Criteria for Promotion for

Clinical Academic Staff

(to Clinical Reader, Clinical Professor)

Overview

Clinical Academic

Clinical Senior Lecturer → Clinical Reader → Clinical Professor

1. The Clinical Academic ‘Job Family’ comprises the following roles: Clinical Senior Lecturer, Clinical Reader or Clinical Professor. Each role requires a different and increasing level of contribution. Promotion is available to Clinical Reader and Clinical Professor but the College does not promote staff to Clinical Senior Lecturer; instead, staff are appointed to vacant posts at these levels.

2. The expectation is for clinical staff to be promoted to the roles above but the College would wish to ensure that individuals’ contributions are not overlooked because their work does not fit into the traditional academic career track. For example, a member of staff may be on a fractional contract or bring considerable clinical leadership or professional expertise to their role. These instances are likely to be rare but it may be possible for staff to be promoted to Professor of Practice. Before any application is made, departments or individuals should discuss the case with the Assistant Provost (Academic Promotions) and the Senior Consul. Details regarding applications for Professor of Practice (Education) are contained in the Appendix that relates to the Learning and Teaching Job Family.

3. The College has a flexible approach to its routes for promotion and will judge each individual case on its merits.

4. As an individual’s career develops, he or she may be promoted from the lowest level to the highest, or to any intermediate level, as long as the criteria for the relevant level of promotion are met.

General Criteria for Promotion

The College takes into account contributions to:
Education,  
Research,  
Leadership and management,  
Profession and practice.

These four activities — education, research, leadership and management, profession and practice — are interrelated and candidates will be expected to demonstrate achievements in all these activities but to different extents. Each individual case will be judged on its merits: the relative weightings between the various achievements, and the level of attainment in each, will determine the most appropriate promotion.

The Application Form provides a framework that enables applicants to showcase their contributions and how they meet the criteria.

Indicators of Achievement

a. Education – the College requires all candidates coming forward for promotion to be proficient in educational activities. Candidates should include full details of their educational activities and achievements and contributions to education in the broadest sense.

Activities include creative and clear teaching that shows a well-developed understanding of how students learn effectively, particularly in clinical contexts; innovative and flexible methods of delivery that enhance student learning; contribute to the development of on-line/digital learning; the development and design of appropriate curricula and courses; organisation and coordination of complex undergraduate and postgraduate programmes; the design of appropriate assessment methods; teaching and assessing students with special learning needs; delivering teaching that recognises a diverse student cohort; effective feedback; course evaluation; incorporating change to meet the changing needs of students and the profession; tutoring; student support, welfare, pastoral care, outreach work; fostering students’ self-confidence and self-esteem to promote participation; teaching on transferable skills programmes, and completing teaching quality requirements (Clinical Senior Lecturers only).

Measures of recognition include the effective and/or innovative management of educational programmes; teaching existing courses extremely well; creating new courses or revitalising existing courses; commendations by external examiners; the receipt of teaching awards; the achievement of a College or national learning and teaching qualification; membership of national and/or international educational committees; membership of educational and accreditation committees of professions; acting as an external examiner; contributions to student welfare and pastoral care; appointment as departmental Senior Tutor or as a College Tutor or Warden; research student supervision; publications on teaching practice; publications on educational research.

Progression up the career ladder to Clinical Professor will involve a broadening of the contribution to education, from excellence in teaching delivery, through to the organisation and management of departmental education and student support activity,
through to leadership in education research, and leadership on educational matters at faculty and/or College level.

The following activities provide an indication of the activities that might be expected where “Education” is playing a dominant role in an application:

**Senior Clinical Lecturer to Clinical Reader**

- Track record of effective and flexible approach to delivery of courses and modules.
- Contribution to course design and evidence of thorough evaluation of courses.
- A commitment to their own development as an education provider through the learning and implementation of best practice.
- Significant evidence of contributions to education within the department that have led to improvements and/or innovation in courses/module design and delivery.
- Significant contribution to tutoring and/or welfare of students and/or support for lecturers.
- Thorough evaluation of courses and modules taking into account student learning and the validity of the curriculum.

**Clinical Reader or Clinical Professor**

- Evidence of excellence in teaching delivery and/or innovative practice which has greatly enhanced and/or changed the nature of learning and teaching in the applicant’s field.
- Significant impact on the design and management of the curriculum and courses within the department.
- Strong evidence of national and international research into the effectiveness and validity of education programmes and curricula.
- Significant contribution to leadership in education within the department and/or the College.
- An impact on the College’s reputation for excellence in education within the wider community.

**b. Research**

**Activities include** undertaking independent and collaborative research; fostering interdisciplinary research; developing research proposals and funding bids and winning financial support; planning, leading and directing research activity and managing a research team; presenting findings at conferences; publishing results of research which leads to an established reputation; planning and leading research activities of outstanding quality and national/international repute, which advance the reputation of the department and the College; providing expert advice, internally and externally; contributing to the development and implementation of departmental/faculty research strategy.
Measures of recognition include the quality and quantity of research output; a sustained track record in attracting research funding and identifying funding resources; a national and/or international reputation for research, reflected in level of output, level of innovation and the impact on the discipline or profession; widely recognised excellence and reputation among peers; the award of prizes; giving prestigious lectures; membership of national and international committees e.g. Research Council and professional or government committees; work on editorial boards of scholarly journals; visiting appointments at other institutions.

Progression in research will involve a growing national and international reputation combined with individuals making an increasing impact on their discipline or profession. At the Senior Lecturer level originality is important; seminal research and influence become of increasing importance in moving to Clinical Reader and Clinical Professor.

c. Leadership and Management

Activities include, in addition to managing the individual’s own work, contributing to the management of the department/faculty/College, e.g. contribute to the process of admissions, examinations and quality assessment; formulate research and teaching strategy; monitor and ensure effective management of assets and budgets; recruiting and selecting staff; managing and motivating staff to achieve their objectives; promoting equality and implementing equal opportunities; undertaking effective performance and development reviews; acting as an Academic Adviser or mentor; membership of internal and external committees; acting as an Athena SWAN coordinator; involvement in advancement activities; involvement in public engagement activities; collaborative working.

Measures of recognition include proven capability to lead and design research/teaching programmes; effective and innovative formulation of research and teaching strategy; staff management skills that lead to enhanced team performance; an active interest in personal development and developing others; regular involvement in staff development activities to develop academic, management and personal effectiveness skills; evidence of managing change successfully, making effective decisions and solving managerial problems.

Academic leadership becomes of increasing importance in moving from Clinical Senior Lecturer to Clinical Reader and Clinical Professor. Progression from Clinical Senior Lecturer to Clinical Professor will involve an increasing contribution to departmental/faculty/College management and regular involvement in staff development programmes (some of which require compulsory attendance) that help to enhance academic, management and personal effectiveness skills. Please refer to the College’s Staff Development Programme for fuller information and details of the career path for academic staff.

d. Profession and Practice

Activities include involvement in consultancies; contributing to continuing professional development; membership and/or leadership of respected institutions/organisations/peer review bodies; acting as an expert witness; contributing
to improvements in clinical management and processes; contributing to improvements in healthcare.

**Measures of recognition include** medals and awards; a major role in changing and improving professional practices; creative contributions to projects; industrial/medical application of research findings; innovations in healthcare that are recognised by a significant audience; patents; industrial initiatives arising out of research such as spin-out companies etc.

**In progressing up the career ladder to Clinical Professor,** it is highly likely that the national and international standing of an individual will have had an impact on his or her relevant profession.