

Guidance Notes for NIHR School for Primary Care Research

Primary Care Clinicians Career Progression Fellowships 2024

To support the primary care clinical workforce develop their research career, the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) provides Primary Care Clinicians Career Progression Fellowships. These part-time awards are for primary care clinicians with a strong academic record and a commitment to a career in academic primary care. All primary care clinicians are welcome to apply including practice nurses, health visitors, dentists, primary care pharmacists, optometrists working in primary care and general practitioners (*nb this list is not exhaustive*). This opportunity is also open to Academic Clinical Fellows and In-Practice Fellows. Applicants holding one of these awards must clearly document progress towards a Doctoral Training Fellowship application in their application.

The fellowships are for 12 months and it is anticipated that these are taken as 0.5 FTE and will be available to take up from August 2024 onwards. These awards are intended to be flexible and will allow primary care clinicians to develop a formal doctoral training fellowship application whilst further developing their research portfolio. All applicants must ensure that their proposed research project is compatible with the NIHR remit:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/academy-nihr-remit-for-personal-awards/21380>

The fellowship may be undertaken at any one of the nine universities within the NIHR School for Primary Care Research: Bristol, Exeter, Keele, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Queen Mary University of London, Southampton and University College London.

Applicants do not have to be employed by a member at the time of applying for the fellowship. For more information about the research programme at each university see the School's website: <https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/funding/faq-fellowships/members-information>

Successful applicants will become part of the SPCR Trainees Community and have access to various opportunities provided by the School. More information about the community is on the SPCR website: <https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/spcr-trainees>

The application form does not include a costing section. Only successful applicants will be asked to provide a costing for their fellowship, however, applicants should discuss the fellowship funding with the host institution's local Research Manager or costing team prior to applying. The SPCR provides funding (pro rata) based on the BMA pre-2003 consultant scale, capped at Level 4 (currently £100,810). The SPCR does not stipulate the spine point that a fellowship should commence, however, members and employing institutions should perform due diligence checks before issuing a contract of employment. This includes the awardee providing proof of their current basic salary to ensure that the award is aligned as closely as possible to their current pay grade and the appropriate level on the BMA pre-2003 consultant scale.

The salary during the fellowship will be based on the point and scale when the fellowship commences; any immediate promotion to a higher grade as a result of securing a fellowship will

not be funded. The award includes a contribution towards research costs and covers an agreed training and development plan but it is not a research grant.

Support

Each SPCR member has support in place to help early-career researchers in preparing their Fellowship application. Each member has dedicated training leads in place who can support you or sign-post you. An overview of the training leads can be found at the bottom of this document.

As with all research funded by the NIHR, SPCR Fellows are expected to include patient and public involvement (PPI) in their application and research. Each member has a PPI lead in place who can support you with developing your plans. Their contact details can be found on the SPCR website: <https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/PPI/get-involved/ppi-contacts>. The [Research Design Service](#) has local support in place to support researchers in developing their applications. They might have funding available to support involvement activities before funding is allocated.

An overview of FAQs can be found on the SPCR website: <https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/funding#faq-fellowships>

If you have any questions on the application procedure, please contact the SPCR team via applications.spcr@keele.ac.uk

Selection process

All applications received are reviewed using these selection criteria. Scoring is undertaken by SPCR training leads and public contributors. Invitations to interview will be extended to the top scoring applicants.

The following selection criteria will be used:

PERSON
Interest in pursuing academic primary care research in the UK and conducting a PhD
Evidence of interest in research or teaching as well as clinical medicine
Ability and motivation to pursue an independent research project
Excellent written communication skills, demonstrated by a track record in publications, reports, a dissertation, or other written material
Appropriate training plan
Evidence of ability to work as part of a team
Ambition to collaborate and be part of the SPCR community
PROJECT
Relevance of proposed project to primary care and the SPCR
PPI - involvement of patients/service users, carers and/or the public in developing this proposal and active involvement throughout the proposed project
Clarity of aims
Appropriate methodology
Feasibility and likelihood of completion in available time
Fit between proposed project and proposed supervisory team interests and expertise
Likelihood of being able to secure a doctoral fellowship at end of this

During the interview you will be interviewed by a panel of up to 6 members (academics and public contributors). The interviews will take place online via MS Teams. Applicants are first asked to

provide a short presentation of their work, followed by a series of questions by the interview panel.

How to apply

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the relevant university to discuss hosting their planned research. Contact details for each university (and in some cases for each subject area offered) can be found <https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/funding/faq-fellowships/members-information>

Complete a standard application form, which can be found on the SPCR website, and email it to the SPCR team at applications.spcr@keele.ac.uk

- Please include PCCCP Fellowship 2024 as the subject of the email
- Please name the attached file using the following convention: Surname_PCCCP_24
- Application forms should be submitted as a Word document and not as a PDF.
- No other documents should be submitted as part of the application

Applications will be stored securely within Keele University for 6 months after the submission deadline. After 6 months, unsuccessful applications will be anonymised and only information relevant for reporting will be stored.

Timelines

Closing	1pm 14 March 2024
Interview invitations issued and unsuccessful applicants notified	Week commencing 15 th April 2024
Interviews held online	8 th May 2024
Awards start	From August 2024

Training leads at SPCR members

Member	Name	Email
University of Bristol	Debbie Sharp	Debbie.sharp@bristol.ac.uk
University of Exeter	Emma Pitchforth	e.pitchforth@exeter.ac.uk
University of Exeter	Jane Smith	jane.smith@exeter.ac.uk
Keele University	Mel Holden	m.holden@keele.ac.uk
Keele University	Richard Partington	r.partington@keele.ac.uk
University of Manchester	Benjamin Brown	benjamin.brown@manchester.ac.uk
University of Nottingham	Nadeem Qureshi	Nadeem.qureshi@nottingham.ac.uk
University of Oxford	Paul Aveyard	Paul.aveyard@phc.ox.ac.uk
University of Oxford	Gail Hayward	gail.hayward@phc.ox.ac.uk
Queen Mary University of London	Dominik Zenner	d.zenner@qmul.ac.uk

University of Southampton	Hazel Everitt	H.A.Everitt@soton.ac.uk
University of Southampton	Mark Lown	m.lown@soton.ac.uk
University College London	Patricia Schartau	patricia.schartau@ucl.ac.uk
University College London	Cini Bhanu	c.bhanu@ucl.ac.uk