

Guidance Notes for NIHR School for Primary Care Research Post-doctoral Fellowships April 2022

The NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) Post-Doctoral Fellowships provide an opportunity for early career academics to further develop their career in primary care research. The aim of these fellowships is to allow the fellow to have an independent research project, publish their research and prepare grant applications to secure future funding (e.g., an NIHR advanced fellowship). Successful applicants are expected to start their Fellowship in April 2022.

Applicants must have experience of research in primary care or a closely related field of medicine and have a strong academic record. Applicants will usually have been awarded their doctorate within the last 3 years. However, applications will be considered from researchers who have transitioned into applied health research from a different disciplinary background or who have re-established a research career following a significant career break.

Fellowships are usually full time for 24 months full-time but they may be taken part time (minimum 60%), particularly if the applicant wishes to maintain professional/clinical duties.

Applicants do not have to be employed by a member when 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#post-doctoral-fellowships>

The SPCR would particularly welcome applications from allied health professionals. Distinctive to the current SPCR programme is the aim to work more broadly with the primary care research sector.

Successful applicants will conduct their fellowship in one of the nine members of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research: Bristol, Exeter, Keele, Manchester, Nottingham, Oxford, Queen Mary University of London, Southampton and University College London.

Remuneration will depend on previous experience but appointees will usually receive a salary in the range of £33-38k. The host university is awarded a fixed sum for the fellowship. The rate for 2022 is £145k. This is based on an approximate salary of £37k pa for 2 years, full time and Employers National Insurance and Pension contributions and an overhead that the SPCR will provide to your employer for items such as HR, IT and other centrally provided services. The fellowship mainly covers salary and some research and training costs, though it will likely not be sufficient to fund all research costs involved. It is assumed that successful applicants need to find additional funding to support their research activities, either via a different SPCR funding competition or from other funders. Applications do not require any costings at submission stage, but applicants are encouraged to consider what their training and development and patient and public involvement costs might be and how they are planning to attract additional research funds.

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 award can be based around a specified single project or involve attachment to a research group involved in a programme of research. The awards are open to all disciplines relevant to primary care research, clinical non-medical and non-clinical, although the individual universities vary in the disciplinary opportunities they offer.

Support

Each SPCR member has support in place to help early-career researchers in preparing their Fellowship application. Each member has dedicated training lead(s) 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 application. They might have funding available to support involvement activities before funding is allocated. Additionally, the SPCR Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Manager (Esther van Vliet; e.van.vliet@keele.ac.uk) is able to provide feedback on your involvement plans.

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

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.

| PERSON |
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| Interest in pursuing academic primary care research in the UK |
| Excellent academic track record with evidence of interest in teaching or research |
| Track record of publications |
| Track record of conference presentations, seminars and other oral presentations |
| Excellent written communication skills, demonstrated by a track record in publications, reports, a dissertation, or other written material |
| Ability and motivation to pursue an independent research project |
| Evidence of ability to work as part of a team |
| PROJECT |
| Relevance of proposed project to primary care and SPCR |
| Clarity of aims |
| PPI - quality of plain English summary |
| PPI - involvement of patients/service users, carers and/or the public in developing this proposal and active involvement throughout the proposed project |
| 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 further personal award or research funding at end of this fellowship |

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. 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 here:

<https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/files/trainees/spcr-pdf-awards-2022-april-further-information-members>

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

- Please state **PDF Application April 2022** as the subject of the email
- Please name the file using the following convention: **Surname_PDF April 2022**
- 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

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| Closing | 1 November (midnight) |
| Interview invitations issued and unsuccessful applicants notified | Early December |
| Interviews held | 14 December |
| Awards start | 1 April 2022 |

Training leads at SPCR members

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|---------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| University of Bristol | Christie Cabral | Christie.cabral@bristol.ac.uk (post doc) |
| | Alyson Huntley | Alyson.huntley@bristol.ac.uk (doctoral) |
| | Debbie Sharp | Debbie.sharp@bristol.ac.uk Clinical) |
| University of Exeter | Chema Valderas | j.m.valderas@exeter.ac.uk |
| | Emma Pitchforth | e.pitchforth@exeter.ac.uk (deputy lead) |
| | Jane Smith | jane.smith@exeter.ac.uk (deputy lead) |
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