

University Hospital Southampton Research Leaders Programme (RLP) Fellowships Application Guidance Notes for Cohort 3 – April 2023

Please complete the application form and submit to the Southampton Academy of Research via Google forms (<https://forms.office.com/r/0sh9z8eTqd>) by no later than 6.00pm on Monday 21st November 2022. (This includes emailing completed annexes A and B to SOAR). Applicants will be notified of the outcome by Friday 6th January 2023.

Introduction

University Hospital Southampton Research & Development (R&D) has secured a significant investment from University Hospital Southampton Trust Board to establish a Research Leaders Programme (RLP), overseen and managed by the Southampton Academy of Research. This programme aims to identify staff of all clinical disciplines with research leadership potential, and provide them with time, training and personal development to enable progression towards their agreed research career pathway.

The purpose of the programme is to enable substantively employed UHS health care professionals to build a portfolio of research activity that will attract funding and facilitate research to become a significant and sustainable component of the award holder's job plan within 3 years. The Fellowships are offered competitively.

We are now seeking applications for the third cohort only. Individuals must be in the position and have the support of their manager to commence on Monday 3rd April 2023.

Types of awards

The RLP comprises 2 different types of awards/streams of development (with an option for these to be combined if explicitly agreed) (see Figure 1):

1. Group A - Research Delivery Focused/Growing Principal Investigators (PI)¹

To build capacity to enable delivery of clinical research by providing protected time to undertake PI- related activities on externally funded NIHR CRN portfolio research studies, supported by a research team funded by external study income.

Goal: To establish/significantly expand a portfolio of externally funded research studies, commercial and non-commercial.

2. Group B - Clinical Academic Focused/Growing Chief investigators (CI)

To support healthcare professionals with significant potential to become independent researchers and fulfil the role of Chief Investigator² by generating income through personal fellowships and/or leadership of grant applications

Goal: To secure external funding and lead a programme of externally funded research, in the context of a clinical academic position.

¹ Principal investigator: An individual responsible for the conduct of the research at a [research site](#). There should be one PI for each research site. In the case of a single-site study, the chief investigator and the PI will normally be the same person

² Chief Investigator: the overall lead researcher for a research project and the lead applicant on the grant application in addition to their responsibilities if they are members of a research team, chief investigators are responsible for the overall conduct of a research project. They are responsible for intellectual leadership of the research project and for the overall management of the research (some funders refer to this as the PI)

OR: A combination of Group A and B (Mixed), explicitly agreed, with outcomes reflecting the blend – This can be arranged via SOAR.

Types of awards cont.

Successful applicants will commit to a programme of activity utilising RLP funded protected time, with the goal of recovering investment through writing their time into grant applications and/or securing commercial income. They will, in turn, be supported to develop/augment a research delivery team through the external funding generated by the research they pursue.

Participants will be selected through a competitive application process, with competitions spaced annually (except in first year where there will be two calls spaced 6 months apart) intervals, over the next 5 years.

The fellowship award

Each award will comprise several different elements – some are core (such as backfill, mentorship and leadership development) and others dependent on an individual’s learning, development and support needs (e.g. fees for short courses, methodological support, explicit connections with UHS/UoS infrastructure). Two types of costs will be met: funds to cover the costs of salary backfill and funds to support access to learning and development resources/courses and methodological support.

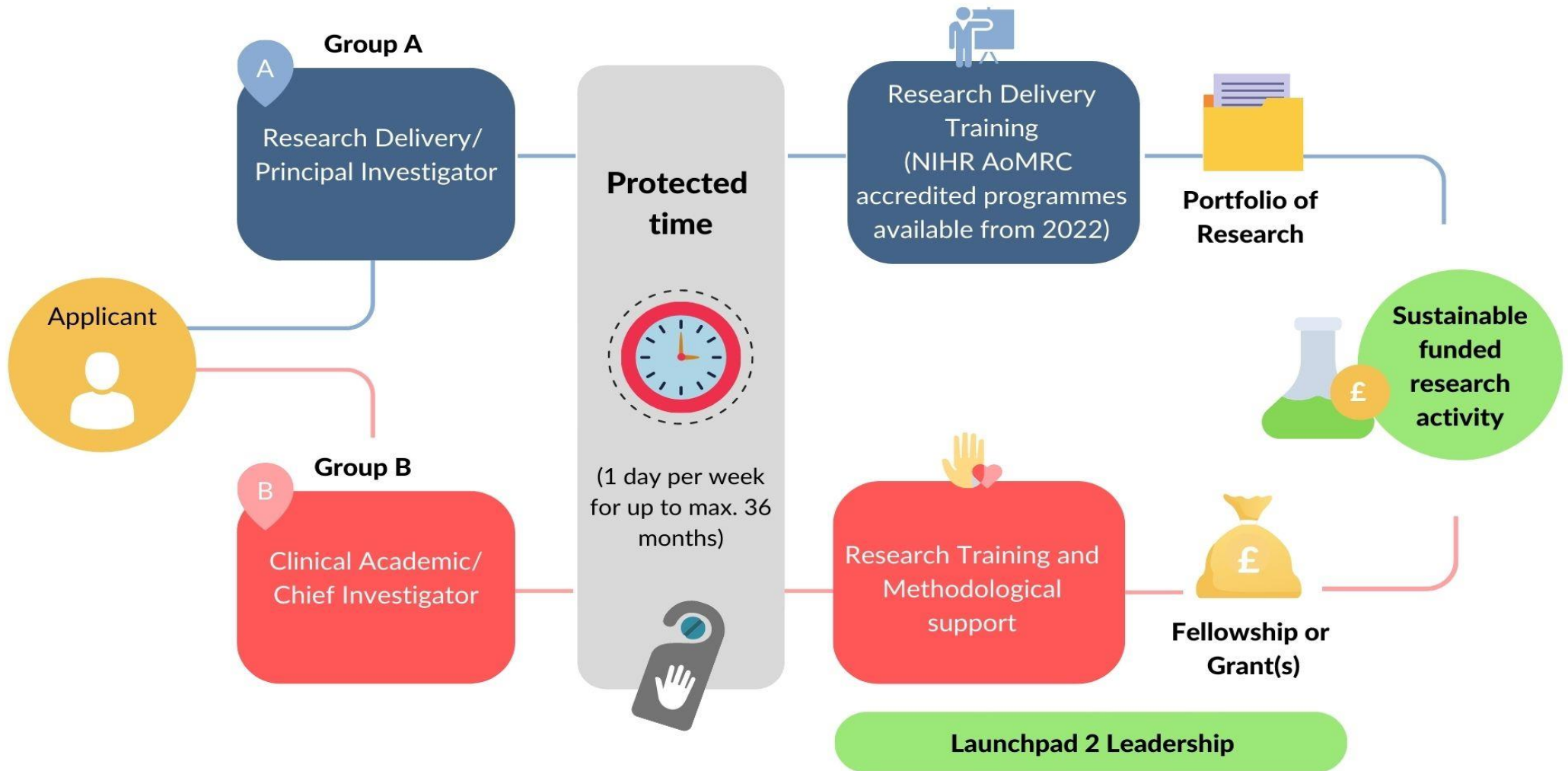
These are as follows:

Type of support	Type of RLP fellow	Notes	Funding allocation
Funded protected time (core)	Both	<p>Minimum commitment expected of the award holder is 20% WTE. i.e. for Medical Consultants, the protected time offered is 2PAs. For other HCP a higher WTE up to 40% WTE will be considered.</p> <p>Even if the applicant works part time, they must be able to be released for 1 full day per week. This will not be a pro rata arrangement.</p> <p>Overall consultant PAs in job plan including RLP PAs must not exceed 12 PAs.</p> <p>Minimum time in programme 12 months. Maximum time in programme is 36 months</p>	Based on basic salary cost (Including employment costs) of individual
Launchpad 2 Leadership Programme (core)	Both	<p>Affiliated to, and supported by, the Trust Leadership Programmes. The L2L will run one half day per quarter, with a facilitator supporting shared learning amongst those enrolled on the scheme. Attendance at SoAR Autumn/Spring Schools is also anticipated.</p> <p>Signpost fellows towards available programmes and resources (but not funded as a component of the programme) bespoke to a training needs</p>	No individual allocation. Costs of L2L met by programme budget.

		analysis for each person: e.g. AMS/NIHR Leadership Academy, UKRI Future Leadership, Florence Nightingale Foundation, CRN and local and national NHS Clinical Leadership Programmes. These can be undertaken in RLP time OR personal time OR SPA as agreed and recorded in the learning objectives of the award holder.	
Type of support	Type of RLP fellow	Notes	Funding allocation
Fees to support training needs in specific areas not already available free of charge through SoAR, UHS or UoS	Both see notes	<u>Research Delivery (Group A)</u> PG Cert, PGDip, or MRes that meet requirements of NIHR AoMRC Credentialing framework	Meet costs of accredited qualifying PGCert
		<u>Clinical Academic (Group B)</u> Accessing short courses to extend skills and knowledge necessary to develop high quality grant/fellowship applications.	£1,000 per individual
Methodological Support	Clinical Academic	<u>Clinical academic pathway:</u> Funds to secure time from individuals with specific methodological expertise (that will be subsequently built into grant applications) overcoming a specific barrier to grant/fellowship application success. For example: complex statistics, health economics, trial design, qualitative methods. Funds for PPIE costs at proposal development stage (if not available via streams such as RDS who fund support for NIHR applications).	To be individually determined
Mentorship (core)	Both	All will be expected to have a named research partner on their application who will provide oversight, guidance and mentorship. After enrolment individuals will be supported to identify a named career support mentor.	These roles will not be remunerated
Access to support from UHS/UoS infrastructure (As appropriate)	Both As indicated by an individual's scope of RLP	Including but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Southampton Academy of Research (SoAR) 2. Joint Research Function including <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Grant application support ii. Quality assurance and governance iii. Finance iv. Contracting 3. Southampton Centre for Engaged Research <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Public and Patient 	Met by infrastructure

		<p>involvement</p> <p>ii. Specialist research communications</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. NIHR Southampton Clinical Research Facility 5. NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre 6. NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Wessex 7. Research Design Service South Central 8. Southampton clinical research delivery teams and support departments 	
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Figure 1: Schematic representation of Research Leaders Programme components



Award Length

Applications will be considered for up to a maximum of 36 months, and for no less than 20% WTE (irrespective of whether the person currently works full or part time). For Medical Consultants the allocation will be 2 PA. For other groups a greater WTE can be applied for but no more than 40% WTE. Applicants are advised to discuss their proposed WTE and Award Length with the RLP team, contactable via SoAR, prior to submitting an application.

Eligibility

The RLP programme is open to all healthcare professionals employed (who hold a substantive as opposed to honorary employment contract) by University Hospital Southampton NHS Trust, including nurses, midwives, pharmacists, allied health professionals, clinical scientists and doctors. Individuals must have the explicit support of their manager for their application, who will agree to ensure arrangements are in place for backfill of RLP funded time. Potential applicants are therefore advised to speak to their manager early to ensure this assurance can be provided in the application process.

The panel will consider applications for award stream Group B (Clinical Academic) from individuals who are already registered for, and currently completing a programme of work towards an MD/PhD. The expectation for these individuals, is that the MD/PhD will be submitted early in the RLP fellowship, with a view to proceeding towards a competitive postdoctoral fellowship application (or similar) to sustain funding beyond the RLP. RLP awards are not appropriate as full MD/PhD fellowships but are intended to enable transition to post-doctoral research and secure future research funding. As such, RLP fellowships will not fund MD/PhD fees. Applicants in this position are advised to contact SoAR to clarify eligibility.

Selection Procedure

Applications will be reviewed by a panel.

Detailed review of each application will focus on:

1. The potential for the applicant to become a health research leader of future – the applicant will need to make a strong case as to why they would merit an RLP award.
For example: Outputs from previous research experience and training relative to career stage and background, suitability and commitment of applicant to a career as an independent researcher or leader of a research delivery team.
2. Suitability and scope of proposed objectives for RLP and the alignment of these objectives with Trust research objectives (as set out in the UHS Clinical Strategy 2021, and UHS Research for All 2017-22).
3. Quality and relevance of training and development plans (research skills, experience and research career).
4. Suitability and experience of research advisor in relation to the applicants proposed career pathway.
5. Quality of plans to support career progression and fund research activity beyond the award.
6. Costings will be done by UHS Grants team after the shortlisting has taken place, so there is no requirement to ask your line managers or contact UHS Grants team. This will be done using the information from your application form.

Conditions and Reporting

Successful applicants will be expected to agree to the following conditions upon acceptance of the award. If these conditions are not met, then the award can be terminated at any stage by UHS R&D:

- Comply with the funding requirements of the scheme throughout the duration of the award i.e. must remain backfilled during this period.
- Engage with the core elements of the programme
- Annual progress report and review meeting

- Provide evidence that the award holders line manager will support changes to the individual's job plan which allow backfilled time to be devoted to the RLP. A line manager signature and support statement will be required both at the time of application, and upon acceptance of an award if successful.