

Aim: To support individuals to undertake a PhD in an area of NIHR research.

What we fund:

- Completion of a PhD over 3 years WTE
- Training and development to undertake research and to develop as a future health/social care leader
- Up to 20% clinical/practice time, linked to the research being undertaken

What's available:

- Salary for the applicant for 3 years WTE
- PhD fees up to the Research Council UK's published fees
- Cost of the training & development programme
- £3000 for conference related costs
- Other travel expenses
- Between 50%-100% WTE

- Research must fit within the NIHR Remit (full remit available on website). For personal doctoral-level awards the proposal:
 - Must be for clinical and applied health research, including social care research
 - Must have clear potential for directly benefiting patients and the public (but recognising the training element of the research)
 - Can involve: patients; samples or data from patients; people who are not patients; populations; health technology assessment; or health services research
- This Fellowship is open to any professional background.
- Host institutions must be an HEI, NHS body or other health/social care provider based in England or a participating devolved nation

What we're looking for:

- PERSON
 - Relevant experience/ training to undertake proposed PhD
 - Outputs from experience/training relative to career stage
 - Suitability and commitment of the applicant to a career as a researcher in applied health or social care research.
 - Potential to become a future leader in applied health or social care research.
- PROJECT
 - Scope of research suitable for a PhD.
 - Relevance of research to patients/service users, carers, the public and users health and/or care services.
 - Suitability and standard of methodology and research design to answer research question being proposed.
 - Likely impact of the research to patients/service users, carers, the public and health and/or care services.
 - Quality of doctoral research already undertaken (where relevant).
 - Appropriate and meaningful patient/service users, carer and public involvement.
 - Quality and scope of review of existing evidence.
 - Quality of plain English summary.
- PLACE/TRAINING
 - High quality and relevant training programme
 - Track record of Host Department(s) in the research area being proposed.
 - Supervisory team with relevant & appropriate experience
 - Standard and level of host organisation's support including evidence of supporting other early career researchers.
 - Note: Supervision and host support are often areas where applications could improve

Strategic themes, links to industry and themed calls:

- The NIHR Academy has identified the following themes as key priority areas:
 - social care,
 - public health,
 - mental health
 - health data science
- The NIHR Academy is also encouraging applicants to involve an industry partner with co-funding of 25-50%
- Applications in the above two categories still need to achieve the same quality threshold, but will be prioritised if the number of fundable applications exceeds the maximum that can be funded.
- Applications to Themed Calls are encouraged, but **not** prioritised as described above.
- The current themed calls are:
 - Injuries, accidents, urgent and emergency care
 - Brain Tumours
- The majority of awards will be **researcher-led**

Doctoral Fellowship

Partnership Fellowships

- The NIHR has partnered with a number of charitable organisation and industry partners to offer jointly funded Fellowships
- Applicants considering a Partnership Fellowship should discuss it with the Academy and the proposed Partner prior to submission
- Applications are submitted and assessed in the same way as standard fellowships and will be considered as standard fellowships if necessary
- Details of the Partnership Fellowships available for each round are published in the Guidance Notes.

Timetable:

	April Launch	October Launch
Stage 1 opens	April	October
Stage 1 deadline	July	January
Interviews	November	June
Start dates	April - September	October - March