

PCSM Research Hub

MRes and Predoctoral Fellowships

Application Guidelines

Guidelines for Applicants and Line Managers

The key aim of the scheme is to provide funding to staff who are nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, healthcare scientists, pharmacists, clinical psychologists or clinicians who are employed by UoC or NCIC. Successful applicants will undertake an MRes, registered at the UoC, or pre-doc Fellowship.

The successful appointee will be seconded from their job role to undertake a part time training. The focus of any research undertaken must be for the benefit of NHS patients and should be co-supervised, where possible, with one supervisor from UoC and another from the NHS Trust.

Line managers are supporting applications, including protected research time, when they sign the form. For UoC fellowship and NHS Trust pre-doctoral fellowship applications, this protected time is one day a week.

It is important that you check your eligibility for this scheme as outlined below. If you have any questions about your eligibility or anything else about the scheme, please email pcsmresearchhub@cumbria.ac.uk.

Am I eligible?

We understand that you may have complicated contractual arrangements, and we won't have covered all scenarios in what follows but, before beginning an application, please make sure you have read and understood the eligibility requirements below. Please [email us](#) describing your circumstances if we have not covered them here so we can assess your eligibility before you complete the application form.

- (i) You must hold an employment contract with the University of Cumbria or NCIC NHS Trusts. You must be employed by UoC or the NHS Trust at the point of applying and throughout the fellowship's duration.
- (ii) You must be resident and have a legal right to work in the UK. Only applicants registering as students with the University of Cumbria and eligible for home fees can apply for this award.

(iii) You must fulfil the requirements to undertake an MRes or PhD from UoC.

Email applications and queries to pcsmresearchhub@cumbria.ac.uk.

Your Application form – available at [HERE](#)

Please structure your response according to the list below. The committee is looking for you to demonstrate that you can be succinct, specific and focused in your responses: -

- Your research question; we recognize that MRes and pre-doctoral students will not have a fully developed research question or draft proposal at this stage but your application should address the following:-
 - background information on the project (a brief review of the area, the evidence base, any pilot data, or community involvement activity and any relevant publications)
 - measurable aims and objectives, design(s) of plan of investigation
 - methods of analysis proposed
 - Gantt chart (Include all relevant information e.g. HRA application/approval if this is applicable. The committee also encourages you to provide any pertinent data that illustrates your proposed research project.)

Inclusive Research; Working with People and Communities

Research applicants should also describe:-

(1) how their research will address existing inequalities in health and social care. Inclusive research requires particular attention to the selection of participants, including those from under-served communities;

(2) how their research will be undertaken 'with' or 'by' diverse people and communities in active partnership with researchers (also known as Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement or Community Engagement and Involvement).

Please see NIHR guidance for inclusive research (e.g. <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/research-inclusion/funding-application-guidance>) and working with people and communities (e.g. <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/working-with-people-and-communities>). More resources at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/patient-experience-research-centre/ppi/ppi-resource-hub/>; <https://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/diversity-and-inclusion/>

Please describe your approach to inclusive research, and how you will manage, support and capture the impact of partnering with diverse people and communities in your **Research Plan**, within the overall word limits.

Application timeline:

- Applications open on **25th March 2025**
- Open Q&A sessions:
 - a) **MRes** with Ross Armstrong & Sophie Day on [Teams, 2nd April, 18.00-19.00](#);
 - b) **Pre-docs** @ NCIC, with Chris Rao and Jonathan Weber on [Teams Tuesday 25th March @ 18.30 - 19.30](#), and **in person**, April 1st at 12.30 pm at the Grasmoor Room, Cancer Centre, CIC
- Applications close **15th May 2025**
- Interviews may be held in May / June to assist committee members* in decision making
- Notification of funding outcome by 16th June
- Successful applicants will need to register with UoC as an MRes student before 1st September
- All fellows must start by **September 2025 at the latest.**

(*Committee membership: PCSM research hub co-directors, senior faculty IoH & NCIC)

Together with this completed form, you may also attach: an academic CV (maximum 2 pp)

Once submitted, you will be unable to amend any part of your application. Good luck and we look forward to receiving your application.