

Consultant in Gastroenterology

pan Ayrshire
POSTS



Welcome & Introduction



Dear Prospective Applicant,

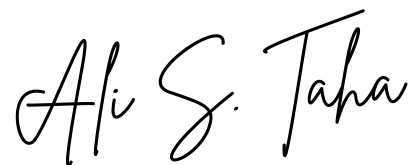
Thank you for your interest in joining our team at NHS Ayrshire & Arran. We are delighted to invite applications for the post of Consultant Gastroenterologist within our dynamic and forward-thinking pan-Ayrshire Gastroenterology Service. These roles offer an exciting opportunity to contribute to the development of innovative approaches in patient care and to play a pivotal part in shaping the future of our service.

Our gastroenterology service is a key component of the healthcare landscape in Ayrshire, providing high-quality, patient-centered care across the region. As part of our supportive and collaborative team, you will have the opportunity to influence service delivery and innovation, ensuring we continue to meet the evolving needs of our diverse patient population.

These posts come at an important and transformative time for our department, as we focus on expanding and modernising our services to enhance outcomes and provide excellence in care. We are committed to fostering an environment where ideas are welcomed, and collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. You will have the chance to work closely with a highly skilled multidisciplinary team, contributing to service redesign, research, education, and the implementation of cutting-edge care pathways.

If you are a motivated and enthusiastic individual with a passion for gastroenterology and a desire to make a meaningful impact, we warmly encourage you to apply. Ayrshire offers a wonderful quality of life, with stunning natural landscapes, vibrant communities, and excellent transport links to Glasgow and beyond.

We look forward to welcoming you to our team and working together to deliver exceptional care for the people of Ayrshire.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali S. Taha". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Professor Ali S Taha MD PhD FRCP
Consultant Gastroenterologist &
Honorary Professor in Medicine & Therapeutics**





Table Of Content

Introduction to specialty

Speciality facilities, resources and activity

Future plans for the specialty

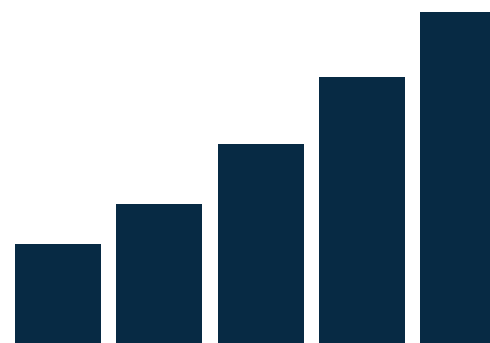
Indicative Job Plan / Programme of Activities

Post details

Terms and Conditions

Further information and visiting

About Ayrshire and Arran




Introduction to Specialty

We are seeking to appoint motivated and enthusiastic colleagues to work with the team in NHS Ayrshire and Arran. These new posts will provide a unique and exciting opportunity to be involved in shaping the future of the service. The expansion of the existing Gastroenterology consultant workforce will allow us to develop new and innovative approaches in the delivery of patient care that meet an increasing demand for specialist services. The successful candidates will join the team providing a pan-Ayrshire gastroenterology service.



Our current team provides a comprehensive inpatient and outpatient service supported by Gastroenterology Specialist Nurses, Endoscopy Nurses, and Specialty Doctors. We also work closely with our surgical colleagues across University Hospitals at Crosshouse and Ayr. There are established teaching and research links with the University of Glasgow and Glasgow teaching hospitals. The duties of the post are biased towards the provision of specialist Gastroenterology services. The post also includes an ongoing commitment to the supervision of inpatient general medical patient with receiving duties within the purpose built Combined Assessment Unit.

There is an active programme of postgraduate education in which all doctors are invited and encouraged to participate.



The terms and conditions of service are those determined by the New Consultant Contract (Scotland) 2004. The posts are offered on a 10 programmed activity basis initially (including 2 SPAs), but opportunities may exist for Extra Programmed Activities to be undertaken subject to service requirements and in accordance with national terms and conditions of service. Applications from individuals who may wish to work on a part-time, or job share basis will be considered.

Applicants will be appropriately experienced with Full GMC Registration, including a current Licence to Practice. Applicants must also be on the Specialist Register of the GMC or be within 6 months of the anticipated award of a CCT or CESR in Gastroenterology medicine at the time of interview. Specialist registration in General Medicine is desirable but not essential. Evidence of eligibility of inclusion on the Specialist Register will require to be provided at time of application.





Specialty Facilities, Resources and Activity

·University Hospital Crosshouse (UHC)

University Hospital Crosshouse is a modern 539 bedded Acute District General Hospital located in the outskirts of Kilmarnock and easily commutable from the nearby city of Glasgow. The site opened in 1982 and has been expanded and regularly updated since then, including the co-location of the Ayrshire Maternity Unit. The UHC site provides acute health care services for a population of approximately 225,000 living in North & East Ayrshire as well as the Islands of Arran & Cumbrae. There is a purpose-built Combined Assessment and Ambulatory Care Unit, which take all of the Primary Care medical referrals.

·University Hospital Ayr (UHA)

University Hospital Ayr is a 320 bedded Acute District General Hospital located in Ayr, around 25 minutes' drive from UHC and within commuting distance to Glasgow. The hospital provides a full range of DGH services for a population of 146,000 people in South and East Ayrshire.

Both UHC and UHA are easily accessed by road, with the M77 providing access to the city of Glasgow within 30-45 minutes. Rail services also link Ayr and Kilmarnock to Glasgow and other surrounding towns, and Prestwick Airport lies approximately a 15 minute drive away. Both sites provide free car parking facilities.





Gastroenterology Medicine

The expansion in consultant numbers is part of our strategy to service redesign. We are aiming for diversify in our workforce with recruitment of clinical nurse specialists, allied health professionals and specialty doctors to create a highly skilled multi-disciplinary team

The current Gastroenterology Service includes:

Inpatient Service:

The majority of patients receive care in a dedicated Gastroenterology Ward. There are 30 inpatient beds in ward 3D at UHC and 24 inpatient beds in Station 9 at UHA. A Gastroenterology Consultation Service for inpatients is provided by our Specialty Doctors and Consultants.

A number of day-case interventions including venesection, iron infusions, and IBD-related biologic infusions are delivered in Medical Day Units.



Outpatient Service:

There are currently Gastroenterology Clinics throughout the week in UHC & UHA and Ayrshire Central Hospital.

Viral Hepatitis and Blood-Bourne Viruses Service:

This service is provided by the Consultants in the Infectious Diseases (ID) Unit and Specialist Nurses at UHC. The ID and Gastro Teams work closely in caring for patients with chronic viral liver diseases who require screening for/ management of varices, ascites, etc.

Gastrointestinal Endoscopy:

The purpose built endoscopy units on both sites offer excellent facilities with state of the art equipment. In addition to the Consultant Gastroenterologists (Physicians), the endoscopy service is also provided by Consultant Upper GI Surgeons, Consultant Colorectal Surgeons, The Gastroenterology Specialist Doctors and Nurses, and Endoscopy Specialist Nurses. Both diagnostic and therapeutic services are offered, including laser therapy, argon plasma coagulation, and other modalities for acute gastrointestinal bleeding.

Oesophageal Function Service:

This service is provided, in a laboratory area, by the Gastroenterology Specialist Nurses under Consultant supervision.

Radiology:

There is an excellent liaison with Radiology colleagues for case discussion, review of images, CT or US-guided biopsies or drainage procedures, etc. CT imaging for urgent cases is prompt. An extensive range of imaging facilities are available including spiral CT with 3D reconstruction, MRI, MRA, radio-isotope facilities and digital subtraction angiography. There is also access to PET scanning at the Beatson Oncology Centre and to ultrasound endoscopy at Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

Palliative Care:

The Ayrshire Hospice in Ayr provides an excellent Palliative Care Service. The gastroenterology Service works in close liaison with a team of Palliative Care Nurses and is supported by weekly Palliative Care Consultant visits.

The Medical Unit

Medicine in NHS Ayrshire and Arran comprises the Acute Medicine Directorate (pan-Ayrshire), the Medical Specialties Directorate at UHC and the Medical Specialties Directorate at UHA.

Facilities are as follows:

“ Acute Medicine

- CAU on both sites (the UHA site includes surgical admissions)
- Initial & Rapid Assessment Area
- Acute Frailty Area
- Medical High Dependency Unit

“ Coronary Care Unit on both sites

“ Renal High Dependency Unit in UHC

“ Infectious Diseases Unit in UHC

“ General Medicine in Medical wards on both sites

“ Renal Dialysis Unit in UHC and satellite unit in UHA

“ Diabetic Day Care Unit on both sites

The Acute Medical Unit has a designated CAU on both sites including an Initial and Rapid Assessment Area and an Acute Frailty Zone. GP referrals are triaged and then sent directly to CAU (except patients needing emergency treatment in ED) where they are assessed, treated and decision to admit or discharge is made. Medicines are reconciled by a pharmacist. Consultant review usually occurs within 6 hours (during hours of 8am to 8pm) and thereafter patients are sent to the appropriate wards/discharged. We have significantly improved our time to first consult by clinically competent decision-maker and time to first consultant review. With a change in working pattern for both junior and senior medical staffing the turnover and flow of patients has improved with ongoing plans to develop and streamline this further.



Patients admitted overnight to the CAU are reviewed by the Acute Consultant Physicians next morning and allocated to the relevant specialty teams. Acute medicine consultants run the Acute Medicine Ambulatory Care areas. The acute physician will cover CAU for continual assessment 1200 to 1700, with a further consultant ward round 1700-2000 cover from the pool of acute and general physicians. The dual approach by Acute Physicians and on-call physicians facilitates patient flow, improving early senior decision making and providing supervision and education to trainees. A small number of patients are admitted directly to the Medical High Dependency Unit, Coronary Care Unit, the Renal High Dependency Unit, the Acute Stroke Unit or the Infectious Disease Unit. This pattern continues Mon-Fri. The Acute Medicine Ambulatory Care services currently stop at 6pm, but it will be extended to 7 days a week following further recruitment of Acute Physicians.

Over the weekend, the morning ward rounds are led by 2 Consultant General Medical Physicians alongside one Acute Medical Consultant. The Acute Physician covers the period 1200 - 1600 and the on-call physician returns to the hospital at 1600 to carry out a second ward round and is then on call overnight.

The Medical High Dependency Unit is utilised for acutely unwell patients from CAU, ED, wards or for step down from ITU. It provides invasive monitoring and non-invasive ventilation. The Acute Medical Physician will review new admissions on the morning ward round at the weekend with any admissions during the day reviewed by the On-call physician during the evening ward round. Patients remain under the care of the acute medicine team until step-down, with speciality in reach as required.

Acute Medicine and Medical Specialties Directorates at Ayr and Crosshouse

Consultant Staff	Specialist Interest	Base
Dr Katie Carroll	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Mahanth Manuel	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Lucy Martin	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Frances McGrane	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Natalie Rennie	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Wendy Russell	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Claire Shepherd	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Adam Williamson (CD)	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr David Wilkin	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Krish Prasad (Acting)	Acute Medicine	UHC
Dr Richard Dobson	Cardiology	UHA
Dr Ahmed ElWasseif	Cardiology	UHC
Dr Alex Payne	Cardiology	UHC
Dr Gavin Nicoll	Cardiology	UHC
Dr Angie Ghattas	Cardiology	UHC
Dr Ewan McKay	Cardiology	UHC
Dr Jim McGpwan (CD)	Cardiology	UHA
Dr Jocelyn Reid (locum)	Cardiology	UHA
Dr Omar Hasan (locum)	Cardiology	UHA
Dr Jenna Cowan	Cardiology	UHC
Dr Stewart Ferguson	Endocrinology/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Vincent McAulay	Endocrinology/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Alison MacEwen	Endocrinology/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Rajesh Thimmappa (locum)	Endocrinology/G(I)M	UHA
Dr Enes Muazzen	Gastroenterology/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Mohammed Haq (locum)	Gastroenterology/G(I)M	UHC
Prof Ali Taha	Gastroenterology/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Sultan Rome (locum)	Gastroenterology/G(I)M	UHC

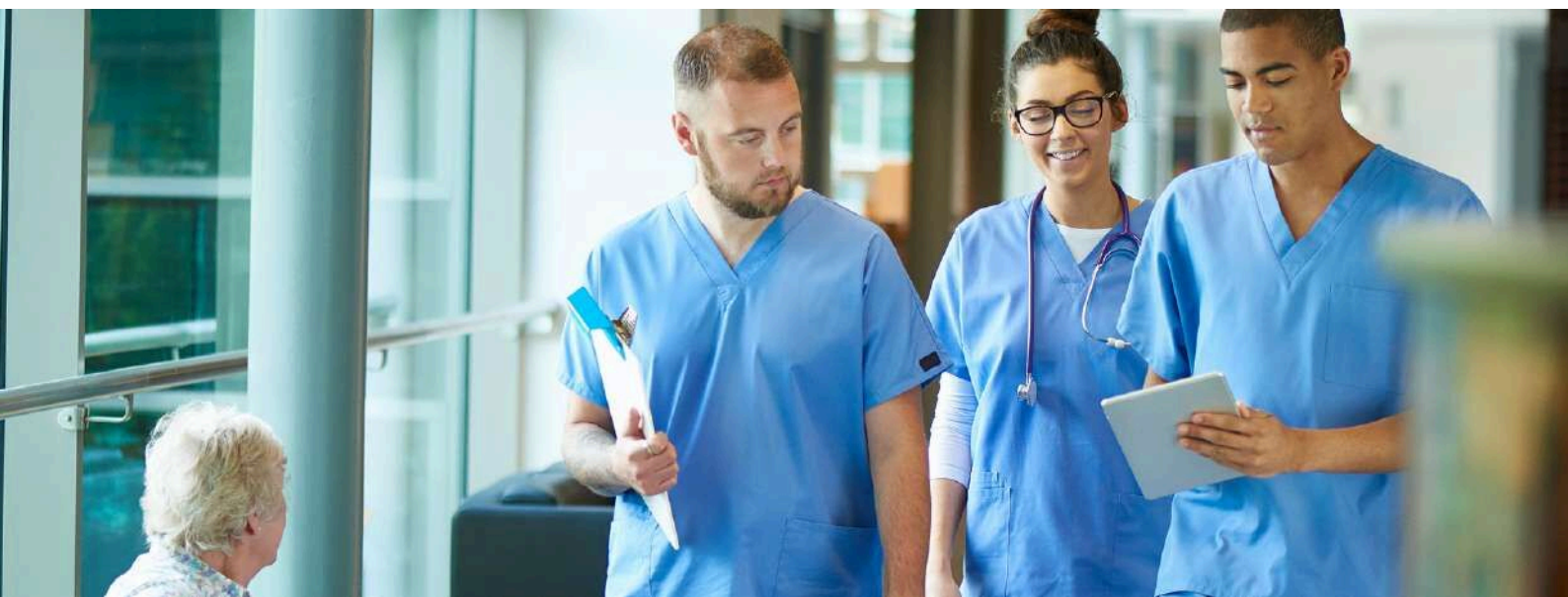


Consultant Staff	Specialist Interest	Base
Dr Sam Allen	Infectious Diseases/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Vishal Dey	Renal/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Aileen Helps	Renal/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Luis Harrison (locum)	Renal/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Kara Porch	Renal/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Victoria Ross	Renal/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Elaine Spalding (AMD)	Renal/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Ray Wan	Renal/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Ashley Hong	Renal/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Hans Hartung	Respiratory Medicine/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Philip Hodgkinson	Respiratory Medicine/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Gillian McVay	Respiratory Medicine/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Zafar Iqbal (locum)	Respiratory Medicine/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Nick Pitman	Respiratory Medicine/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Sudipta Roy	Respiratory Medicine/G(I)M	UHC
Dr Anur Guhan	Respiratory Medicine/G(I)M	UHC
Dr David Sword	Respiratory Medicine/G(I)M	UHA
Dr Simona Huica	Rheumatology	UHA
Dr Margaret Duncan	Rheumatology/G(I)M	UHA
Dr Sujit Shetty	Rheumatology/G(I)M	UHA

Junior medical staff:

Junior doctors rotate to Ayrshire as part of the West of Scotland Deanery.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran have substantially invested in junior doctor recruitment via our Fellow Programme over the last 3 years. There are now 14 substantive Clinical Teaching Fellows and 18 substantive Clinical Development Fellows employed in general medicine across both our hospital sites. NES training gaps are also backfilled via Clinical Development Fellow recruitment. Currently, in gastroenterology, there is a Clinical Teaching Fellow and Clinical Development Fellow attached to gastroenterology on each hospital site.





Future plans for the specialty

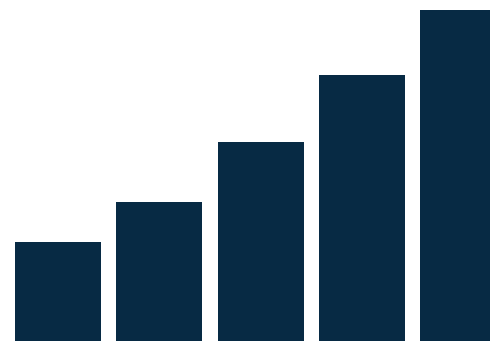
NHS Ayrshire & Arran is fully committed to developing and maintaining a viable and progressive gastroenterology service; hence the creation of new consultant posts in the specialty. With the increasing availability of the relevant resources, the future strategy of the Gastroenterology Team includes the following:

“The Creation of a Pan-Ayrshire Gastroenterology Centre to be based at Crosshouse, and hosting all Consultant Gastroenterologists and Specialty Nurses on the one site.

“Encouraging further sub-specialisation: e.g., hepatology; IBD

Continue to develop an acute endoscopy rota particularly for upper gastrointestinal bleeding in co-operation with surgical colleagues

“Further co-operation with intervention radiology to provide specialist procedures: e.g., TIPSS.



Indicative Job Plan / Programme of Activities

Proposed Weekly Programme

DAY FROM / TO	HOSPITAL/ LOCATION	ACTIVITY	HOURS PER ACTIVITY INC TRAVEL
Monday			
<u>0900 - 1300</u>	Crosshouse	Allocation of time for provision of on-call commitments	4
1300 – 1600	Crosshouse	Endoscopy	3
1600-1700		General Admin	1
Tuesday			
<u>0900-1300</u>	Crosshouse	Ward Round	4
1300-1700	Crosshouse	SPA	4
Wednesday			
<u>0900-1300</u>	Crosshouse	General Admin or Endoscopy (alternate weeks)	2 2
1330-1700	Crosshouse	Clinic or SPA (alternate weeks)	2 2
Thursday			
<u>0900-1300</u>	Crosshouse	Ward Round	4
1300-1700	Crosshouse	Clinic	4
Friday			
<u>0900-1300</u>	Crosshouse	Internal referrals/ward work Clinical Admin	2 2
1300-1500	Crosshouse	SPA	2
Saturday			
Sunday			
SPA Sessions			2
Total Sessions			10

Notes on Programme

Patient Administration

This activity covers the management of individual patients including Out Patient administration, results reporting, letters/phone calls to patients, carers, GPs and members of the wider multidisciplinary team involved in the patients care.

Ward Rounds

The time allocated is indicative and will be discussed with the appointee. Ward work will include teaching ward rounds as required.

Travel

Any travel allocation will be included within the Total Programmed Activities and will be determined by location at which Direct Clinical Care and Supporting Professional activities are carried out.





Supporting Professional Activities:

NHS Ayrshire and Arran recognise the important role Job Planning has in ensuring consultants are supported in delivering high quality, safe, sustainable clinical care to patients. It is therefore important to ensure there is an adequate balance between direct clinical care activities and activities which support both the personal and professional development of the consultant workforce and facilitates agreed contribution to activities including:

- Under and post graduate teaching/training
- Clinical Governance
- Quality and Patient Safety
- Research and Innovation
- Service management and planning
- Work with professional bodies

The proposed job plan offers 2 SPAs to support job planning, appraisal, revalidation and educational supervision and formal training of post-graduate and under-graduate trainees. There will be a high degree of flexibility in job planning seeking to ensure that the service needs and work/life balance and appropriately met.

There may also be opportunities to contract for Extra Programmed activities Opportunities subject to service requirements and in accordance with national terms and conditions of service.

Job Plan Review

New appointees will discuss the indicative job plan with the Clinical Director, prior to starting in post, and will at that time review the balance of activities. Where it is possible to agree a revision to the indicative plan in advance of commencement this will be acted upon. In any event, there must be an interim Job Plan review conducted at 3 months post commencement to agree and finalise the Job Plan. The consultant at time of induction should ask for an interim review date to be scheduled. The agreed job plan will include all the consultant's professional duties and commitments, including agreed Supporting Professional Activities. Thereafter Job Planning will be carried out annually as part of the Board's Job Planning process.

Private Practice

If the post-holder wishes to undertake any private practice, they are obliged to inform their employer at the time of appointment of their intentions to do so. This should be submitted in writing to the Clinical Director. The conduct of private practice will be in accordance with the Consultant Contract (Scotland) Terms and Conditions.

The post-holder shall be free to undertake private practice without approval provided such work is undertaken outside the time agreed in the job plan for programmed activities. (Refer Section 6 of the New Consultant Contract).





Post Details

The postholder will be accountable to the Clinical Director who will agree the Job Plan.

He/she will be expected to work with local managers and professional colleagues in the efficient running of services and will share with Consultant colleagues in the medical contribution to management. There will be opportunities for newly appointed Consultants to influence change and introduce new and innovative ways of working.

Subject to the provisions of the Terms and Conditions of Service, he/she is expected to observe NHS Ayrshire and Arran's agreed policies and procedures, drawn up in consultation with the profession on clinical matters, and to follow the standing orders and financial instructions of NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

In particular, where he/she formally manages employees of NHS Ayrshire and Arran, the post holder will be expected to follow the Local and National Employment and Personnel Policies and Procedures.

He/she will be expected to make sure that there are adequate arrangements for hospital staff involved in the care of patients to be able to make contact with the post holder when necessary.

The post holder is required to comply with NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Health and Safety Policies.

He/she will be responsible for the training and supervision of Junior Medical Staff who work with the post holder and will be expected to devote time to this activity on a regular basis. In addition, he/she will be expected to ensure that Junior Staff have access to advice and counselling. If appropriate, the post holder will be named in the Contracts of Doctors in training grades as the person responsible for overseeing their training, and as the initial source of advice to such Doctors on their career.

Resources

The staff resources of the Directorate are listed elsewhere. The post holder will have access to such general administrative support as is required for the discharge of his/her duties and responsibilities.

The appointed consultant will be provided with an office space, a personal computer with high speed internet access and printing facilities. The appointed consultant will also admin support. Specific software requirements should be discussed at appointment.

The post holder will receive support from such other professional staff as are employed within NHS Ayrshire and Arran and are deployed to his/her area of patient care.

There is a dedicated induction programme for new Consultants to NHS Ayrshire & Arran which covers topics such as Medical Peer Support & Wellbeing, job planning, mentoring/coaching, appraisal/revalidation, Human Resources, Postgraduate Education, How to Chair a Meeting, How to write a business case, GMC, Reflective Practice, Significant Adverse Event Reviews, Civility and Professionalism, Finance, Leadership Qualities, Difficult Conversations, Complaints, Legal issues, Whistleblowing and Quality Improvement.





Excellent post-graduate facilities are provided at both hospitals, with the Alexander Fleming Education Centre based at University Hospital Crosshouse and the MacDonald Education Centre based at the University Hospital Ayr. Both centres include a full size lecture theatre, classrooms and a number of tutorial rooms. There is a Medium Fidelity (SimMan based) Simulation Room with adjacent Debriefing Room within the Education Centre at University Hospital Crosshouse which is used by all acute specialties for training.

The facilities are supported with modern audio visual and information technology, including teleconferencing facilities and both centres incorporate an excellent up-to-date library with a resident librarian. We have an enthusiastic faculty of trained simulation facilitators from anaesthesia, general medicine, emergency medicine and paediatrics.



Medical Photography

The Medical Illustrations Department can provide a full service at both hospitals for clinical photography, preparation of slides, PowerPoint etc, for lecture purposes.

Duties and Responsibilities

The main duties and responsibilities of the post include:

- Delivery of high quality, efficient and responsive clinical care to the patients and population of Ayrshire & Arran
- Responsibilities for carrying out teaching, accreditation and examination duties as required, and for contributing to undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. The post holder will be expected to comply with College recommendations on Continuing Medical Education.
- The post holder will be required to comply with NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Policies on Clinical Governance.
- The successful applicant will be encouraged to participate in research and to develop a relevant subspecialty interest, subject to resources and local priorities.
- Requirements to participate in medical audit and in continuing medical education.
- Managerial, including budgetary, responsibilities (where appropriate).





Annual Appraisal & Job Planning

You shall also be required to participate in annual appraisal. Job planning is linked closely with, but is separate to, the agreed appraisal scheme for consultants. The job plan review will take into account the outcome of the appraisal discussion and reflect the agreed personal development plan.

Terms and Conditions

The Terms and Conditions of Service are those determined by the Terms and Conditions of the New Consultant Grade (Scotland) as amended from time to time. The distance that a consultant can reside from the principal base hospital, where travel time is seen as more important than mileage, is subject to the agreement of the Executive Medical Director, but it is usually anticipated that a journey that takes no more than 30 minutes for any emergency situation would be acceptable.



Further information and visiting

NHS Ayrshire & Arran Board believe that our staff are our greatest resource and are committed to improving staff experience in the knowledge that if this is good, it will have a positive impact patient experience. Safe, healthy, valued, respected and supported staff deliver higher quality of care to patients. Sustaining a culture of wellbeing, positive relationships and performance in such an environment is a key priority for the Board.

Informal visits and enquiries are encouraged and the existing team would value the opportunity to meet with prospective applicants to discuss the opportunities that the post offers. Visits can be arranged through:

Professor Ali Taha, Consultant and Lead Clinician in Gastroenterology, University Hospital Crosshouse, Tel 01563 827280 professor.taha@aapct.scot.nhs.uk

Dr Elaine Spalding, Associate Medical Director, Medical Specialties, University Hospital Crosshouse/Ayr Tel: 01292 617087

Mrs Debbie Hardie, Divisional General Manager, Medicine would also welcome the opportunity to discuss the post in more detail and can be contacted on 01563 826826 or Debbie.hardie2@aapct.scot.nhs.uk

Person Specification

Post of: Consultant Physician with an interest in Gastroenterology.

Location: NHS Ayrshire & Arran

Base: University Hospital Crosshouse/University Hospital Ayr

Qualifications

Essential	Desirable
Full GMC Registration with a current Licence to Practice	
<p>Existing Consultants: Inclusion on the GMC Specialist Register</p> <p>New Consultants: Be within 6 months of the anticipated award of a CCT or CESR at the time of interview.</p> <p>Accreditation in Gastroenterology is essential</p>	<p>Accreditation in General Medicine is desirable</p>

Skills/Knowledge/Competence

Requirements	Essential	Desirable
<p>General Experience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Expertise in generalist field · Expertise in sub-specialty field 	As above. Inclusion on Specialist register for Gastroenterology	Inclusion on Specialist register for GIM
Teaching & Training	Skills in teaching and training	PG Certificate in Medical Education
Team Working	The applicant requires to work closely with a team to deliver multi-disciplinary patient care.	
Development		
Research/Publications	Not critical to the post.	
Clinical Audit	A sound grounding in the principles and evidence of practical experience of clinical audit.	
Management and Administration		An awareness of the functioning of the NHS and existing management structures.
Personal and Interpersonal Skills	Such skills are critical to the team working and cross-specialty working that the post involves.	

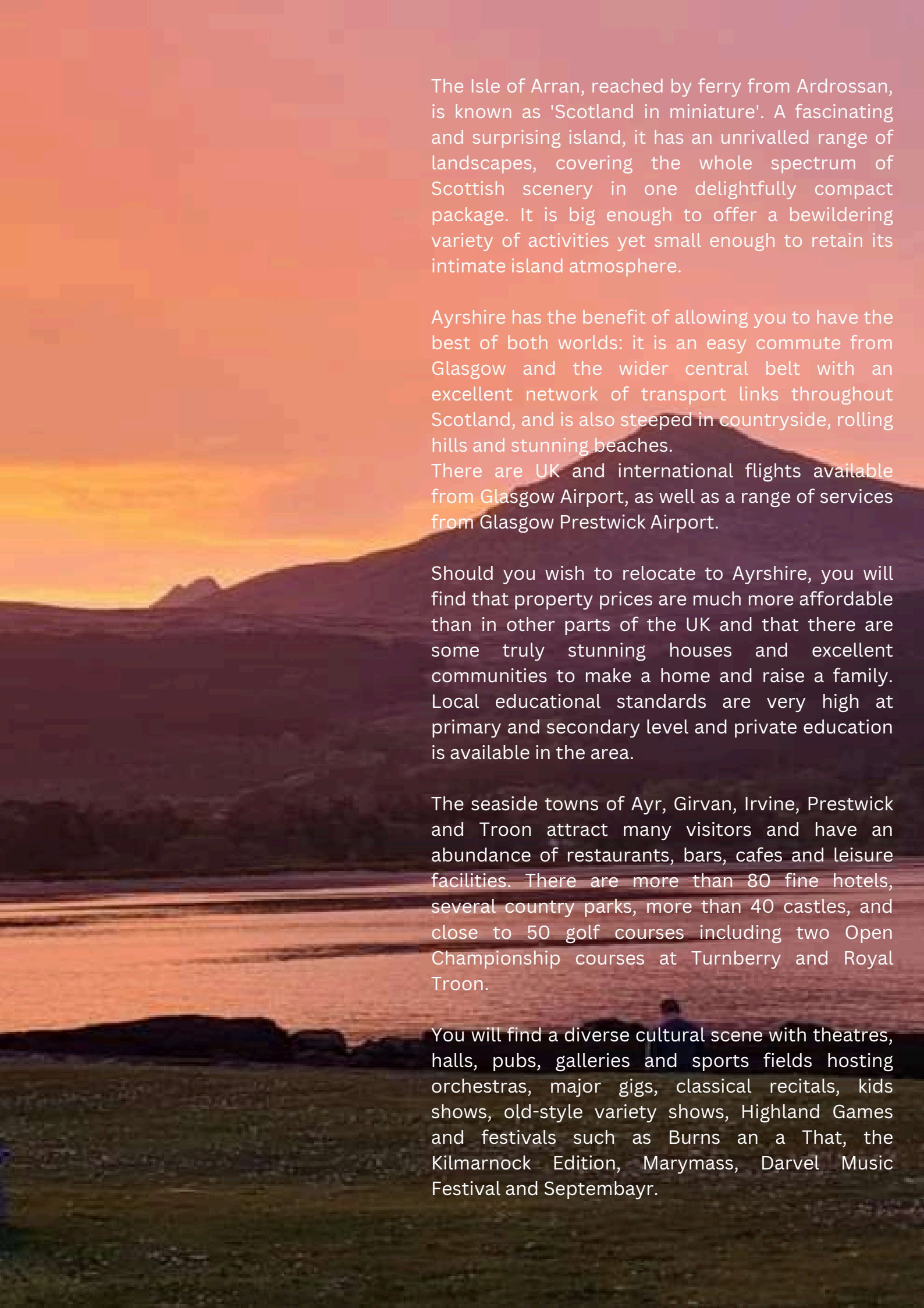
“Situated on the beautiful Clyde Coast, Ayrshire & Arran is a great place to live and work.”



Ayrshire & Arran is a mecca for all golfers with over forty quality courses, including three Open Championship courses. It is also home to some of the most prestigious heritage and visitor attractions that Scotland has to offer.

Ancient castles, beautiful country parks and gardens, bustling market towns and award-winning visitor attractions are all to hand and set in awe-inspiring scenery.

The spectacular granite mountains, ancient stone circles and the sheltered waters of the Firth of Clyde act as a magnet for walkers, cyclists, fishermen and sailing enthusiasts alike. It is also the birthplace of world-renowned poet Robert Burns, and there are plentiful reminders of the man and his world to explore here.



The Isle of Arran, reached by ferry from Ardrossan, is known as 'Scotland in miniature'. A fascinating and surprising island, it has an unrivalled range of landscapes, covering the whole spectrum of Scottish scenery in one delightfully compact package. It is big enough to offer a bewildering variety of activities yet small enough to retain its intimate island atmosphere.

Ayrshire has the benefit of allowing you to have the best of both worlds: it is an easy commute from Glasgow and the wider central belt with an excellent network of transport links throughout Scotland, and is also steeped in countryside, rolling hills and stunning beaches.

There are UK and international flights available from Glasgow Airport, as well as a range of services from Glasgow Prestwick Airport.

Should you wish to relocate to Ayrshire, you will find that property prices are much more affordable than in other parts of the UK and that there are some truly stunning houses and excellent communities to make a home and raise a family. Local educational standards are very high at primary and secondary level and private education is available in the area.

The seaside towns of Ayr, Girvan, Irvine, Prestwick and Troon attract many visitors and have an abundance of restaurants, bars, cafes and leisure facilities. There are more than 80 fine hotels, several country parks, more than 40 castles, and close to 50 golf courses including two Open Championship courses at Turnberry and Royal Troon.

You will find a diverse cultural scene with theatres, halls, pubs, galleries and sports fields hosting orchestras, major gigs, classical recitals, kids shows, old-style variety shows, Highland Games and festivals such as Burns an a That, the Kilmarnock Edition, Marymass, Darvel Music Festival and Septembayr.