

Guidance Notes for NIHR School for Primary Care Research

Primary Care Clinicians Career Progression Fellowships 2022

To support the primary care clinical workforce to develop their research career, the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR) launches the Primary Care Research 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 12 months and it is anticipated that these are taken as 0.5 FTE and will be available to take up from August 2022 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 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/faq-fellowships/members-information>

Successful applicants will become part of the SPCR Trainees network 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. The salary during the fellowship will be based on the point and scale when 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 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>

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
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 fellowship / or completing PhD already in progress

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 2022** as the subject of the email
- Please name the attached file using the following convention: **Surname_PCCCP_22**
- 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	25 April (midnight)
Interview invitations issued and unsuccessful applicants notified	By 27 May
Interviews held	9 June
Awards start	From August 2022

Training leads at SPCR members

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	Emma Pitchforth	e.pitchforth@exeter.ac.uk
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