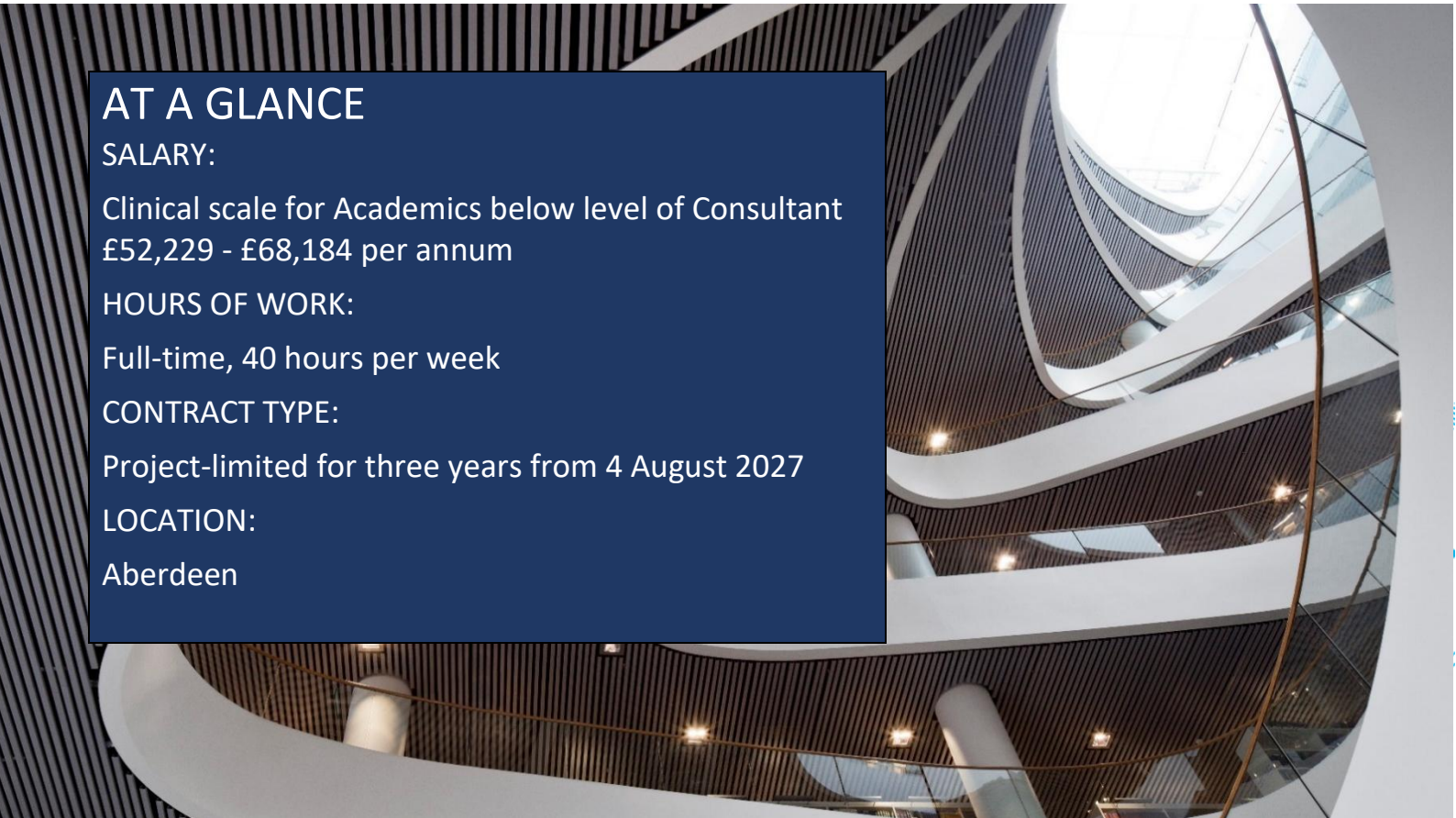
This role is based in the UK and as such the successful candidate will be required to live and work in the UK.

Prior to employment, the successful candidate must be able to demonstrate their right to work in the UK. This role *may* be eligible for sponsorship under the Skilled Worker route under the UKVI immigration rules but is dependent on factors specific to the candidate and if tradeable points can be used under the rules.

Information on other visa options is available at https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa.

Please do not hesitate to contact Grant Rae, HR Adviser (e-mail: grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

Homeworking is not appropriate for the tenure of this post until the late stages of the project when all recruitment will have been completed, for data analysis and academic writing.



AT A GLANCE

SALARY:

Clinical scale for Academics below level of Consultant £52,229 - £68,184 per annum

HOURS OF WORK:

Full-time, 40 hours per week

CONTRACT TYPE:

Project-limited for three years from 4 August 2027

LOCATION:

Aberdeen

PERSON SPECIFICATION

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
Education/Qualifications Academic, technical and professional education and training	• Primary medical qualification, MBChB or equivalent • GMC registration and licence to practice in the UK • Good Clinical Practice accreditation • Demonstrable interest in research	• BSc or equivalent intercalated degree (MSc by research). • Evidence of distinction in career to date, e.g. prizes, awards, bursaries
Work and Other relevant experience (including training) e.g. Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	• Evidence of achievement of Foundation competences • Currently in higher specialty training in relevant field (cardiology, acute medicine) or at least at Internal Medicine Training level • Evidence of good progress in clinical training to date	• Track record of publishable research in a relevant field • Strong background in data analysis, understanding of statistical methods • Presentations at scientific meetings
Personal qualities and abilities e.g. initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	• Ability to work as part of a team • Good clinical skills, including history taking and clinical examination, ability to take responsibility for clinical care of acute cardiology patients • Reasonable basic level of cardiac imaging (echocardiography) and ability to work within the setting of aseptic environment of invasive cardiology procedures • Willingness to learn additional techniques such as cardiac positron emission tomography, cardiac magnetic resonance imaging, coronary physiology assessment • Demonstrable IT proficiency, including experience of managing, processing and presenting data using analytical	• Enthusiasm to develop an academic career • Ability to think laterally, propose alternative approaches, to develop novel methodology and troubleshoot clinical problems within clinical and research governance boundaries as well as in translational experiments in innovative ways. • Receptive to critique and able to integrate it constructively into their work. • Willingness to take initiative, identify opportunities for improvement, and anticipate project needs without being prompted

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
	software, and the ability to develop skills in specialist scientific software • Excellent communication skills • Good interpersonal skills and ability to work constructively with all staff and colleagues • Enthusiasm for research • Self-motivation and the ability to work as part of a team and independently • Ability to manage research projects • Good organisational skills	
Other e.g. special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.	• Able to work outside normal working hours on occasion to match the unpredictable nature of the acute condition to be studied • Ability to travel between Scottish centres (Aberdeen to Edinburgh) • Capacity to travel to conferences and training events, representing the project through clear, engaging, and well-structured scientific presentations.	•

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open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others

The University of Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, and we put students at the centre of everything we do. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen is credited for its international reach and commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies. The University has over 16,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation, and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges and inspires.



CURRENT CONTEXT

The University continues to uphold the principals of the foundational purpose. We remain committed to delivering positive change both locally and globally. We work together and with our partners in an interdisciplinary way, catalysing world-leading research in our areas of strength: Energy Transition; Social Inclusion and Cultural Diversity; Environment and Biodiversity; Data and Artificial Intelligence; and Health, Nutrition and Wellbeing. We are investing in our future and have committed £100m to upgrading our campus, including the new fully digitised Science Teaching Hub, the regeneration of the historic King's Quarter and a new Business School building. Our commitment to our students, campus and community has led to us being named a Top 20 UK institution in two major league tables[1] and 4th in the UK for overall student satisfaction[2].

[1] The Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023 and the Guardian University Guide 2023
[2] National Student Survey (NSS) 2022

ABERDEEN 2040

On our 525th anniversary as a University we launched **Aberdeen 2040**, our strategic vision for the next 20 years. Four strategic themes will shape our learning and discovery, underlined by 20 commitments we have made against each theme:

- **Inclusive**
  We welcome students, staff and partners from all backgrounds, organisations and communities. We value diversity.
- **Interdisciplinary**
  We innovate in education and research by generating, sharing and applying new kinds of knowledge. We learn together.
- **International**
  We connect with others and extend our networks and partnerships around the world. We think across borders.
- **Sustainable**
  We understand and nurture our environment, and take care of our resources, including our people and finances.

  We work responsibly.

OUR EDUCATION

Recognised as the Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019, we remain true to our roots as an ancient Scottish university, combining breadth and depth in our degree programmes and drawing strength from the quality of our research. Our flexible curriculum encourages students to grow as independent learners and therefore to thrive as graduates in the diverse workplaces of the future. Our education is open to all and we are setting ambitious targets to further widen access.

OUR RESEARCH

Researchers at the University of Aberdeen have been at the forefront of innovation and excellence throughout the centuries, generating insights in medicine, science, engineering, law, social sciences, arts and humanities. This research has contributed to five Nobel prizes as well as other awards such as the Queen's Anniversary prize. Our research is intellectually rigorous working within our established areas of excellence as well as new methods of enquiry. We will continue to generate new knowledge addressing economic and societal issues with ambition and imagination, ensuring that it is globally excellent and locally relevant.

INTERNATIONAL

Aberdeen is increasing its international presence, positioning the University as a global organisation and building on established global partnerships around the world, including Qatar, China, North America, Europe. We feature in the top 50 institutions worldwide for international students[3].

[3] Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2021



IMPACT

In 2020 the University signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals accord, solidifying our commitment to developing the world in a sustainable way. In 2022 we were listed in the global Top 100 for 8 of these goals[4].

Our highly cited work in zero-carbon technology and global outlooks makes us Scotland's best institution for environmental research[5].

[4] Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022
5 QS World University Rankings 2022

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, MEDICAL SCIENCES AND NUTRITION

The School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition is the largest School within the University of Aberdeen and brings together the breadth of disciplines that underpin modern medicine, health and life sciences. Our activities span biomedical sciences, health sciences, nutrition, medicine, dentistry, and medical and dental education, delivered through a vibrant and collaborative academic community.

The School is organised into five interdisciplinary Institutes that work closely together to deliver research-led teaching, innovation and impact across undergraduate, postgraduate and professional programmes:

- The Institute of Applied Health Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/
- The Institute of Medical Sciences http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/
- The Rowett Institute http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/
- The Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences https://www.abdn.ac.uk/IEHMS/
- The Institute of Dentistry https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/ https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/

Research and Academic Excellence

Our School mission statement is 'Here for Health'. We host world-leading research that addresses major challenges in human health and disease. Within the **Institute of Medical Sciences**, research focuses on the development of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Key strengths include **cardiology, metabolic and cardiovascular health**, **inflammation and immunity**; arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell, developmental and cancer biology; microbiology; and translational neuroscience. Both **cardiovascular and immunology labs** are hosted in the **Institute of Medical Sciences.** The group also operate from within a **Cardiology Clinical Research Facility** in the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary premises, co-located on campus.

The **Institute of Applied Health Sciences** is dedicated to improving population health and health-care delivery through multidisciplinary, clinically orientated research. It is home to a large multidisciplinary group of academic and research staff and hosts the Aberdeen Centre for Evaluation (ACE) and the Health Economics Research Unit (HERU). Professor Dawson works closely with the Clinical Trails Unit based at the Aberdeen Centre for Evaluation as the Chief Investigator for the world's first clinical trial in acute takotsubo cardiomyopathy, A Randomised Controlled Trial of Renin-Angiotensin System Inhibition for Reduction of Cardiovascular Events after Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy, the NIHR-funded **EVEREST** trial, which is currently unfolding and will finish simultaneously with the work on the program grant.

The **Institute of Education in Healthcare and Medical Sciences** provides academic leadership in medical and healthcare education. In addition to oversight of undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes, IEHMS delivers the highly regarded University of Aberdeen MBChB programme and a range of postgraduate programmes, including the MSc in Clinical Education, supported by internationally recognised scholarship in healthcare education research.

The **Institute of Dentistry** delivers a graduate entry Undergraduate BDS programme alongside a growing portfolio of postgraduate and professional development programmes, contributing to education, research and clinical service across dentistry and oral health.

The **Rowett Institute** undertakes internationally recognised nutrition and metabolic research aimed at improving health and preventing disease across the life course. Its purpose-built facilities support unique capabilities in human nutrition research, from molecular biology to whole-body metabolism.

Research Centres and Facilities

The School is home to a number of specialist Centres that represent areas of particular research strength and capacity, and which actively support collaboration across disciplines. These include:

- **Aberdeen Cardiovascular and Diabetes Centre**
- Aberdeen Biomedical Imaging Centre (ABIC)
- Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (CHERI)
- Centre for Health Data Science
- Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health
- Aberdeen Centre for Women's Health Research
- Aberdeen Cancer Centre

Excellent infrastructure is provided through state-of-the-art academic and clinical buildings, alongside extensive core facilities supporting biomedical and health research, including flow cytometry, proteomics, advanced microscopy, metabolomics, genome sequencing and high-plex spatial profiling of RNA and protein targets. Dedicated support is available for health data science, clinical trials and translational research.

Location and Partnerships

The School is based at the **Foresterhill campus**, a major integrated healthcare, teaching and research site shared with our principal clinical partner, **NHS Grampian**. This close physical and strategic partnership supports collaborative working across primary and secondary care and provides exceptional opportunities for research translation, clinical education and impact.

NHS Grampian and the University of Aberdeen share a deep, long-standing clinical–academic partnership that underpins excellence in education, research and patient care across the North East of Scotland. Clinicians are embedded in teaching, mentoring, assessment and research, ensuring learning is rooted in real-world practice and that innovation is translated directly into frontline care. This joint model attracts high-calibre staff and students, supports multidisciplinary education, and creates a strong culture of continuous learning and inquiry. Together, both organisations are united by a shared mission to improve health outcomes for local communities through learning, care and impact.

The Foresterhill site is one of the largest integrated healthcare environments in Europe and offers a uniquely rich setting in which staff and students work alongside clinicians, researchers and educators to solve the difficult challenges confronting health and wellbeing.

Our commitment to driving societal impact from our research is facilitated by the Opportunity North East (ONE) BioHub that is home to the entrepreneurial ecosystem of Foresterhill and the wider North East of Scotland life sciences community.

Our Community

The School brings together a diverse community of over 800 staff and approximately 3,000 full-time equivalent students, creating a supportive, collegial and ambitious academic environment. We are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion, and to providing a positive and flexible working culture that supports career development, collaboration and excellence.

ABERDEEN AND ABERDEENSHIRE

Scotland's third largest city, Aberdeen sits on the coast between the mountains of Aberdeenshire and the stunning North Sea coastline. The Aberdeen City region is a can-do place that is actively investing, at scale, in its future.

Renowned as a Global Energy Hub, Aberdeen is a vibrant, entrepreneurial region, home to a unique mix of business opportunities and specialist skills across various sectors including energy, technology, life sciences and food & drink. More than 20% of Scotland's top businesses are located in this region which is taking great strides to ensure that it continues to compete on a world stage. Investments of more than £10 billion of public and private infrastructure is due to be delivered before 2030, marking an exciting time to be part of a genuine world-class location.

Built from sparkling local granite Aberdeen has earned the name of the Silver City. As the energy capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live, work and study. Due to its global business and international energy industry credentials, Aberdeen is well served by local and national transport infrastructure with excellent rail networks that run both North and South of Scotland and the rest of the UK. It also acts as an international travel hub. Flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights and serves international travel to European centres such as Amsterdam (Schiphol) and Paris (Charles de-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations.

The City and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, seaside and country attractions. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty's Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the P&J Arena, Museums, and Beach Leisure Centre. The City is framed by its accessible beach front which is within a short walk of the city centre and there are an array of activities available across the region such as hill walking; mountaineering; sailing; surfing; salmon, trout and sea fishing; golf; sailing; surfing and windsurfing. The surrounding countryside, known as Aberdeenshire, is also one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

The city and the surrounding area have ranked consistently highly in nationally recognised quality of life surveys, coming out top 10 as one of the best places to live in Scotland in 2020 in the annual Bank of Scotland survey.

To find out more visit www.visitabdn.com

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

The University values and celebrates a diverse working and learning environment and recognises the richness this brings, both in terms of contributing to the success of the University and creating safe and inclusive cultures. The University welcomes applications from individuals with diverse lived experiences.

The University supports flexible working, including hybrid working arrangements, and has policies in place to facilitate this where it is appropriate. The policies can be found at https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here/flexible-working--5607.php.

The University is committed to progressing gender equality across all its functions and has been a proud member of the Advance HE Athena Swan Charter, achieving an institutional Bronze award, one Silver departmental award for the School of Psychology and eleven departmental Bronze awards. LGBTQ+ equality is championed through the University's membership of the Stonewall Diversity Champions Programme, where the University has achieved a Silver award in the Workplace Equality Index. The University is on a continual journey to respond to, and combat, GBV in our community and beyond. We are proud to be working towards the EmilyTest Charter, in partnership with the charity, EmilyTest. We all have a role to play in knowing how to signpost colleagues and students to support for gender-based violence, and training and support is available to all staff on this topic.

The University is signed up to Advance HE's Race Equality Charter, affirming the University's commitment to the Charter's aim of improving the representation, progression and success of staff and students who identify as belonging to a racialised group. The University launched its Antiracism Strategy in 2022, representing a bold framework for progress on race equality. Recognising the importance of addressing the under-representation of racialised groups in the senior team, the University's new Recruitment and Selection Policy embeds specific positive action measures to address this.

The University is delighted to be accredited as a Disability Confident employer and strives to ensure that disabled staff and students have the opportunity to work and study in an inclusive, accessible and supportive environment. The University's Wellbeing Strategy commits it to progressing work to tackle stigma related to mental health and action to promote and improve health and wellbeing for staff and students. Candidates who are British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us directly by using contact SCOTLAND-BSL

The University's work on equality, diversity and inclusion is supported by a range of networks and engagement activities, designed to provide safe spaces and raise awareness of the support available and the steps everyone can take to create inclusive campuses.

www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/governance/equality-and-diversity-277

How to Apply

Online application forms are available at www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs

The closing date for receipt of applications is **26 November 2026**

Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Dana Dawson
dana.dawson@abdn.ac.uk

Please do not send application forms directly to Professor Dawson.

Please quote reference number IMS339R on all correspondence