

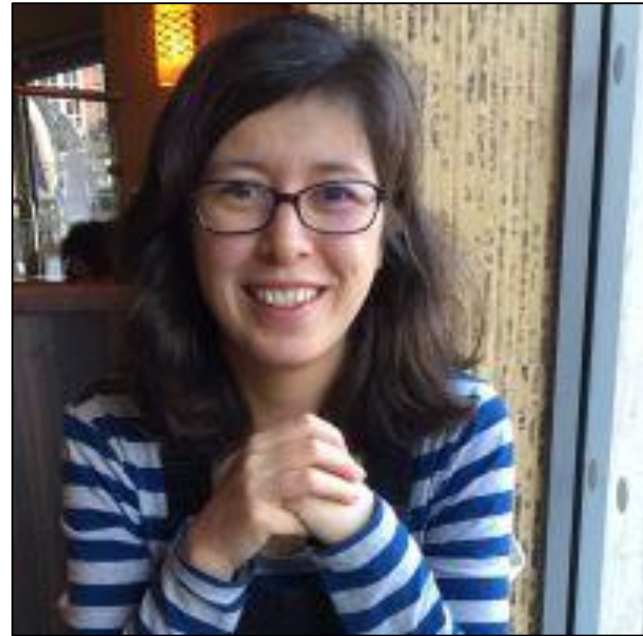


PhD programmes for Health Professionals

Webinar 14th January 2021

clinicalphd@wellcome.org

The team behind the scheme



Sophie Gilbert
Science Portfolio Manager

Kiri Tan
Senior Grants Advisor

Julia Kowalczyk
Grants Advisor

Sarah Kohe
Grants Advisor

Sara Marshall
Head of Clinical and
Physiological Sciences

Information about this scheme

- Website: <https://wellcome.org/grant-funding/schemes/phd-programmes-health-professionals>
- FAQ document – regularly updated
- Webinar - cover key areas where we have received questions since the launch of the competition
- Questions: clinicalphd@wellcome.org

Structure of webinar

Short presentation

- Wellcome's aims
- Strategic vision
- Research Topic
- Who can apply for a PhD fellowship?
- Who can apply for a PhD programme?
- Directoral team
- What's included
- Institutional support

Questions from Slido

Questions from audience – use chatbar

Why launch a PhD programme competition?

Wellcome's intended short-term outcomes:

- To fund bold and creative high-quality research
- To support capacity building of clinical academics
- To create and support positive and enabling research ecosystems

Wellcome's intended medium and long term outcomes:

- To build and empower a diverse and creative clinical academic workforce that can solve urgent health challenges and bring new insights into how life works
- To positively transform the culture that health research is embedded within

To deliver this by catalysing exemplar programmes of research training that offer outstanding research training to health professionals in supportive and inclusive research environments

Expectations: Strategic vision

Each programme will have a strategic vision and “unique selling point”

- **Geography:** eg “All-Ireland”, “University of XYZ”, *or*
- **Field of research:** eg Global Health, Dementia, *or*
- **Professional discipline:** eg General Practitioners, Physiotherapists, *or*
- **Technology/ Infrastructure:** eg data science, longitudinal population studies *or*
- Or ??

Strategic vision should be based on research and culture excellence, and/or the opportunity to address a specific need

Research Topic

Programmes should provide research training within the remit of our new strategy.

- Our strategy is based around **discovery research** and our three **health challenges** (mental health, emerging infections, global warming).
- Discovery research can include any discipline as long as the research is related to health -science, technology, engineering, maths, clinical research and experimental medicine, innovations, humanities, social science.....
- We welcome applications in the Health Challenge areas, but these will not be prioritised on topic alone

Who will the PhD fellows be?

Health professionals registered with a national, health professional regulatory body in the UK or Republic of Ireland

Why have a PhD scheme for health professionals?

Academic health professionals experience very specific challenges

- Academic role: developing research skills
- Clinical role: accreditation, maintaining clinical skills

Different point in their career to most PhD students

Particular issues around career transitions

Opportunity

- Enable and encourage health professionals to bring their clinical skills to research questions
- Offer a well-supported, dedicated environment address where specific issues around salary support, career transitions etc can be managed

Who will the PhD fellows be?

Programmes are open to all health professionals registered in UK or Republic of Ireland

- Doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, vets, allied health professionals....

<https://www.hse.gov.uk/healthservices/arrangements.htm#a8>

- Students are not eligible
- Individuals registered as health professionals in other countries but not in UK/RoI are not eligible

Who will the PhD fellows be?

How can support for so many professions be provided within a single programme?

Looking for generic characteristics from all programmes

- Understanding of the challenges of health professionals
- Inclusivity
- Flexibility to provide bespoke support if needed

If a specific professional group is targeted by the programme, we expect “built in” bespoke support

Who can apply?

Definitions

- **Institution:** a degree awarding organisation in UK or Republic of Ireland
- **Partner:** any other organisation eg an NHS Trust or Health Board, private company, or degree awarding organisation outside the UK or Republic of Ireland
- **Single institution application:** application involving one degree awarding organisation in UK or Republic of Ireland. This can include any number of partner organisations.
- **Consortium application:** application involving more than one institution. It can include any number of partner organisations.

Who can apply?

- Each institution can submit only one *single institution application*
- Each institution can submit as many *consortium applications* as they wish
- Each institution/partner should commit to only what they can deliver if all applications are successful
- Each programme submitted by an institution must be distinct from the others – no double counting

Management team

Programme Director: strong track record in training and supporting early career researchers. Needs to own the strategic vision, and have the authority to deliver it.

Co-directors: structure and skill mix of the team is for the applicants to decide

Programme manager

Clearly defined **management structure**, with articulation of how this aligns with institution/partner organisation governance

What's included - Programme

Package of funding: 3-5 fellowships per year for 5 years for each programme

Programme directors will manage recruitment and programme delivery, within the agreed funding envelope

Exact amount will depend on each programme, but in the 2016 competition, most fellowships were costed at £256,000 per fellow over 3 years (approx £6.4M/programme)

What's included - Individual fellowships

Salary

- 1.0 fte for 3 years – salary will be equivalent to the appropriate NHS pay scale (or equivalent)
- Most fellows will do 0.8fte research plus 0.2fte maintaining clinical skills
- Can be taken part-time. However the fellowship should be the sole regular employment i.e. cannot have two jobs

Research consumables

Travel

Training

University Fees

Overseas allowances if spending lengthy periods outside UK/RoI

Institutional support

“Demonstrable commitment from all associated institutions to delivering the aims of the programme.”

- Directors must have the full support of the host organisation(s) – our expectation includes dedicated time and recognition for the role played
- Programme manager support
- Other evidence of commitment eg matched fellowships



PhD programmes for Health Professionals

Questions