

FAQ CRN EM Health and Care Professionals Research Scholarship Programme Applications

Applicant Eligibility Q&A's

Would a PGDip along with my original BA (Hons) and some standalone Masters modules be suitable for applying?

As long as you fit the essential criteria, then you would be eligible to apply. The Higher degree, Msc or post graduate qualification in a relevant subject area is desirable but not essential.

Essential Selection Criteria (Group 1)

Experience and participation in NIHR Portfolio studies or participation in Social and or Public Health Care research

Potential to generate grant income ideally for NIHR CRN Portfolio research, linking with the CRN EM to ensure deliverability

A commitment to keeping in touch post award to support monitoring of impact and continued learning from the programme

Applicants employment is made up of least 80% non academic funding

A commitment to attend the Welcome Introductions half day afternoon meeting scheduled for mid May (Date TBC) and the 30-60 minute online Scholarship support meetings scheduled for September & December 2024, & March 2025 (Dates TBC)

Is this open to medical consultants?

Yes it is.

Would the fact that my post is a fixed term (expires before scholarship end date) at present disadvantage me in getting this scholarship?

It would be worthwhile having a conversation with your manager to see if under the circumstances, it could be up for consideration for your Locum contract to be extended for the duration required in order to complete the scholarship. Within the application form there is a section for statement of support, the service manager/ person responsible for your contract, if agreeable would state something like, 'should they be successful at the interview it would be our intent to extend the locum contract'.

If you are not able to negotiate and confirm that your employment contract will cover the term of the scholarship, unfortunately you would not be eligible.

I've noted you've stated that you will accept researchers for social care, however I wasn't sure whether this would also apply to research in this area, as they are not traditionally CRN portfolio studies?

We are extremely keen to grow our CI capacity in social care research, even if it doesn't get onto the NIHR portfolio.

Is the scheme restricted to registered professionals?

We do not have a set requirement of applicants needing to be a registered professional as part of the application process. We are really keen not to exclude potential applicants

I have identified a mentor who is a clinical academic lead and has previous experience as a CI and PI. However they are not currently leading a study at the moment. Would they still be accepted as a mentor?

It would be acceptable for your clinical academic Lead to mentor you, however having a second mentor who is currently leading research as a PI/CI, would provide you with more rounded support. So if you could identify a second mentor that is currently a PI/C that would be the next step.

I don't have any CI experience or won grant funding, would I be eligible to apply?

I can't see any reason why you would not be eligible to apply for our scholarship. We positively encourage individuals who are early on in their research career, i.e. those that have not taken on a CI role, or won any grant funding, to apply for this opportunity to progress their research career.

Funding Q&A's

I note in the guidance notes that it states applicants must have at least 80% non-academic funding at the moment. Does this refer to University funding, or does it mean that anyone with more than 20% research time in their job plan, regardless of funder, is ineligible?

It refers to an individual's University academic research funded time which should not be more than 20%.

How will the scholarship be paid - Will I be seconded out externally?

Your current contract would continue, with your line manager agreeing to adjust your job plan and reduce your current commitments hours to incorporate the scholarship hours. The funding provided through the programme would enable your line manager to back fill your commitments (up to 0.2WTE/2 PA's). So the scholarship wouldn't be a secondment, your contract would remain in place with your current role encompassing the scholarship programme.

Under additional training / support could I request some PPI costs?

For PPI costs related to training requirements, please include, and these can be discussed should you be shortlisted.

I am currently employed as a locum consultant whilst waiting for a permanent job. Therefore my employer/job title is almost certain to change in the next 12 months. I was wondering if this would automatically exclude me from applying for the programme or not?

As long as you are confident that your Consultant employment will span the 12 months of the scholarship whether that be in a locum position or if you are successful in gaining a substantive consultant position then this is not an issue. Also that you meet the eligibility criteria that your employment does not consist of more than 20% academic funding.

Project/ideas Q&A's

I have a few study ideas I am pursuing for post doc research - should I include all of these or would you recommend focussing on one for this application?

We recommend focusing on just one idea for this application