

RCEM Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Scheme

Introduction

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) is launching a number of Pre-Doctoral Fellowships. Applications are invited from trainees in Emergency Medicine (EM) from CT1 and above, as well as non-training middle grade clinicians and ANPs who wish to develop academically. This scheme will fund 12-month Fellowships aimed at offering the holder protected research time which will be used primarily to develop proposals for a larger Doctoral Fellowship Award application (e.g. NIHR), which will be undertaken at a later date.

Fellowship time may also be used to conduct pilot research which will contribute to the proposal. This research can involve patients, samples or data from patients, people who are not patients, populations, health technology assessment and health services research. The RCEM does not fund research work involving animals and/or animal tissue.

Potential applicants and their host organisations should note that the RCEM PhD Fellowship Scheme is a personal award designed to contribute to an individual's salary costs (the remainder being provided by the applicant's supporting consortia) during the Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. The Doctoral Research Fellowship (RCEM-DRF-Policy) is aimed at individuals of outstanding potential, early in their research careers. It aims to facilitate them through the early stages of the doctoral fellowship application process in an environment reflecting their individual talents and training needs. It is anticipated that successful applicants would aim to obtain funding for a Doctoral fellowship within 2 years of completing the RCEM Pre-Doctoral Fellowship.

Following completion of a RCEM-DRF, the Fellows are expected to have successfully completed a robust research and training programme and be able to show evidence of:

- Completion of the research proposed in the application
- An outline plan for a PhD application
- Completion of a substantial and wide-ranging training element
- Increased research skills
- Publications arising from the Fellowship
- Involvement in collaborative relationships

Evidence of the above will be sought through interim and final report monitoring.

Research projects undertaken as part of a RCEM Fellowship will be included on the NIHR portfolio. Local Research Design Service (RDS) support should be available for all NIHR portfolio project research proposals.

Eligibility

1. Applicants for a RCEM Pre-Doctoral Fellowship must be able to demonstrate that they have previous research experience. For example, a Masters qualification would be an indicator of such experience.
2. Applicants must be medically qualified and either a trainee or holder of a substantive post in EM.

3. The RCEM Pre-Doctoral Fellowships are intended to fund individuals to undertake preliminary work and prepare an application for a PhD. Applicants who have already begun a programme of work to achieve a research doctorate are not eligible to apply.

4. Only one application to the RCEM Fellowship Scheme is permitted in each round. Multiple applications will not be accepted

Scope

1. The Fellowships may be undertaken on a part-time basis for 1 year at 25-50% WTE. In rare cases there may be scope to spread the funding over 2 years duration. The RCEM is not able to fund awards of any other duration or profile.

2. The RCEM award will contribute towards the applicant's salary, including the employer's contribution to National Insurance and superannuation (proportion funded 25-50%).

3. The RCEM award will also contribute £25,000 total over the duration of the award towards directly incurred costs, e.g. postage and/or conference fees. A training & development programme appropriate for a Pre-Doctoral research fellowship may (proportion funded 100% - maximum £5k)

4. The direct funding for this fellowship cannot be used to fund computers, non-specialist office software, internet access, or open-source publication costs

Application Procedure

Fellowships will be awarded based on open competition. Applications must be received by Mon April 2023, interviews will be held in the second half of April 2023

All documents must be submitted in English.

Fellowships should begin between April and September 2023 and cannot normally be deferred.

Timetable

27 February 2023 - Advert open

10 April 2023 Closing date (17:00) for submissions

12 April 2023 (W/C) Shortlisting by Panel

April 2023 Interviews and decision to award (date TBC)

September 2023 - Latest date to begin award

Applicants are asked to keep the interview dates available to attend for interview in London (although interviews may be held remotely as circumstance dictates).

Please send your application along with a copy of your CV to nicole.kelly@rcem.ac.uk by 17:00 10 April 2023

Selection Process

- Applications are reviewed by panel members.
- Panel members attend short-listing meeting to discuss and rank applications and produce a list of candidates for interview.
- Panel holds interviews.

Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed on the following criteria:

- The potential and trajectory of the candidate as an (EM) researcher and future research leader.
- Previous experience of research and evidence of commitment to a career in academic EM.
- The likelihood that the individual will make a long-term contribution to EM research development in their chosen field in the UK.
- The quality of the proposed research and the likelihood of it securing external funding where appropriate.
- The quality of the proposed training programme.
- The suitability of the proposed academic and institutional support.
- The quality of the proposed research and its suitability as a potential PhD project.
- The appropriateness of resources claimed and whether the total funding requested represents good value for the use of RCEM funds

SECTION A – Application Summary

1. Candidate Enter your name and title. Please indicate whether you currently hold a RCEM grant award indicating which award.

2. Current Appointment Enter details of your current post.

3. Correspondence Address Correspondence is sent to your work address unless you specify an alternative address in this section.

4. Proposed Academic Host (Higher Education Institution) Give the name and address of the Higher Education Institution where you intend to be based during your Fellowship.

5. Short Title of Proposed Research Provide a short title for your proposed research. This is used for reference purposes and should be no more than fifteen words.

6. Fellowship Schedule

- Start Date: Choose a date; please consider this carefully, taking into account any ethical approval requirements. If your proposed research requires ethical approval before your Fellowship can begin this may affect your start date. Note that the date you choose is the date you will be expected to start a Fellowship if your application is successful.

- Proposed Duration: The duration of a Fellowship may be 1 year part-time (25-50% WTE undertaking research and related training) or in rare cases two years part-time (25% WTE undertaking research and related training). All other activities, for example clinical work, must be undertaken outside the percentage time declared as the basis of the Fellowship. It is not possible to undertake a Fellowship on any other basis than 50% or 25% WTE.