



# Tips on Writing Successful Fellowships – A Funder’s Perspective

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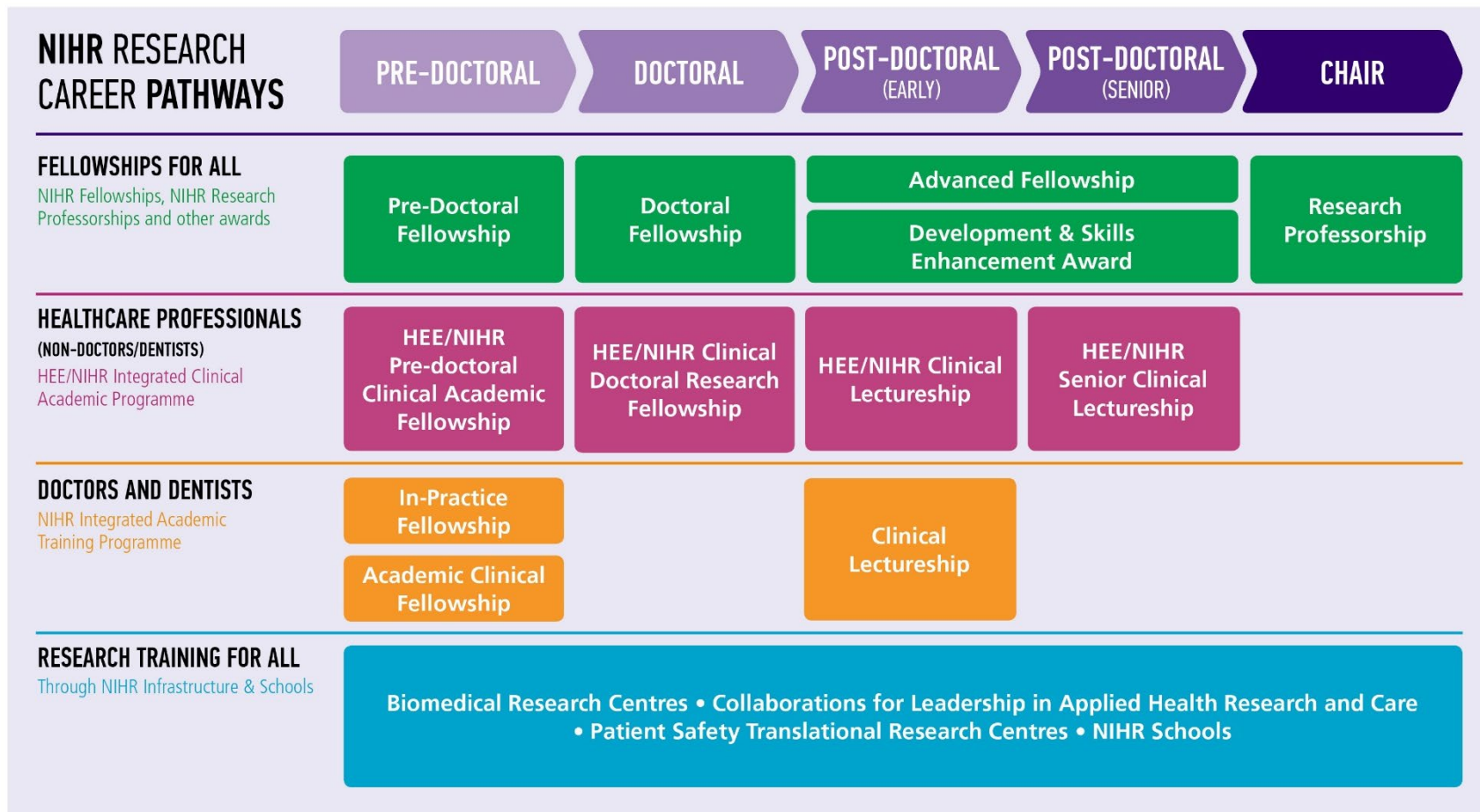


# Introduction

The purpose of the **NIHR Academy** is to develop a highly-skilled academic research workforce capable of advancing the best research which improves health and care, and benefits society and the economy.



# NIHR Research Training



# Application process

## Stage 1 application

- Eligibility and fit with remit
  - NIHR Academy
- Shortlisting
  - Lead reviewers
  - Whole Panel meeting
- Peer review (post doc levels)
  - Relevant expert reviewers

## Stage 2 application

- Interview

# Pre-application

- Know the process and the remit:
  - Look at the website
  - Webinars
  - Read the guidance and past Chairs' reports
  - Contact the NIHR with any queries
- Know your audience:
  - Look up previous award holders, panel members, topics
- Start early:
  - Identify supervisors, mentors and collaborators
  - Speak to the Research Design Service
  - Clinical Trials Unit and Local Clinical Research Network
  - Consider all options

# Application

- Person
  - Trajectory
  - Career outputs
- Project or programme of research
  - Scientific quality and sound methodology (will it answer the question?)
  - Appropriate scale and scope
  - Relevance of the question
  - Literature review
  - Impact of findings
  - Fit with remit
  - Meaningful involvement of patients and the public

# Application

- Training
  - Meets needs of candidate and project
- Host environment (institution, supervisor, mentor)
  - REF rating
  - Track record in relevant field
  - Time and commitment
- Take Advice from:
  - Supervisors / mentors
  - Collaborators
  - Methodologist (s)
  - Finance lead
  - Patients/Service Users

# Application

- Approvals and sign off
  - Are the relevant people available
  - Don't be last minute and...
- **Do not miss the deadline!!**
- Check your spelling



# Interview

- Panels between 10-14 members + NIHR/HEE/DHSC staff and observers
- 5 minute presentation
- 2 lead interviewers
  - 1<sup>st</sup> focusses on research project
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> focusses on training plan, supervision, career
- Public Panel members
  - Focus on PPI
- Open questions from whole Panel

# Interview

- Practice
  - Mock interviews are usually the worst!
- Presentation
  - Not too many slides
  - Don't go over time
- Behaviour
  - It is OK to be nervous
  - Confident but not over confident
  - Don't get defensive
  - Admit what you don't know and be happy to take advice
  - Relax and be yourself

# Interview

## The project

- Know it inside and out
- Has anything altered since submission?
- Know the methods and identify the expertise
- Think through alternatives

## Training and Development

- Identify your training needs
- How will the training support your project and future career intentions

## The future you

- Be clear where you want to be
- What does this fellowship mean to your career

# Next Steps and further information

- Guidance notes and deadlines for calls are all available on our website, but if you have questions please contact us!

[www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)

Contact: [academy@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:academy@nihr.ac.uk) 0113 532 8444



Thank you!

