

BUILDING RESEARCH CAPACITY

HSC Doctoral Fellowships

HSC R&D Division offers Doctoral Fellowships to support research training in Northern Ireland. The scheme forms part of a commitment to increase the ability of researchers to conduct high quality R&D and for managers and professionals to be aware of, and act upon, the results.

Doctoral Fellowships are intended to enable the individual to undertake research training as a means of developing a research career in health and social care, and to follow a training programme leading to a PhD. Doctoral Fellowships represent a significant investment for HSC R&D Division and for the individual fellow. It is essential that applicants intend to pursue a long-term career in Health & Social Care R&D and must be prepared to demonstrate their commitment to research.

The Doctoral Fellowship scheme is intended for individuals employed in or by Health and Social Care (HSC) or in voluntary/not-for-profit organisations in Northern Ireland involved in health or social care provision. These include suitably qualified allied health professionals, dentists, health and social care managers, medical staff, nurses, optometrists, pharmacists, social workers and other independent contractors. The awardee must continue to be employed within the HSC or a voluntary/not-for-profit organisation for the duration of the Fellowship. Employees of Public Sector Bodies other than Health & Social Care (HSC) Bodies are not eligible to apply under this scheme.

For the purposes of this training scheme, joint appointments between universities (and other educational institutions) and HSC Bodies will be treated as if they were full university employees and are, therefore, not eligible for funding. However, applications are encouraged from those undertaking Academic Fellowship training as part of the Clinical Academic Pathway within the School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Science at Queen's University Belfast.

All inquiries and correspondence relating to the HSC R&D Doctoral Fellowship Scheme should be addressed to:

Clinical Applications: Miss Joanne O'Neill
Health Applications: Mrs Eimear Cowan
Education & Training (Doctoral Fellowships)
HSC R&D Division, Public Health Agency
2nd Floor
12-22 Linenhall Street
BELFAST, BT2 8BS

Tel: 028 9055 3617

Fax: 028 9055 3674

Email: joanne.oneill@hscni.net; eimear.cowan@hscni.net

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Training Fellowships

Although the NIHR remit is for England, it manages the award of Fellowships that are funded separately by each UK country. HSC R&D funds fellowships for Northern Ireland.

NIHR research training fellowships support the development of outstanding individuals to become the health research leaders of the future. Four levels of NIHR Fellowship award are available as shown below.

- [NIHR Doctoral Research Fellowship](#) (NIHR-DRF for PhD level research training)
- [NIHR Postdoctoral Research Fellowship](#) (NIHR-PDF for post-doc level research training)
- [NIHR Career Development Fellowship](#) (NIHR-CDF for individuals with significant post-doc experience)
- [NIHR Senior Research Fellowship](#) (NIHR-SRF for leading individuals with an excellent record as an independent researcher)

The NIHR Fellowships programme is managed by the NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre (Personal Awards Team).

For all queries regarding these awards, please contact:
nihrfellowshipenquiries@nihrtcc.org.uk

In addition to the application forms obtained via the links above, Northern Ireland applicants must complete a Devolved Administration form. Information can be obtained from the following web link:

[Devolved Administration applications](#)

Please note the following information about the NIHR research remit:

1. NIHR supports training in clinical and applied health research, including social care research.
2. The proposal must have clear potential for benefitting patients and the public within 5 years of its completion (but recognising the training element of the research).
3. The research can involve: patients; samples or data from patients; people who are not patients; populations; health technology assessment; or health services research.
4. NIHR does not support basic research or work involving animals or their tissue.
5. If the work involves biomarkers:
 - research that tests whether application of new knowledge can improve treatment or patient outcomes, and has obvious potential benefit within 5 years, is within remit [1]; [1] This might include application of known

biomarkers, or other prognostic factors, to refine and test novel therapeutic strategies.

- research that aims only to elucidate mechanisms underpinning disease, or identify risk factors for disease or prognosis (including search for biomarkers) is out of remit.

6. NIHR is also prepared to support research into medical education.

The Northern Ireland General Practice and Research Training Scheme (GPARTs)

This 2 year training scheme combines vocational training for General Practice with research training. The scheme is run in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Centre for Postgraduate Medicine and Dental Education.

All inquiries and correspondence relating to the GPARTs Scheme should be addressed to:

Miss Joanne O'Neill
GPARTs
HSC R&D Division, Public Health Agency
2nd Floor
12-22 Linenhall Street
BELFAST, BT2 8BS

Tel: 028 9055 3617

Fax: 028 9055 3674

Email: joanne.oneill@hscni.net

Website: www.publichealthagency.org/directorate-public-health/hsc-research-and-development