

Sheffield Clinical Research Academy

Guidelines for Applicants – Round 4

Introduction

The Sheffield Clinical Research Academy (CRA) will enable Sheffield to establish the capacity necessary to undertake high quality applied clinical research, with an expected increase in grant capture from NIHR and other national peer reviewed funding programmes.

The CRA will enable clinical NHS staff with an interest in becoming research leaders in their field to be released from clinical duties for one day per week (i.e. 2 PAs for medical staff) over 2 years.

Throughout their time as a Sheffield CRA fellow, dedicated and structured support will be made available from existing infrastructure and methodologists across all the involved organisations. For their research day, fellows will be hosted within SchARR or other University of Sheffield (UoS) Departments undertaking applied health research if more appropriate and mutually agreed.

Funding

Applicants must have the full support of their host organisation, with agreed approval from the Clinical Director/ Direct line manager and Trust Research Lead to release CRA Fellows from clinical duties for 2PAs per week for up to 2 years.

The CRA does not automatically include, or pay for, any activities related to research activity. However, some funding to support travel related to the development of high quality clinical research proposals may be available.

It is anticipated that the CRA will appoint up to 4 Research Fellows in this round.

Eligibility

Applications are invited from NHS clinical staff, from any disciplinary background, working at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STH) or Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust (SHSC). Only clinical staff whose proposed research focuses on people and patient-based clinical and applied health research are eligible to apply to become a CRA Fellow.

Eligibility requirements include a track record of previous successful independent research experience in addition to completion of a higher degree such as a Masters, PhD or MD. We are particularly keen to invite applications from researchers who are in the early stage of their careers.

Applicants must be able to show evidence of publication in peer reviewed journals.

We would expect fellows to demonstrate how this additional support would facilitate their future career.

The focus of the support available will be on developing national peer reviewed applied clinical health research.

Applications being developed for local charities or similar sources of funding **will not be considered**, nor will those involving animal or tissue research.

Management

It is expected that each fellow will

- develop at least one research application, which will be submitted within 12 months, with an award of a successful grant expected within 2 years, and with the expectation that each fellow will generate sufficient income to fund 2PAs for their research activity. present their research idea and progress to a colleagues from host organisations and the University of Sheffield
- Provide a written update on progress will be required from each fellow for a formal review at 12 months with a final report at 24 months. inform both their mentors and host organisations of any changes to circumstances impacting on their ability to continue with or to make progress during their time with the CRA.
- Commit to spending the 2PAs physically located within the academic department at the university

Application procedure and selection process

Appointment to the CRA will be awarded following open competition.

If you are selected for interview, you will be asked to give a ten-minute presentation to the panel, followed by 35 minutes for questions.

The panel will consist of Professors Nicholl, Baird, Pownall, Goodacre, and Cooper. A representative from employing organisations will be invited to join the panel for interviews for individuals from respective trusts to include: STH (Professor Simon Heller) and SHSC (Dr Nick Bell).

Submitting your application: The deadline for submission is 19th July 2019 at 1pm.

Your application must be submitted, by email, to Charlotte Claxton at c.claxton@sheffield.ac.uk with the required signatories.

Timetable

11th June 2019	Competition opens for applications
19th July 2019	Closing date for submission of outline application
13th September 2019	Interviews held in SchARR
October 2019	Earliest start date in SchARR for STH CRA Fellows
April 2020	Earliest start date in SchARR for SHSC CRA Fellow

Assessment Criteria

Applications are assessed on the following criteria:

Applicant

- Qualifications
- Experience of undertaking research
- Peer-reviewed publications from research undertaken to date
- Other outputs from research undertaken to date
- Impact of research undertaken to date
- Research funding
- Evidence of collaborations
- Appropriate collaborations with ScHARR or other UoS staff
- Long-term research career potential and commitment

Proposed Research

- Quality of research idea(s) proposed
- Relevance of the proposed research to the NHS
- Quality and relevance of existing evidence
- Quality of plain English Summary

Contact for further information

ScHARR

- Dr Lizzie Coates, e.coates@sheffield.ac.uk,
Prof Wendy Baird, w.o.baird@sheffield.ac.uk

Sheffield Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust

- Prof Simon Heller, s.heller@sheffield.ac.uk

Sheffield Health and Social Care Trust

- Dr Nick Bell, nicholas.bell@shsc.nhs.uk