



***National Institute for  
Health Research***

**Funding opportunities**  
for research and career development



**funding leading edge research and  
supporting research professionals**

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## Introduction

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The goal of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is to create a health research system in which the NHS supports outstanding individuals, working in world class facilities, conducting leading edge research focused on the needs of patients and the public.

The NIHR commissions and funds health, public health and social care research that is essential for improving the health and wealth of the nation. A key objective is to improve the quality, relevance and focus of the research we commission by distributing funds in a transparent and accountable way through open competition and expert review.

The NIHR also funds career development for researchers whose work focuses on people and patient-based applied health research.

This booklet provides information about NIHR's research funding and career development opportunities available for researchers based in the NHS, universities, industry and other organisations concerned with health, public health and social care.

The NIHR is committed to adding value in research to maximise the potential impact for patients and the public. This means ensuring that the research it funds answers the right questions, is delivered efficiently, and is published in full in an accessible and unbiased report.





## Research programmes

The NIHR funds a range of research programmes to produce evidence that enables professionals, policy makers and patients to make informed decisions about healthcare. Our research programmes also provide the means to turn new interventions into better care.

Commissioned calls are issued for research that addresses specific topic areas, and researcher-led calls allow researchers to directly propose questions.

Themed calls are issued to meet an identified health challenge or government priority. All research programmes, including NIHR Fellowships, participate in themed calls, as far as their remit allows. Previous NIHR-wide themed calls have focused on topics such as dementia, surgery and primary care interventions. More closely defined themed calls may be issued by individual programmes when an area of uncertainty is identified, sometimes arising from a specific event.

Funding calls are promoted in advance whenever possible and clearly advertised on the NIHR website.

The application process can vary between programmes. For some programmes, a full application is required at the outset in a one-stage process. Other programmes have a two-stage process, where outline proposals are submitted initially and successful applicants are invited to complete a full application.

Research applications are rigorously evaluated through independent expert review, which helps shape our research and improve practice in healthcare. Join our community of expert reviewers at [www.nihr.ac.uk/reviewing](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/reviewing) to share your expertise and gain an insight into the standard of NIHR applications.

The funding information on pages 14 to 16 provides details about types of studies funded, eligibility, competitions, funding amount and period for each programme.

Current funding opportunities can be found on the NIHR website at [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk) and in the Funding and Support newsletter at [www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up).

## Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation (EME)

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The EME Programme funds ambitious studies evaluating interventions with potential to make a step-change in the promotion of health, treatment of disease, and improvement of rehabilitation or long-term care. Within these studies, the programme supports research in the mechanisms of diseases and treatments.

The EME Programme looks to attract studies with novel methodological designs that deliver results more efficiently, reduce the study timeline and maximise the knowledge gained. The translational research it supports covers a wide range of new and repurposed interventions, such as diagnostic or prognostic tests, decision-making tools, therapeutics or psychological treatments, medical devices, and public health initiatives delivered in the NHS.

The programme supports clinical trials and evaluative studies in patients that: evaluate clinical efficacy of interventions where proof-of-concept in humans has already been achieved, add significantly to our understanding of biological or behavioural mechanisms and processes, or explore new scientific or clinical principles.

There are two workstreams: researcher-led and commissioned. Both workstreams fund large projects with clear stages and milestones. Proposals may include pilot and feasibility studies and late development of technologies. The programme welcomes collaborations with industry and charities.

The EME Programme is a partnership between the Medical Research Council (MRC) and the NIHR. Researchers in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are eligible to apply.

Calls/Competitions  
Application process  
Alerts  
Contact  
Website

Researcher-led and commissioned calls  
Typically two-stage  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[eme@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:eme@nihr.ac.uk)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/eme](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/eme)

## Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR)

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The HS&DR Programme funds research to produce evidence on the quality, accessibility and organisation of health services. This includes evaluations of how the NHS might improve delivery of services. The audiences for this research are the public, service users, clinicians and managers.

The programme supports a range of types of research, including evidence synthesis and primary research. This includes large-scale studies of national importance that: address an issue of major strategic importance to the NHS, are likely to lead to changes in practice that will have a significant impact on a large number of patients across the UK, aim to fill a clear 'evidence gap', or are likely to generate new knowledge of direct relevance to the NHS.

The HS&DR Programme has two workstreams: researcher-led and commissioned. The researcher-led workstream accepts applications from researchers on any question that is within the programme remit. The commissioned workstream issues calls on specific topics that have been identified as high priority for the NHS.

Calls/Competitions  
Application process  
Alerts  
Contact  
Website

Researcher-led and commissioned calls  
Two-stage  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[hsdr@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:hsdr@nihr.ac.uk)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/hsdr](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/hsdr)



## Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

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The HTA Programme funds research about the clinical and cost effectiveness, and broader impact, of healthcare treatments and tests for those who plan, provide or receive care in the NHS. HTA research is undertaken where some evidence already exists to show that a technology can be effective, and this technology needs to be compared with the current standard NHS intervention to see which works best.

The term ‘health technology’ can cover any intervention used in the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of disease. This means HTA research could evaluate, for example, devices, procedures, drugs, settings of care or screening, provided the study outcomes lead to findings that have the potential to be of direct benefit to NHS patients.

The HTA Programme has two main workstreams: researcher-led and commissioned.

The researcher-led workstream offers researchers the opportunity to submit proposals on topics or research questions within the programme’s remit. There are three cut-off dates a year when applications will be considered.

The commissioned workstream invites applications in response to calls for research on specific questions that have been identified and prioritised for their importance to the NHS and patients. Proposals may include primary research, evidence synthesis, or feasibility and pilot studies.

### Calls/Competitions Application process

Alerts  
Contact  
Website

Researcher-led and commissioned calls  
Primary research – two-stage\*  
Evidence synthesis – one-stage\*

[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[htafunding@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:htafunding@nihr.ac.uk)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/hta](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/hta)

\*Flexible depending on the type of call



## Invention for Innovation (i4i)

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The i4i Programme is a translational funding scheme that supports the preclinical and clinical development of innovative medical technologies. The aim of i4i is to de-risk early stage projects that have a strong potential for commercialisation and acceptance for use in the NHS, and to make them attractive to follow-on funders and investors.

The i4i Programme is intended to help bridge the 'valley of death' in early stage medtech innovation, by supporting collaborative research and development from proof-of-concept stage through to clinical safety and efficacy evaluation of completed prototypes.

The proposed technology or intervention must address an existing or emerging healthcare need and must have a clear pathway towards commercialisation and NHS adoption. The expected output is an advanced or clinically validated prototype medical device, technology or intervention.

The i4i Programme runs two funding streams: Product Development Awards and Challenge Awards. Product Development Awards support research and development of medical devices, active implantable devices and *in vitro* diagnostic devices in any area of existing or emerging clinical need. Challenge Awards address a particular challenge that is a priority for the NHS.

As collaboration is key to the development of innovative healthcare technologies, the i4i Programme requires project teams to comprise at least two organisations from universities, Higher Education Institutions, NHS organisations or industry. The involvement of small and medium enterprises is particularly welcome.

[Calls/Competitions](#)  
[Application process](#)  
[Alerts](#)  
[Contact](#)  
[Website](#)

Researcher-led and commissioned calls  
Two-stage  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[i4i@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:i4i@nihr.ac.uk)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/i4i](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/i4i)

## Programme Grants for Applied Research (PGfAR)

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The PGfAR Programme provides funding for major programmes of research that are a priority for the NHS.

These awards support research that will deliver findings with practical application, typically through improved healthcare or better healthcare delivery, within three to five years of a programme's end.

The programmes funded consist of an interrelated group of high quality projects focused on a coherent theme. Programmes should include multidisciplinary approaches, including clinical, health economics, statistics, qualitative and behavioural sciences, to ensure that research objectives can be met.

Calls/Competitions	Researcher-led
Application process	Two-stage
Alerts	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up">www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up</a>
Contact	<a href="mailto:programme.grants@nihr.ac.uk">programme.grants@nihr.ac.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/pgfar">www.nihr.ac.uk/pgfar</a>

## Programme Development Grants (PDG)

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If aspects of a proposed PGfAR application need preparatory work, a PDG is available to strengthen the basis for a full Programme Grant application.

Calls/Competitions	Researcher-led
Application process	One-stage
Alerts	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up">www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up</a>
Contact	<a href="mailto:programme.grants@nihr.ac.uk">programme.grants@nihr.ac.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/pdg">www.nihr.ac.uk/pdg</a>

## Public Health Research (PHR)

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The PHR Programme funds research to inform the delivery of non-NHS interventions intended to improve the health of the public and reduce inequalities in health. Its scope is multidisciplinary and broad, covering a wide range of interventions that improve public health.

Proposed primary outcome measures should always be health related, unless otherwise specified. Examples include examining whether regeneration programmes improve public health and reduce health inequalities, evaluating employer schemes to encourage walking or cycling to work and assessing interventions that encourage healthy eating among school children.

Calls/Competitions  
Application process  
Alerts  
Contact  
Website

Researcher-led and commissioned calls  
Two-stage  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[phr@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:phr@nihr.ac.uk)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/phr](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/phr)



## Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB)

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The RfPB Programme funds NHS research. The projects funded are for regionally derived applied research in health services and social care. The programme's strong regional element is unique within NIHR's research programmes.

Members of the regional panels that assess the applications are drawn from local academic institutions and health organisations. Members of the public and service users from within the region are also appointed to the regional panels.

RfPB does not specify topics for research and encourages proposals for projects covering a wide range of health service issues and challenges. The programme funds a broad range of topics and research methodologies that increase the effectiveness of NHS services, provide value for money and benefit patients. The programme also supports relevant feasibility studies to help reach the next step of a definitive trial.

All researchers in the NHS in England can apply, and joint applications with academic partners are encouraged.

[Calls/Competitions](#)  
[Application process](#)  
[Alerts](#)  
[Contact](#)  
[Website](#)

Researcher-led  
Two-stage  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[rfpb@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rfpb@nihr.ac.uk)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/rfpb](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/rfpb)

## Systematic Reviews (SR)

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Systematic reviews identify, evaluate, combine and summarise the findings of all relevant individual studies, to provide decision makers with the best possible information about the effects of tests, treatments and other interventions used in health and social care.

The SR Programme consists of a number of initiatives including the Cochrane Review Groups, the UK Cochrane Centre and the Health Technology Assessment Reviews, which provide high quality research evidence to support decision-making.

The SR Programme supports the production and updates of systematic reviews, by both core infrastructure funding and open competition via two funding streams: the Cochrane Programme Grant Scheme and the Cochrane Incentive Awards.

The Cochrane Programme Grant Scheme supports high quality systematic reviews that are of direct benefit to users of the NHS in England. This call runs every three years.

The Cochrane Incentive Awards are available to Cochrane Review Groups to facilitate, and possibly accelerate, activity that is already planned or is underway. This call runs annually.

[Calls/Competitions](#)  
[Application process](#)  
[Alerts](#)  
[Contact](#)  
[Website](#)

Researcher-led and commissioned calls  
Two-stage  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[srp@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:srp@nihr.ac.uk)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sr](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sr)



## Research funded by the research programmes

NIHR's research programmes fund research using a wide range of study designs, including (but not limited to) evidence synthesis, pilot and feasibility studies, randomised controlled trials, and quantitative and qualitative research. Most NIHR programmes fund research that is later rather than earlier in the research pathway, and none fund research in animals.

For all programmes, except the Systematic Reviews Programme, the key issue is not the study design but the question. Programmes are open to any rigorous design that addresses a question that is within the remit of the programme. Each programme's remit is described in the preceding pages, and there is more information on the programme webpages.

Guidance on the broad research area and stage funded by each NIHR research programme, and whether linked research studies are funded, is provided below and on page 15.

### Broad research areas

**Public health** covers research about the evaluation or delivery of interventions intended to improve the health of healthy populations or groups of patients (NB not including research into the causes of health problems).

**Health services and organisation** covers research that improves patient safety and service organisation.

**Clinical evaluation and translation** covers evaluations into the efficacy, effectiveness, costs and broader impact of healthcare interventions.

**Technology development** covers the R&D of any innovative medical technology including medical devices, active implantable devices and *in vitro* diagnostic devices, and their translation into the clinical environment.

### Types of evidence

**Evidence synthesis** is bringing together different kinds of evidence, for instance into a systematic review or an economic model.

**Evidence generation** is producing new evidence (primary research).

### Scale of funding

**Projects** are individual studies that are funded as a research project.

**Programmes** are linked studies that are funded together as a programme of research.

## Plain English summaries

The NIHR is committed to making sure that research is easy to understand by people who may not be familiar with scientific vocabulary or medical jargon. Applicants for both research programmes and researcher-led career development awards are required to provide a good quality, plain English summary about their research in their application. This summary will be assessed as part of the review process and, if found not to be of a good quality, applicants might be asked to improve it as a condition of funding. Further information is available on NIHR's 'make it clear' webpage: [www.invo.org.uk/makeitclear](http://www.invo.org.uk/makeitclear).

## Types of research funded

	Research programme								
Broad research area	EME	HS&DR	HTA	i4i	PGfAR	PDG	PHR	RfPB	SR
Public health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Health services and organisation	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Clinical evaluation and translation	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Technology development	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Types of evidence									
Evidence synthesis	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Evidence generation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Programmes of research	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓

### Key:

EME	Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation	PGfAR	Programme Grants for Applied Research
HS&DR	Health Services and Delivery Research	PDG	Programme Development Grants
HTA	Health Technology Assessment	PHR	Public Health Research
i4i	Invention for Innovation	RfPB	Research for Patient Benefit
		SR	Systematic Reviews

## Who can apply

Any organisation that considers that it can carry out high quality clinical, applied health or social care research is likely to be eligible to seek NIHR funding, either directly or in association with a partner organisation (see later for personal awards for research training and career development).

Applicants for research programmes are strongly advised to consider establishing partnerships with other relevant sectors or organisations to demonstrate they have the full breadth of expertise to carry out their proposed research.

Applicants should always check individual call specification documents for any specific eligibility requirements. Applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant programme if they have questions regarding eligibility.

## Calls/Competitions, funding amounts and periods

	Research programme								
	EME	HS&DR	HTA	i4i	PGfAR	PDG	PHR	RfPB	SR
Calls and competitions (number of opportunities to apply per year)									
Researcher-led	3	3	3	2	3	3	3*	3	1*
Commissioned	3	3	3	1*	N/A	N/A	3*	N/A	N/A
Themed	Frequency and participating programmes as advertised								
Funding amounts and periods									
Funding limit**	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit	No limit***	£100k	No limit	£350k <sup>†</sup>	£400k
Period of funding	No fixed period	No fixed period	No fixed period	Up to 3 years	No fixed period***	0-18 months	No fixed period	Up to 3 years	Up to 3 years

Notes: \*Subject to change. \*\*Applicants must fully justify all costs. \*\*\*Period and level of funding depends on nature of proposed work, in particular whether a fully powered evaluative study is included - funding above £2.5 million will be unusual. Programmes terminating in feasibility studies will be unlikely to receive more than £500,000. <sup>†</sup>Feasibility studies are expected to cost less than £250,000 and proposals which will generate results that may be useful for more downstream investigations are expected to cost less than £150,000.

The NIHR provides career development and support with the aim of creating the next generation of researchers and improving the quality of leadership in health and social care research. This aim is achieved through the provision of a comprehensive range of research training and career development programmes, as well as a leadership support programme.

## Research training programmes

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The awards that make up NIHR's training programmes range from undergraduate level through to opportunities for established investigators and research leaders. Research conducted as part of the award must be relevant to the health service and is expected to produce an outcome that will benefit patients and/or the public within five years of completion.

The training programmes are aimed at a range of professions and designed to suit different working arrangements and career pathways. They can be researcher, individual or institution-led.

A summary of each programme is provided in the next section. Further information is available at [www.nihr.ac.uk/training-programmes](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/training-programmes). An RSS feed and the latest funding calls can be found at [www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development-opportunities](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development-opportunities).

## Fellowships Programme

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The NIHR Fellowships are open to all professions and offer five levels of fellowship. The awards cover the salary costs, research costs, and training and development costs of the trainee. The following fellowships are available on an annual basis:

- Doctoral Research Fellowship (PhD) funding
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship (post-doctoral experience  $\leq$  three years)
- Career Development Fellowship (post-doctoral experience  $\leq$  seven years)
- Senior Research Fellowship (independent researchers)
- Transitional Research Fellowship (post-doctoral experience  $\leq$  five years)

Calls/Competitions  
Application process  
Alerts  
Website

Researcher-led  
Shortlist and interview  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/fellow](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/fellow)

## Integrated Academic Training Programme

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Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACF) and Clinical Lectureships (CL) are open to doctors and dentists. They are specialty training posts that incorporate protected time for research in order to enable pursuit of a clinical academic career. Appointments to these posts are made through selected Academic Programmes that have been allocated to a partnership of a Higher Education Institution, an NHS organisation and Health Education England local office.

In-Practice Fellowships (IPF) offer fully qualified General Practitioners, General Dental Practitioners and community dentists the opportunity to pursue a pre-doctoral level academic qualification and prepare an application for a Doctoral Fellowship.

The Clinician Scientist (CS) award is a post-doctoral level award, open to researchers working in medicine and dentistry who are capable of leading research in their discipline. The awards last up to five years and cover salary, research, training and development costs.

Calls/Competitions  
Application process

Institution-led (ACF/CL) or researcher-led (IPF/CS)  
Apply to institution (ACF/CL) or NIHR (IPF/CS);  
shortlist and interview

Alerts

[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up) and Integrated Academic  
Training partnership websites

Website

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



## Research Methods Programme

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The Research Methods Programme supports the development of talented individuals with expertise in research methods, including statistics, clinical trials, health economics, operational research and modelling, through its Research Methods Fellowships and Internships scheme. A new addition to this programme is the Systematic Review Fellowships scheme, which aims to support individuals from any discipline by providing training at an early stage of their career to help address the current shortage of systematic reviewers. Capacity development in research methods is also supported by the NIHR through its funding of Masters Studentships in Health Economics and Medical Statistics.

Calls/Competitions  
Application process  
Alerts  
Website

Institution-led  
One-stage  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up) and institution websites  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/rm](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/rm)



## HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme

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The ICA Programme is funded by Health Education England (HEE) and managed by the NIHR. The programme provides personal research training awards for registered non-medical healthcare professionals who wish to develop careers that combine clinical research and research leadership with continued clinical practice and clinical development.

The following awards are available on an annual basis:

- Masters in Clinical Research Studentships (apply to the funded institution)
- Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowships (PhD funding)
- Clinical Lectureship (post-doctoral experience < three years)
- Senior Clinical Lectureship (substantial post-doctoral experience)

The full list of eligible professions is available from the ICA webpage below.

[Calls/Competitions](#)  
[Application process](#)

Institution-led or researcher-led  
Apply to NIHR or institution (Masters),  
one-stage or shortlist and interview

[Alerts](#)  
[Website](#)

[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up) and institution websites  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/hee-ica](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/hee-ica)

## Research Professorships

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Research Professorships are open to all professions and are appointed through nominations invited from universities in partnership with the NHS or other health service providers. Where there are two nominees, one of the nominees must be female. Research Professorships facilitate strong research leadership at the highest academic level. Outstanding translational research nominees should have spent no more than five years as a professor, reader, senior lecturer/fellow, clinical scientist or group leader. Each award provides support for salary cost, three support posts, research cost and indirect costs.

[Calls/Competitions](#)  
[Application process](#)  
[Alerts](#)  
[Website](#)

Institution-led  
Shortlist and interview  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up)  
[www.nihr.ac.uk/rprofs](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/rprofs)

## Knowledge Mobilisation Research Fellowships

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The Knowledge Mobilisation Research Fellowship Programme welcomes applications from clinicians and academics alike. The programme supports awardees to apply innovative approaches to the mobilisation of knowledge derived from health research, while simultaneously researching the processes and impacts of such innovation. Knowledge Mobilisation Research Fellowships are personal awards and fund a fellow's salary costs, a personalised training and development programme, and an appropriate knowledge mobilisation research project.

Calls/Competitions	Researcher-led
Application process	Shortlist and interview
Alerts	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up">www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/kmrf">www.nihr.ac.uk/kmrf</a>

## Clinical Trial Fellowships

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The Clinical Trial Fellowships are designed to support existing NIHR Trainees who have the experience and interest in working with clinical trials as part of their current training award, and who would benefit from further training within the setting of an NIHR-supported Clinical Trials Unit (CTU).

Calls/Competitions	Researcher-led
Application process	One-stage
Alerts	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up">www.nihr.ac.uk/sign-up</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/ctf">www.nihr.ac.uk/ctf</a>

## School for Primary Care Research Fellowships

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The School for Primary Care Research Fellowships train future research leaders in primary care research to remedy short supply in areas of particular methodological importance to primary care research, for example statistical expertise and health economics.

Calls/Competitions	Institution-led
Application process	Shortlist and interview
Contact	<a href="mailto:nihrspcr@phc.ox.ac.uk">nihrspcr@phc.ox.ac.uk</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/trainees">www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/trainees</a>

## Leadership Support and Development Programme

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The Leadership Support and Development Programme is for individuals in the NIHR who are in, or are aspiring to be in, leadership positions. The programme is open to NIHR leaders, advanced trainees, managers and directors.

The aim of the Leadership Programme is to improve the quality of leadership in health and social care research. This will ensure that achievement of NIHR's strategic goals is underpinned by leadership development, as happens in other leading organisations. The programme focuses on leadership development that contributes to research performance and to the strategic priorities of the NIHR.

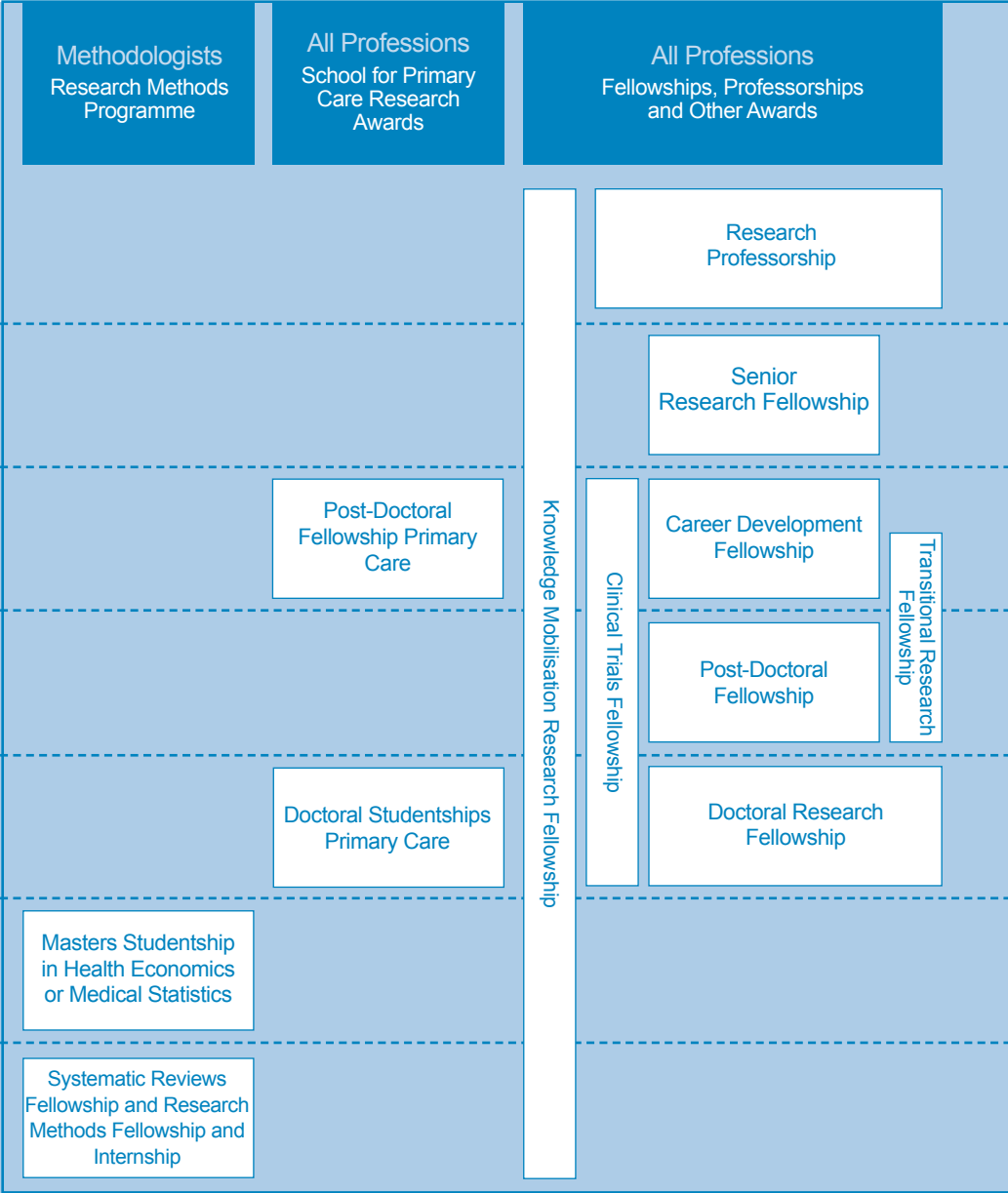
Calls/Competitions	Individual-led
Website	<a href="http://www.nihr.ac.uk/leadership">www.nihr.ac.uk/leadership</a>

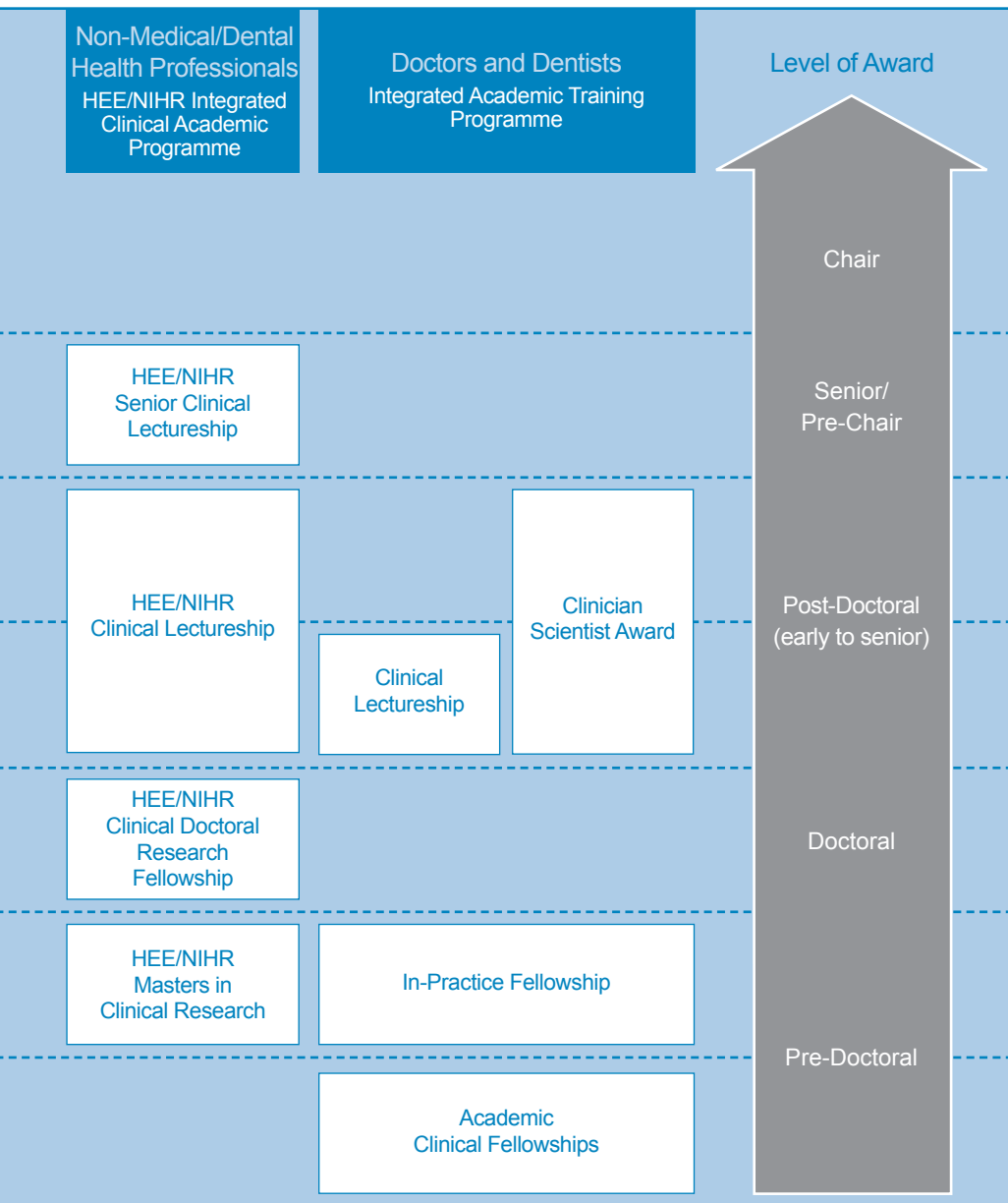






# Research career pathway chart





## Research Design Service (RDS)

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The RDS provides advice and support to research teams to develop and submit high quality applied health and social care grant applications to NIHR and other national peer-reviewed funding programmes.

The RDS offers specialist advice on all aspects of an application including:

- research questions and design
- research methods
- identifying suitable sources of funding
- involving the public in research, from idea to dissemination
- identifying potential academic, clinical and lay collaborators
- troubleshooting after funding.

Advice is confidential and free of charge.

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

### RDS East of England

Email [rds.eoe@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.eoe@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 01206 874856

### RDS South Central

Email [rds.sc@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.sc@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 023 8120 4778

### RDS East Midlands

Email [rds.em@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.em@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 0116 252 3276  
Tel 0115 970 9310

### RDS South East

Email [rds.se@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.se@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 0127 364 3952

### RDS London

Email [rds.london@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.london@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 020 7848 6782

### RDS South West

Email [rds.sw@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.sw@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 0182 334 2792

### RDS North East

Email [rds.ne@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.ne@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 0191 334 0826

### RDS West Midlands

Email [rds.wm@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.wm@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 0121 414 8533

### RDS North West

Email [rds.nw@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.nw@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 0152 459 3209

### RDS Yorkshire and the Humber

Email [rds.yh@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:rds.yh@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 0114 222 0828

## Patient and public involvement

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The NIHR is committed to active patient and public involvement to enhance the quality, relevance and acceptability of the research it funds. All research applicants are asked to describe how they have involved patients and the public in developing their research proposal, as well as plans for involvement in the research study. Through the INVOLVE Programme, the NIHR offers information, guidance and online resources on patient and public involvement in research and the difference it can make.

Email [involve@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:involve@nihr.ac.uk)  
Tel 023 8059 5628  
Website [www.invo.org.uk](http://www.invo.org.uk)

## Journals Library

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The NIHR is the world's first health research funder to publish comprehensive accounts of its commissioned research within its own peer-reviewed collection of journals. Total and complete publication of research findings is part of NIHR's commitment to Open Access and adding value to all stages of research.

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

## Dissemination Centre

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The Dissemination Centre supports NHS decision-making by producing:

- Signals: short, accessible summaries of new research that has been identified as particularly important to clinicians, patients and managers
- Highlights: compact digests of research evidence addressing significant health service issues
- Themed Reviews: summaries of the state of the evidence on key health and social care issues, developed with a steering group of professional, patient and carer experts.

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

# Contacts

## National Institute for Health Research

Email [enquiries@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@nihr.ac.uk)  
Website [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)

## Coordinating Centres

For the Programme Grants for Applied Research, Programme Development Grants, Research for Patient Benefit and Invention for Innovation research programmes, contact the **Central Commissioning Facility**

Email [ccf@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:ccf@nihr.ac.uk)  
Telephone 020 8843 8000  
Website [www.nihr.ac.uk/ccf](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/ccf)

For the Efficacy and Mechanism Evaluation, Health Services and Delivery Research, Health Technology Assessment, Public Health Research and Systematic Reviews research programmes, contact the **Evaluation, Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre**

Email [netscomms@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:netscomms@nihr.ac.uk)  
Telephone 023 8059 5586  
Website [www.nihr.ac.uk/nets](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nets)

For career development and support, contact the **Trainees Coordinating Centre**

Email [tcc@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:tcc@nihr.ac.uk)  
Telephone 0113 346 6260  
Website [www.nihr.ac.uk/tcc](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/tcc)



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