

A horizontal bar composed of several colored segments: green, teal, orange, purple, and blue.

NIHR Research Fellowships

Applying for NIHR fellowships

September 2016

NIHR School for Primary Care Research Trainees Meeting

Nicola Melody

Senior Programme Manager (NIHR Fellowships)

NIHR Trainees Co-ordinating Centre

National Institute for Health Research



NIHR

at **10**

improving the health and
wealth of the nation
through research

The research arm of the NHS

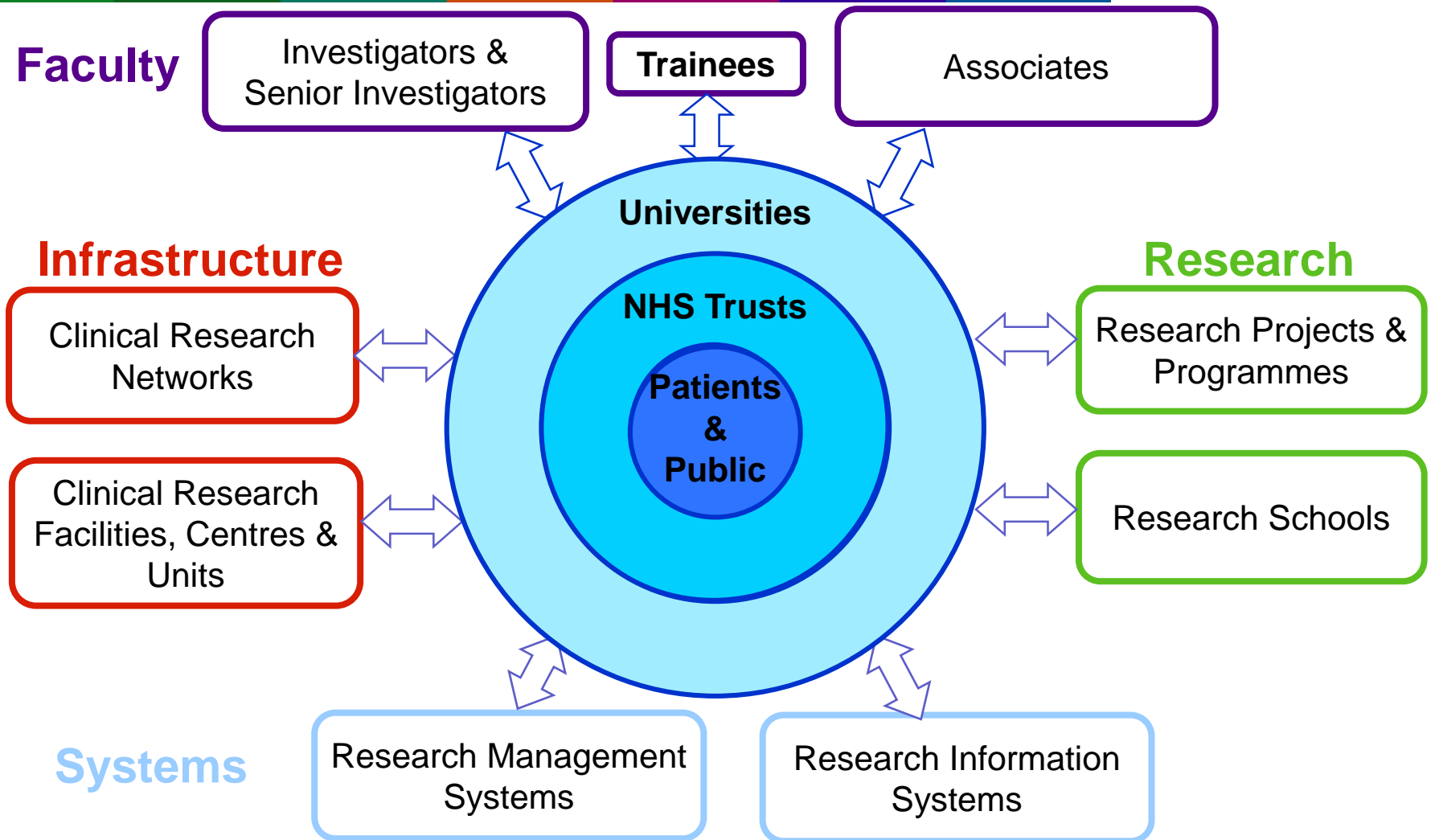
Established in 2006 as a vehicle
for implementing Government's
strategy for applied health
research

£1b annual spend

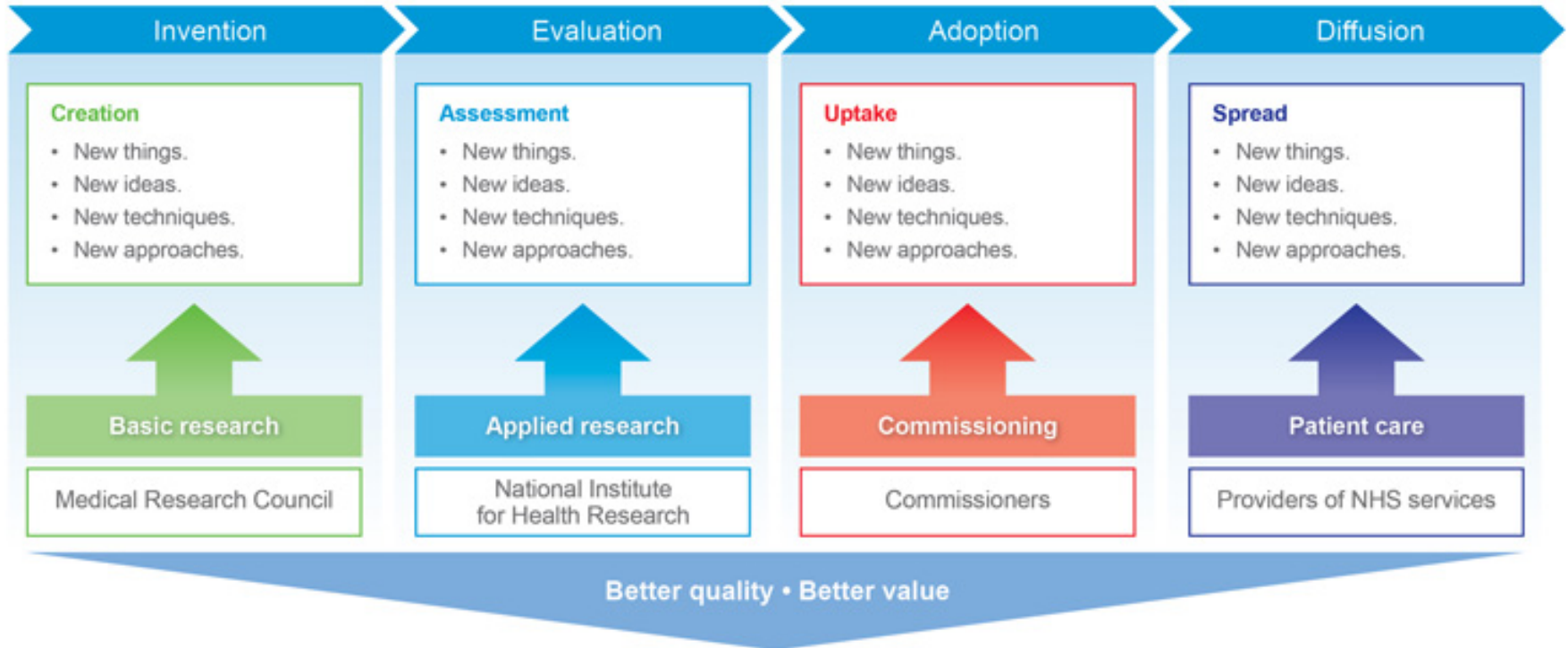
Vision

To improve the health and wealth
of the nation through research

The NIHR Health Research System



The research pathway





NIHR Remit

- People and patient based clinical, applied health or social care research.
- Patients, samples or data from patients, people who are not patients, populations, health technology assessment or health services research
- *No basic research or work involving animals and/or animal tissue*
- Biomarkers – grey area
- Clearly demonstrate the potential to have an impact on the needs of patients and the public within 5 years of its completion
- NIHR is also prepared to support research into medical education

Medical Education Research



'The NIHR is also prepared to support high quality research into 'medical education' (defined broadly as education for healthcare providers). Whilst this area of research need not fulfil the criterion of having 'potential for benefiting patients and the public within 5 years of its completion', it is expected that the research will have the potential to have practical application.'



Trainees Coordinating Centre

Research Capacity Development

TCC provides training and career development awards in order to:

- build a leading NHS Research Faculty
- develop research careers, research leaders and collaborators.

There are a large range of awards available at different levels and to suit different work arrangements, types of NHS staff and career paths.

NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS

Methodologists

Fellowships for all

Healthcare Professionals
(non-doctors/dentists)

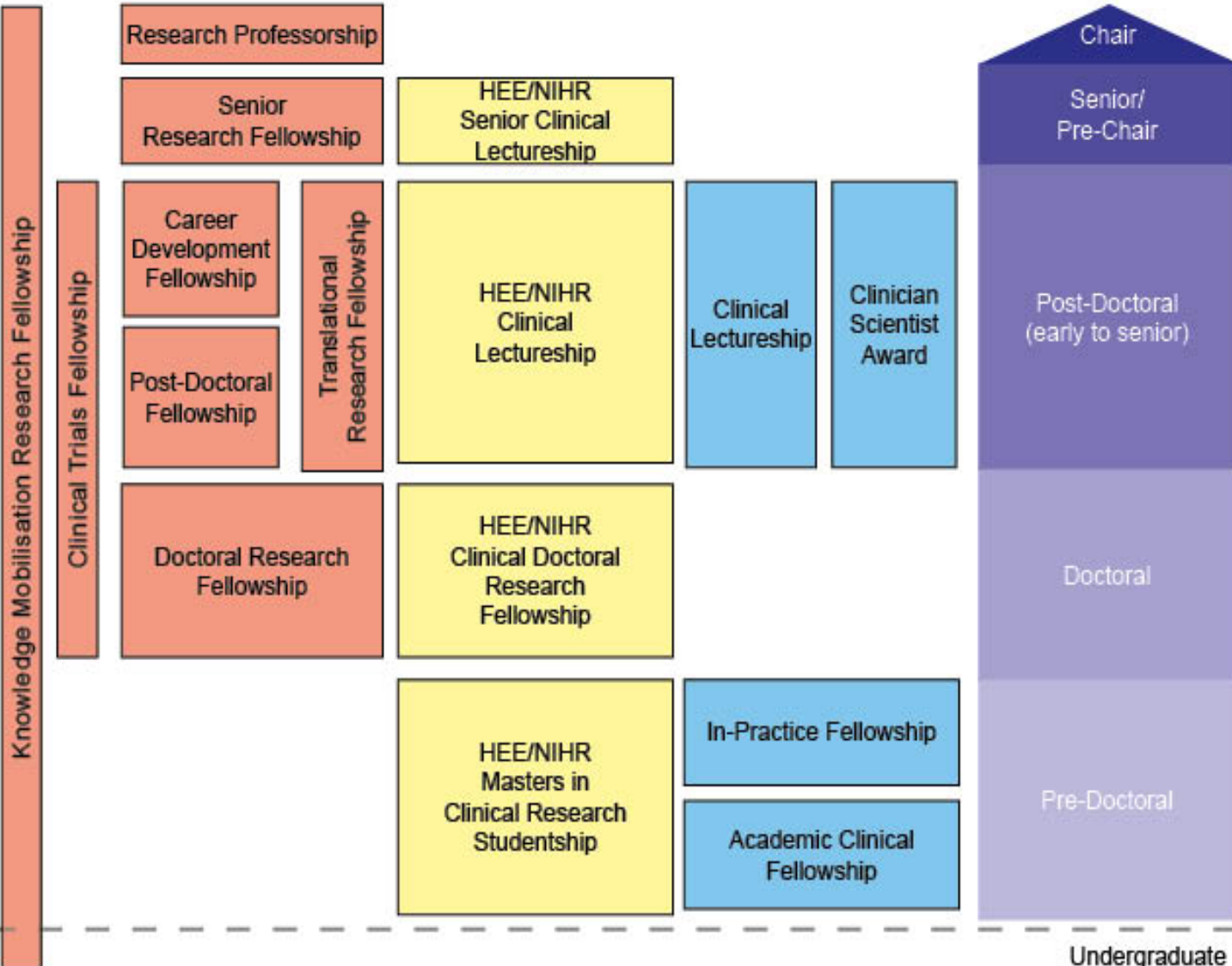
Doctors and Dentists

Research Methods Programme

NIHR Fellowships, Professorships
and other awards

HEE/NIHR Integrated
Clinical Academic
Programme

NIHR Integrated
Academic Training
Programme



NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS

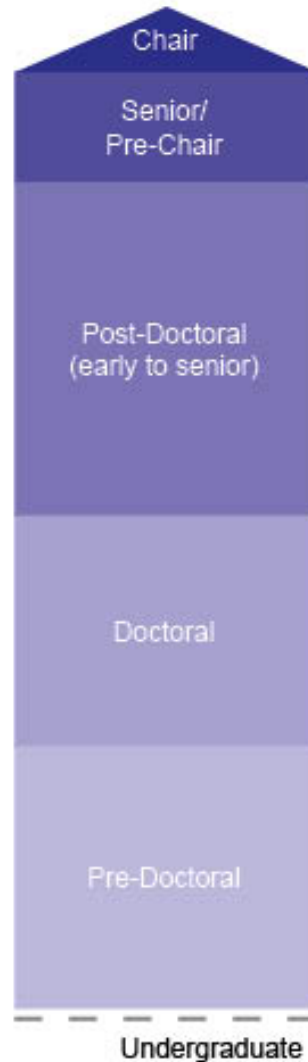
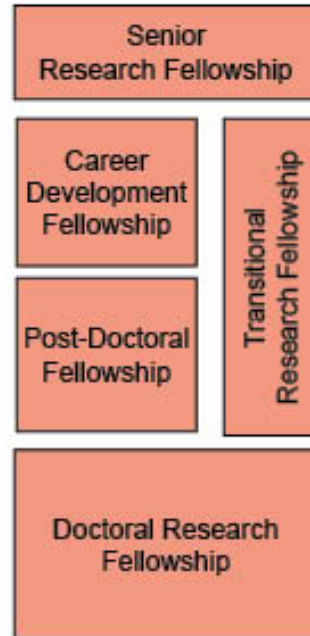
Methodologists

Fellowships for all

Healthcare Professionals
(non-doctors/dentists)

Doctors and Dentists

NIHR Fellowships, Professorships
and other awards



Trainees Coordinating Centre

NIHR Fellowships Programme

NIHR Fellowships are personal research training awards.

Funding covers:

- Salary
- Tuition fees (for PhD at Doctoral level)
- Research costs
- Fully-funded training and development programme
- Awards are 3 years full time (with part-time options), or 5 years for SRF
- Can be based at HEI or NHS Trust, or other eligible organisation
- Annual competition for all levels
- **Next launch – October 2016**

Doctoral Research Fellowship (NIHR DRF)

Doctoral Training Award
3 Years Full Time

Applicant:

Some previous research experience

Some outputs from research

*Evidence of commitment to research
career*

Post Doctoral Research Fellowship (NIHR PDF)

Early Post Doctoral Fellowship
3 years Full Time

Eligibility: ≤ 3 yrs WTE post-
doc research experience

Applicant:

*PhD submitted and awarded before
interview.*

Outputs from research

*Evidence of commitment to
research career*

Research experience from award of PhD to application



NIHR Fellowships Programme



National Institute for
Health Research

Career Development Fellowship (NIHR CDF)

Later Post-Doctoral Fellowship
3 Years Full Time

Eligibility: $\leq 7/8$ yrs WTE post-doc
research experience

Applicant:

PhD/MD and postdoctoral experience
Significant output from research
Evidence of increasing independence
*Experience of developing research
skills of others*

Senior Research Fellowship (NIHR SRF)

Most Senior NIHR Fellowship

5 years (\rightarrow Chair)

Applicant:

Significant postdoctoral experience
Outstanding publication record
Independence
Leadership potential
*Record of research capacity
development*

Transitional Research Fellowship (NIHR TRF)

Postdoctoral Award designed to support researchers looking to transition into, or back into, applied health or clinical research

Eligibility: ≤ 5 yrs WTE post-doctoral research experience
18 months to 2 years, full or part time

Applicant:

- *PhD/MD and possibly, postdoctoral experience*
- *Basic or experimental scientists moving to applied health or clinical research*
- *Researchers looking to gain training in clinical trials*
- *Applied clinical or health researchers, following a significant career break with clear training needs*
- *Proposed research must be within the NIHR remit*



NIHR Knowledge Mobilisation Research Fellowship



*National Institute for
Health Research*

What is a KMRF?

- Personal award
- Funds:
 - salary, KM and research costs (no cap)
 - full training and development programme (including an overseas research visit and conferences)
 - 2 years full time (or 3 years at 70% or 4 years at 50% WTE)
- Based at HEI or publicly funded healthcare body (e.g. NHS/social enterprise/public health/local authority)
- Agreed 'hosting' partnership between HEI and healthcare body

Aims

- build capacity within fields of mobilising knowledge (to support the more effective use of research knowledge), whilst also simultaneously;
- researching implementation processes and impacts.
(aka implementation and implementation research)

NIHR RESEARCH CAREER PATHWAYS

Methodologists

Fellowships for all

Healthcare Professionals (non-doctors/dentists)

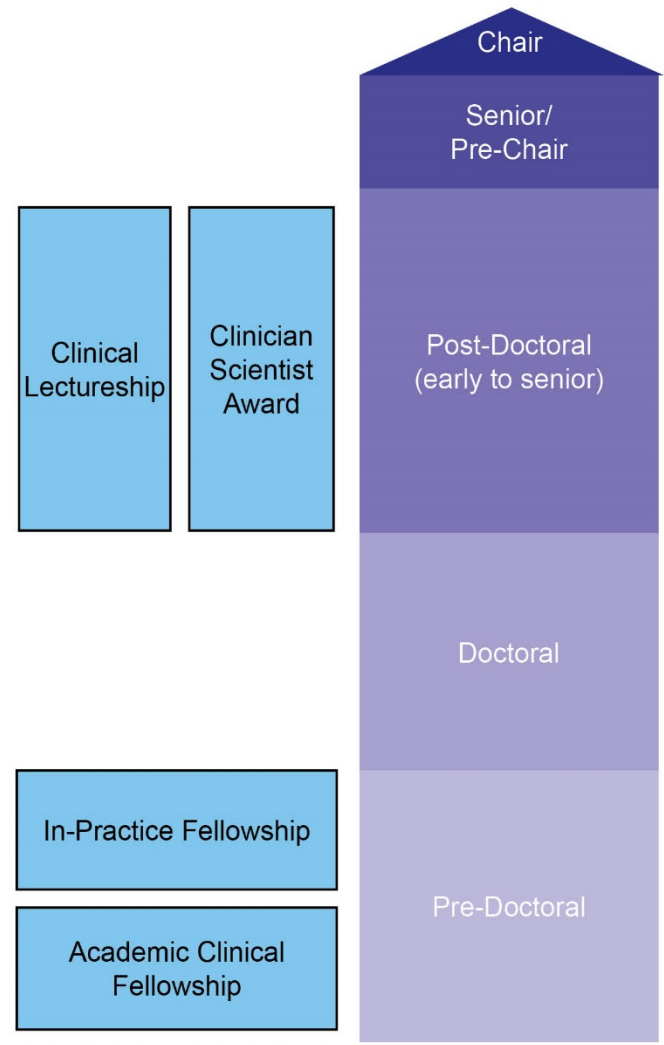
Doctors and Dentists

Research Methods Programme

NIHR Fellowships, Professorships
and other awards

HEE/NIHR Integrated
Clinical Academic
Programme

NIHR Integrated
Academic Training
Programme



Undergraduate

Integrated Academic Training for Doctors and Dentists

In-Practice Fellowship

- Pre-doctoral award open to fully-qualified General Practitioners, General Dental Practitioners and Community Dentists
- 50% clinical, 50% academic
- Funding: 50% salary (for academic time), plus £4,500 for training and development and £1,000 for conference attendance

Aims:

Completion of a Masters degree, preparation for research training fellowship at doctoral level.

Next round opens mid-February

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Doctors and Dentists

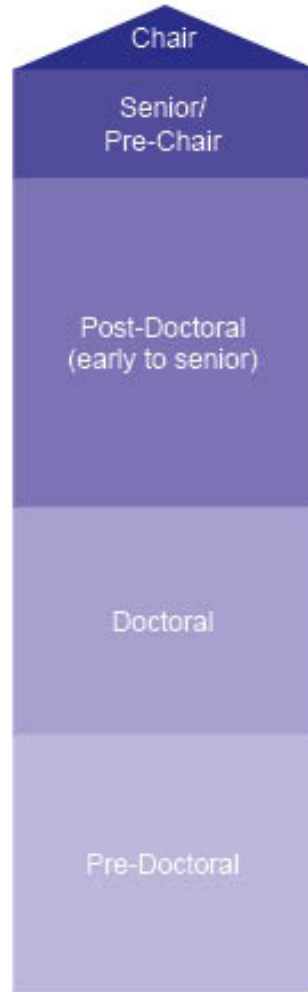
HEE/NIHR Integrated
Clinical Academic
Programme

HEE/NIHR
Senior Clinical
Lectureship

HEE/NIHR
Clinical
Lectureship

HEE/NIHR
Clinical Doctoral
Research
Fellowship

HEE/NIHR
Masters in
Clinical Research
Studentship



Undergraduate

HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic Programme



*National Institute for
Health Research*



The ICA Programme launched in 2015 and represents an amalgamation of the HEE funded Clinical Academic Training (CAT) Programme for Nurses, Midwives and AHPs and the Healthcare Science Research Fellowship (HCS) Programme

The ICA Programme is open to a greater range of professions than the CAT and HCS Programmes combined (now all statutorily registered healthcare professionals excluding doctors and dentists) but retains the CAT Programme's characteristic focus on the development of individuals and careers that **combine clinical research and research leadership with continued clinical practice and clinical development**

HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme

Personal Training awards for **Non-Medical** Clinical Academic Healthcare Professionals



Eligible Professions Include:

- Healthcare Scientists
- Allied Health Professionals
- Nurses
- Midwives
- Health Visitors
- Dental professions (Dental Nurse, Hygienist and Therapist)
- Pharmacist and Pharmacy Technicians
- Osteopaths
- Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians
- Chiropractors
- Clinical Psychologists
- Operating Department Practitioners
- Non-medical public health professionals

Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship Scheme

PhD while *working and developing* clinically

3 years FT (4 or 5 years PT)

Covers salary, PhD tuition fees, research costs, and training & development costs (both professional and academic)

Applicant:

- *Must be based at an English NHS Trust, HEI or other healthcare organisation*
- *Must have at least 1 year of professional experience and fellows must hold current registration*
- *Research experience/training that prepares for a PhD*
- *Evidence of commitment to a clinical academic career*
- *Good clinical and academic support*

Clinical Lectureship and Senior Clinical Lectureship Scheme

Clinical Lectureship (CL) Lectureship

- 3 year (4 or 5 years PT) post-doctoral award for clinical practice and academic research (50:50)
- Requires support from a partnership of an English HEI and an NHS trust, which must both commit to support the applicant post award
- Up to 50% of salary plus full research, training and development costs
- <5 years WTE post-doctoral research experience
- Min 1 year WTE in clinical practice, current registration and PhD

Senior Clinical (SCL)

- Senior (pre-Chair) 5 year award for clinical practice and academic research (50:50)
- Requires support from a partnership of an English HEI and an NHS trust, which must both commit to support the applicant post award
- Up to 50% of salary plus full research, training and development costs
- >5 years clinical experience and high research output
- Excellent or exceptionally promising track record as clinical academic researcher (outputs & grants)

NIHR Themed Calls

- **NIHR wide themed calls in round 9 of the Fellowships Programme were:**
 - The evaluation of interventions or services delivered for older people with multimorbidity (two or more conditions).
 - Treatment and prevention of obesity

Further information can be found on the NIHR Themed Calls website (<http://www.themedcalls.nihr.ac.uk/>).

Still interested in the specialist areas.

Dementia and Antimicrobial Resistance remain research priorities for the NIHR.

What research do we fund?

- **EME** – 'science driven' exploratory studies supporting clinical science with an ultimate view to improving health or patient care (efficacy, mechanistic, phase 2-3).
- **HTA** – research on the effectiveness, costs and broader impact of healthcare treatments (systematic reviews, large multicentre pragmatic trials or other studies, phase 3-4)
- **HS&DR** – research on the quality, access to and organisation of health services
- **i4i** – new solutions and translational R & D ideas for medical technologies or devices that meet existing or emerging healthcare needs
- **PHR** – evaluates non-NHS public health interventions (but does not fund intervention)
- **PGfAR** – large programme awards for leading applied health research groups to tackle high priority health issues (+ short programme development grants)
- **RfPB** – regionally-funded NHS research arising from daily practice to contribute to improvements



Pre-application advice

- Know the process and the remit:
 - Look at the website
 - Read the guidance
 - Contact the NIHR TCC with any queries
 - Talk to the NIHR Research Design Service
 - Don't add PPI as an afterthought!
- Know your audience:
 - Look up previous award holders, panel members, topics
- Talk, talk, talk, before you submit:
 - Supervisor, current awards holders, senior academics, methodological experts, collaborators, mentors, finance office, colleagues etc.



Application

- Person
 - Career outputs
 - Trajectory
- Project or programme of research
 - Relevance of the question (literature review)
 - Scientific quality, methodological rigour
 - Appropriate scale and scope and impact
 - Impact of findings
 - Fit with remit
 - Involvement of patients and the public
 - Dissemination: open access, conferences, meetings etc

Application

- Training
 - Meets needs of candidate and project, specialist skills and personal and professional development.
 - Coherent with research proposed
 - DRF: PhD taught element, principles underpinning research
 - PDF and CDF: addressing research capacity development
 - SRF: supporting development in a broader sense
 - ICA: similar but ensure clinical development needs are met.

Application

Host Environment

- Institution:
 - RAE/REF rating
 - Track record in relevant field
 - Time and commitment
- Research Support:
 - DRF: up to four supervisors, including PhD supervisors.
 - PDF/CDF/SRF: mentors to support your research, training and future career development.
 - TRF: up to three supervisors for training and development.
 - ICA: clinical and academic (understand challenges)

Application submission

- Register on TCCi now
- Liaise with local finance office and required signatories way in advance of the deadline
- Give full consideration to your Plain English summary and Patient and Public Involvement
- Have your application peer reviewed before you submit
- Review guidance notes (again!)
- Do a comprehensive spelling and grammar check

Fellowships Round 10 will launch in late October 2016

PDF/CDF/SRF/TRF will close in December

DRF will close in January

Interview

- Practice
 - Mock interviews are usually the worst
 - Practice your presentation
- 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. What if something goes wrong?

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?

Common Weaknesses



Remit: Failure to show research important to NHS, benefits patients and/or public in 5yrs

Clarity & Details: Research questions not clear; don't show the relevance of the aims and objectives; not enough detail and depth.

Overambitious: Research programme not suitable for level of award; not achievable within time frame.

Applicant: Person not quite experienced enough for level they are applying (research outputs, independence, etc.); not **your** project

Training: Programme too generic and not suited/specific to the applicant's needs and project; too centred around host organisation.

Value for Money: Budget unrealistic and/or failure to justify requested resources.

If in doubt; ask!



*National Institute for
Health Research*

NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre
Tel: 0113 346 6260

<http://www.nihr.ac.uk>

Fellowships Webinar:
16th June 2016
(joint TCC and RDS)

Knowledge Mobilisation
Research
Fellowships Webinar:
7th July 2016

Tweet us! @NIHR_Trainees