

Preparatory Clinical Research Training Fellowship for Medics

Guidance for potential applicants

The [NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre](#) will soon be advertising the above fellowship (2 posts are available) for clinical trainees (CT2 - ST6) who are committed to developing a career in translational research in the areas of mental health, clinical neuroscience or the interface between physical & mental health.

The aim of this guidance is to explain the scheme and what potential applicants will need to do before they apply. The application deadline is still to be confirmed but will be no earlier than Sunday 15th December 2019. Once confirmed, the date will be circulated and included in the advertising for the post.

What is the purpose of these fellowships?

Preparatory Fellowships are designed to provide dedicated time, resources and support to bridge the gap between clinical training and a research fellowship, clinical lectureship or other career development award.

The successful candidates will each be offered training and support from a senior research supervisor who will normally take an interest in their development after the placement and guide them through to the next stage of their research career. The expected outcome is the successful application for a Clinician Training Fellowship with the Medical Research Council (MRC), Wellcome Trust, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) or other funding body; a Clinical Lectureship or other career development award appropriate to the appointee's previous experience.

The posts

The posts are funded by the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and the appointees will work closely with lead investigators from that group, thus acquiring skills according to their interests. The post holder will benefit from expert supervision and access to resources and infrastructure across the organisation.

Two posts are available and we invite applications from candidates who wish to work in any area of the [Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre's research activity](#)

We particularly welcome applications from candidates who wish to work on a project based in the [NIHR-Wellcome King's Clinical Research Facility \(CRF\)](#). The CRF has projects running across the range of disciplines in psychiatry from schizophrenia, depression, dementia and drug abuse through anxiety and staff responses to patient death. In collaboration with the Centre for Neuroscience Imaging there are ongoing projects that use state-of-the-art neuroimaging, including neurogenetics neurophysiological approaches to measuring brain responses and pharmacological approaches to exploring new treatments and treatment mechanisms. For a fellowship project based in the CRF it is expected the post-holder will be directly involved in assessment of patients, procedures including infusions requiring close medical monitoring, and have direct involvement with MR imaging.

The exact location of each post will depend on the particular project and supervisory team that the successful candidate has applied to work with.

Who should apply?

Applications are invited from clinical trainees (CT2 - ST6) who are undergoing clinical training in the UK, and who are committed to developing a research career in the UK in the areas of mental health, clinical neuroscience or the interface between physical & mental health.

Funding

- Salary:** Funding will cover the post-holder's current salary, plus £2,162 London Weighting Allowance. The Flexible Pay Premium will be paid where applicable.
- Non-pay costs:** Funding is available to support the fellow with the cost of additional training, presenting at conferences and reasonable project costs. Please see numbered item 4 (Budget) on the next page for more information.
- The post holder will be employed by King's College London on a fixed term contract for a maximum of 12 months (minimum 6 months). The post is full-time for 40 hours per week. Applications for part-time hours will be considered for a minimum of 40% FTE.

The application process

Before applying, potential applicants must approach supervisors to discuss projects that can be taken forward for the fellowship and developed further for a full clinical research training fellowship application. Applicants can propose their own project or develop one suggested by their prospective supervisor.

Projects must fit the remit of the NIHR Maudsley BRC's research priorities focused around novel treatments, precision medicine, translational informatics and mental-physical health.

Projects must also fit at least one of the [Maudsley BRC's research themes](#). Please see Appendix A at the end of this document.

Details about the departments at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN) and the research taking place in each department can be found on the King's College London website: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn>

Further information about the work of individual researchers can be found in the [King's College London Research Portal](#)

The following Principal Investigators are currently leading research studies in the NIHR-Wellcome King's Clinical Research Facility:

Principal Investigator	Clinical Academic Specialty	Email
Professor Peter Goadsby	Pain and Headache	peter.goadsby@kcl.ac.uk
Dr Matthew Howard	Pain and Neuroimaging	matthew.howard@kcl.ac.uk
Professor Philip McGuire	Psychosis; Psychiatry & Cognitive Neuroscience	Philip.mcguire@kcl.ac.uk
Professor Mitul Mehta	Neuroimaging and Psychopharmacology	Mitul.mehta@kcl.ac.uk
Professor Carmine Pariante	Biological Psychiatry; stress and inflammation	Carmine.pariante@kcl.ac.uk
Professor John Strang	Substance use and Addiction	john.strang@kcl.ac.uk
Professor Allan Young	Mood Disorders	allan.young@kcl.ac.uk
Dr Lucia Valmaggia	Virtual reality and digital mental health	lucia.valmaggia@kcl.ac.uk

We anticipate these posts will be advertised from the week commencing 18th November on both the [King's College London](#) and [Maudsley BRC](#) websites. All applications must be submitted via the King's College London on-line application system; the advert will include the link to the on-line system.

In addition to the on-line form, applications must include the following 5 documents in the order given:

1. Covering letter (2 pages) to include:
 - Planned start date and duration for the fellowship if awarded (NB: the Fellowship duration must be for a minimum of 6 months and maximum of 12 months)
 - An explanation of how you would use this opportunity to prepare for the next stage of your research career
 - Explanation of choice of host research department and project supervisor
 - Information about existing or planned future fellowship or other funding applications
 - The covering letter should also clearly explain, with evidence, how you meet the essential criteria listed in the person specification.
2. CV, including the DOI of any publications and the impact factor of the journal. Publications that have been submitted or that are in preparation should be listed separately. Where you are not first or corresponding author on a paper, please explain, in a few lines, your contribution to the paper and the work reported.
3. Letter of support from proposed project supervisor.
4. Outline of the proposed research fellowship (4 pages). To include:
 - The primary research question being addressed and aims
 - Details of the project, including methods
 - Resources required for the project and evidence that you will have access to these
 - Relevant training plans for the period of the fellowship
 - Details of how you will involve patients and/or carers in the planning and delivery of your research
 - Your plans for disseminating your research to patients and the public
 - Timeline including your research, training and further funding applications.
 - Budget for non-pay costs including training and reasonable project costs*. *All expenditure must be in accordance with King's College London Finance regulations.*
 - Funding is available to support presentation at a maximum of two conferences, one of which may be outside the UK. The funding will cover conference registration; travel; accommodation and poster printing costs. Subsistence costs will not be covered by this funding.
 - * Funding cannot be used to purchase computer equipment; this includes desktop computers, laptops; tablets; mobile/smart phone devices.
 - * Funding cannot be used to purchase office stationery.
5. Completed sheet indicating Maudsley BRC research themes and priorities the project will meet (please see [Appendix A](#) on the next page of this document).

Please note: Applications received without the above specified documents will not be sent forward for shortlisting.

The application deadline is Sunday 15th December 2019

Interviews will take place during the afternoon of Wednesday 5th February 2020.

Please contact Julia.wootley@kcl.ac.uk if you have questions.

Appendix A

IMPORTANT: Please complete this page and ensure it is included with your application documentation.

Which BRC research priorities does your project meet? Please indicate all that are applicable.

- Precision psychiatry
- Novel therapeutics
- Translational informatics
- Mental/physical interface

Please explain how your project fits the research priorities you have indicated: (maximum 200 words)

Which BRC research theme/s does your project fit with? Please indicate all that are applicable.

Clinical disorder focused research themes

- Affective Disorders and Interface with Medicine
- Child and Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Dementia and Related Disorders
- Lifestyle Substance Use & Harms
- Obesity, Lifestyle and Learning from Extreme Populations
- Pain and headache
- Psychosis and Neuropsychiatry

Technology and methodology focused research themes

- Bioinformatics and Statistics
- Biomarkers and Genomics
- Clinical and Population Informatics
- Mobile Health
- Neuroimaging
- Patient and Carer Involvement and Engagement
- Translational Therapeutics

Cross cutting themes

- BioResource
- Clinical Research Facility

Please explain how your project fits the theme/s you have indicated: (maximum 200 words)