* 1. **Why are you applying for a Junior Research Training Fellowship?**

This Fellowship provides me with a great opportunity. I hope that by furthering my research knowledge and experience I will be able to contribute to improving the care of people who have had a stroke. The main focus of my work has been to develop and deliver effective stroke care. I have become more aware of the importance of high quality research and its integration into practice in order to improve care and outcomes.

My ambition is to develop a long term career in clinical stroke research. The fellowship will not only provide me with me with the opportunity to perform an MPhil/PhD which will contribute to improved stroke care through evidence based training, but is the ideal opportunity to develop a portfolio of research experience around stroke care. The high quality supervision and support available will provide me with formal and informal opportunities to develop my research expertise and provide a strong foundation to my future career

I am 18 months into a secondment working with the Clinical Practice Research Unit (CPRU) team at UCLan on the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funded Emergency Stroke Calls: Obtaining Rapid Telephone Triage (ESCORTT) project. Whilst working collaboratively with the CPRU team, I have been utilising my clinical knowledge, and building my operational research knowledge, through implementing a research protocol. I have been involved with identification of patients through capture re-capture methods, systematically collecting, inputting, collating, and cleansing data from case notes and patient records. From a qualitative research perspective, I have been involved in developing semi-structured interview schedules and recruiting and interviewing those who have consented. I have been working with experienced researchers in performing analysis from the transcripts utilising Atlas ti software. My involvement in paper and poster writing has resulted in attendance at several conferences. As well as heightening my knowledge in terms of stroke and research, the networks I have developed have hardened my resolve to make a career in stroke research.

I enjoy a challenge and will bring a wide variety of knowledge and skills, as well as a strong determination to achieve. This fellowship will allow me to undertake a comprehensive training programme, researching an important aspect of acute stroke care; neurological assessment. I will be supported by the supervisory team, members of the CPRU and research and clinical collaborators. This will not only further my understanding of the research process, but I will be actively encouraged and involved in taking research forward in terms of dissemination, implementation, and future grant acquisition. I believe that the opportunities this fellowship will provide will form the perfect foundation to develop a career in stroke research. I am determined to succeed and hope that my desire to learn and enthusiasm will be recognised and acknowledged.