

NIHR Fellowships

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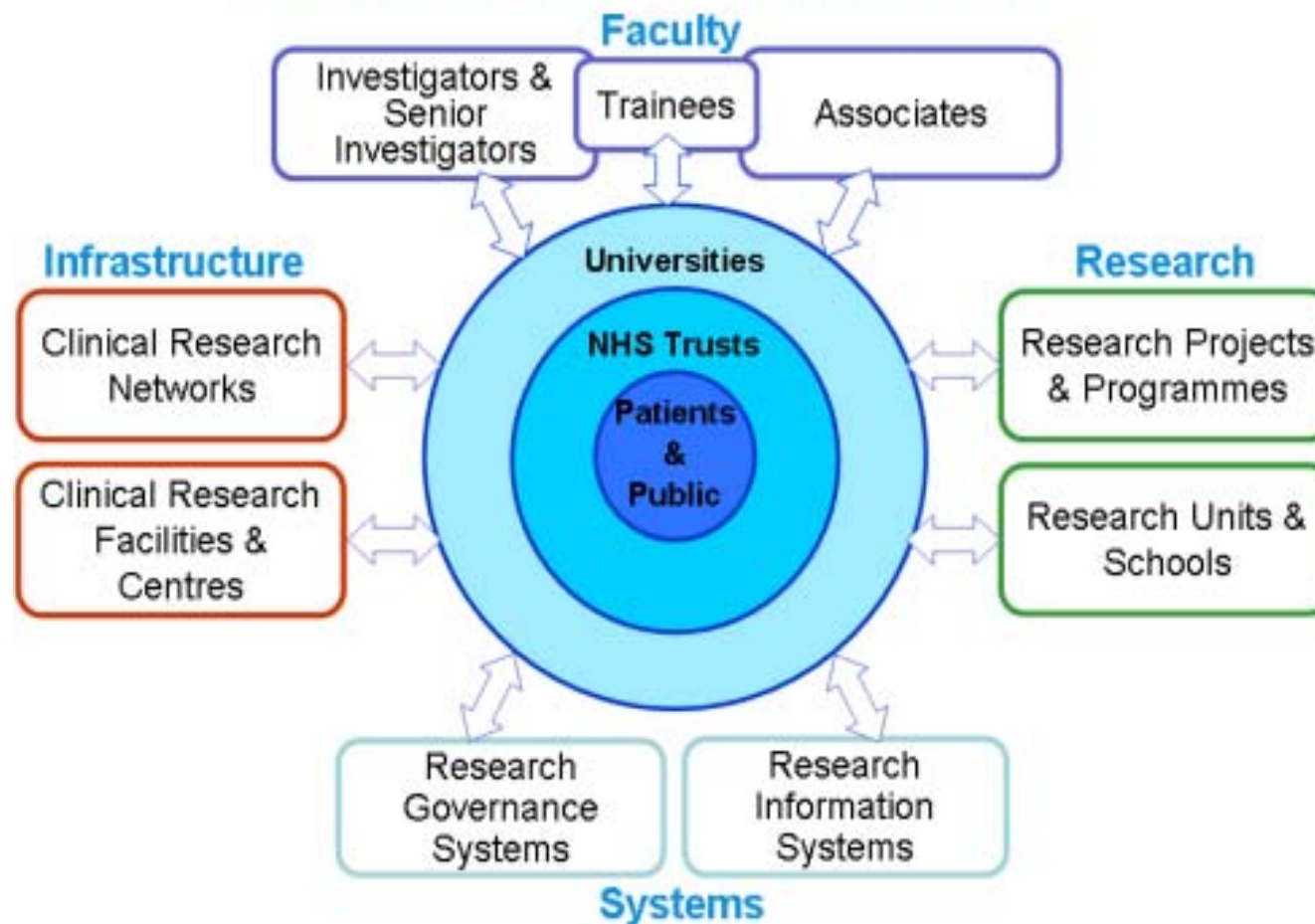


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Content

- NIHR
- RCD Programme
- Research Training Fellowships
- Postdoctoral awards funded by NIHR
- Eligibility, process, timetable
- Tips

National Institute for Health Research



NIHR Research Capacity Development (RCD) Programme

What is it?

- One of the NIHR Programmes
- Concerned with research training and research careers
- Managed by a National Co-ordinating Centre (NCCRCD) based in Leeds

NIHR Research Training Awards

- Looking to support the research leaders of the future
- Increase research skills in clinical and applied health and social care research
- Coherent series of awards
- Increase in independence → independence
- Career development
- Research capacity development

APPLICANT - RESEARCH - TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

ENVIRONMENT - VFM

Professional Background of Awardees (Personal Awards Scheme)

	Medicine
	Nursing
	Allied Health
	Complementary and Alternative Medicine
	Psychology
	Health Economics
	Statistics
	Social Science
	Science
	Health Services Research
	Epidemiology
	Other

NIHR Research Training Awards

Senior Research Fellowship

Career Development Fellowship

Postdoctoral Fellowship

Research Training Fellowship

Clinician Scientist

Clinical Lecturer (IAT)

**Academic Clinical Fellowship
(IAT)**

Research Training Fellowship (NIHR-RTF)

Doctoral training award

3 years FT (4 or 5 years PT)

Applicant:

Some previous research experience

Some outputs from research

Evidence of commitment to research career

Post-Doctoral Fellowship (NIHR-PDF)

Early postdoctoral award (≤ 3 years WTE PD)

3 years FT (4 or 5 years PT)

Applicant:

PhD/MD or have submitted

Output from research

Evidence of commitment to research career

Career Development Fellowship (NIHR-CDF)

Higher postdoctoral award (≤ 6 years PD)

3 years FT (4 or 5 years PT)

Applicant:

PhD/MD and postdoctoral experience

Significant output from research

Evidence of increasing independence

Experience of developing research skills of others

Senior Research Fellowship (NIHR-SRF)

Most senior NIHR Fellowship
5 years (→ Chair)

Applicant:

Significant postdoctoral experience

Outstanding publication record

Independence

Leadership potential

Record of research capacity development

Selection process

Application assessed by Panel

Panel meeting → Initial shortlist

Initial shortlist → Peer review

Peer review → Interview list

Interview → Panel recommendations

Approval from DG R&D DH

Timetable

<u>Stage</u>	<u>Fellowships</u>	<u>Clinician Scientist</u>
Launch	<i>October</i>	<i>March</i>
Application deadline	<i>January</i>	<i>May</i>
Short listing	<i>March</i>	<i>September</i>
Interviews	<i>June/July</i>	<i>December</i>
Notification	<i>July</i>	<i>December</i>
Take-up	<i>By Jan 1st</i>	<i>By Feb 1st</i>

APPLICANT - RESEARCH – TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT – ENVIRONMENT - VFM

Value for money

- Salary costs of award holder
- Costs of research project or programme
appropriate as a training vehicle
- VFM as a training award
- (Not programme grants!)

**APPLICANT - RESEARCH – TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT – ENVIRONMENT
- VFM**

Research

- NIHR – people-led applied research
- Explain how outcomes will make a difference
- Builds on previous research experience
- Scope is appropriate for level of award
- All elements of the plan of investigation are clear and justified
- Understand the potential difficulties
- Reference other work

APPLICANT - RESEARCH – TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT – ENVIRONMENT – VFM

Training and Development

- Adds value
- Is relevant to research proposed
- Appropriate choice of mentor
- Broader skills for developing as a researcher
 - **Builds research capacity (self and others)**
 - **Management**
 - **Leadership**

APPLICANT - RESEARCH – TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT – ENVIRONMENT - VFM

Environment

Department needs to have a record in the area of research proposed for the Fellowship

Facilities and major equipment to support the Award holder

Evidence of commitment helps and is obligatory for SRF, where financial contribution to salary necessary in Y3 (25%), Y4 (50%) and Y5 (75%)

Tips

- Know the process and the remit:
 - Speak to the Programme/Awards Manager pre submission
- Know your audience and the competition:
 - Look up previous award holders, panel members, topics
- ‘Peer review’ before you submit:
 - Supervisor, current awards holders, senior academics from your institute etc.

The Ugly.....

- Wrong form
- Late submission
- Sections of application not completed
- Dictation notes remaining in the text of the research proposal eg *“Beverley, we need to have a chat about the sample size, I don’t understand how you got these numbers”*

- *Sample size not justified*
- *Applicant does not appear to be aware of the major RCT going on in this area*
- *Selection and exclusion criteria are not clear*
- *Not convinced applicant understands challenges of case-controlled study proposed*
- *Different elements of the research lack coherence*
- *There is a lack of understanding about the confounders*
- *Research has limited scope*
- *Research is too ambitious for this level of award*
- *Why is this setting being used?*
- *How is this going to translate into practice?*

The Interview

Take note of the instructions:-

Day, time, place!

Content of presentation

Timing of presentation

Know your application inside out and backwards

Be prepared to defend any aspect

If you've spotted an error or made an improvement, be prepared to tell the Panel if they question you

And finally....

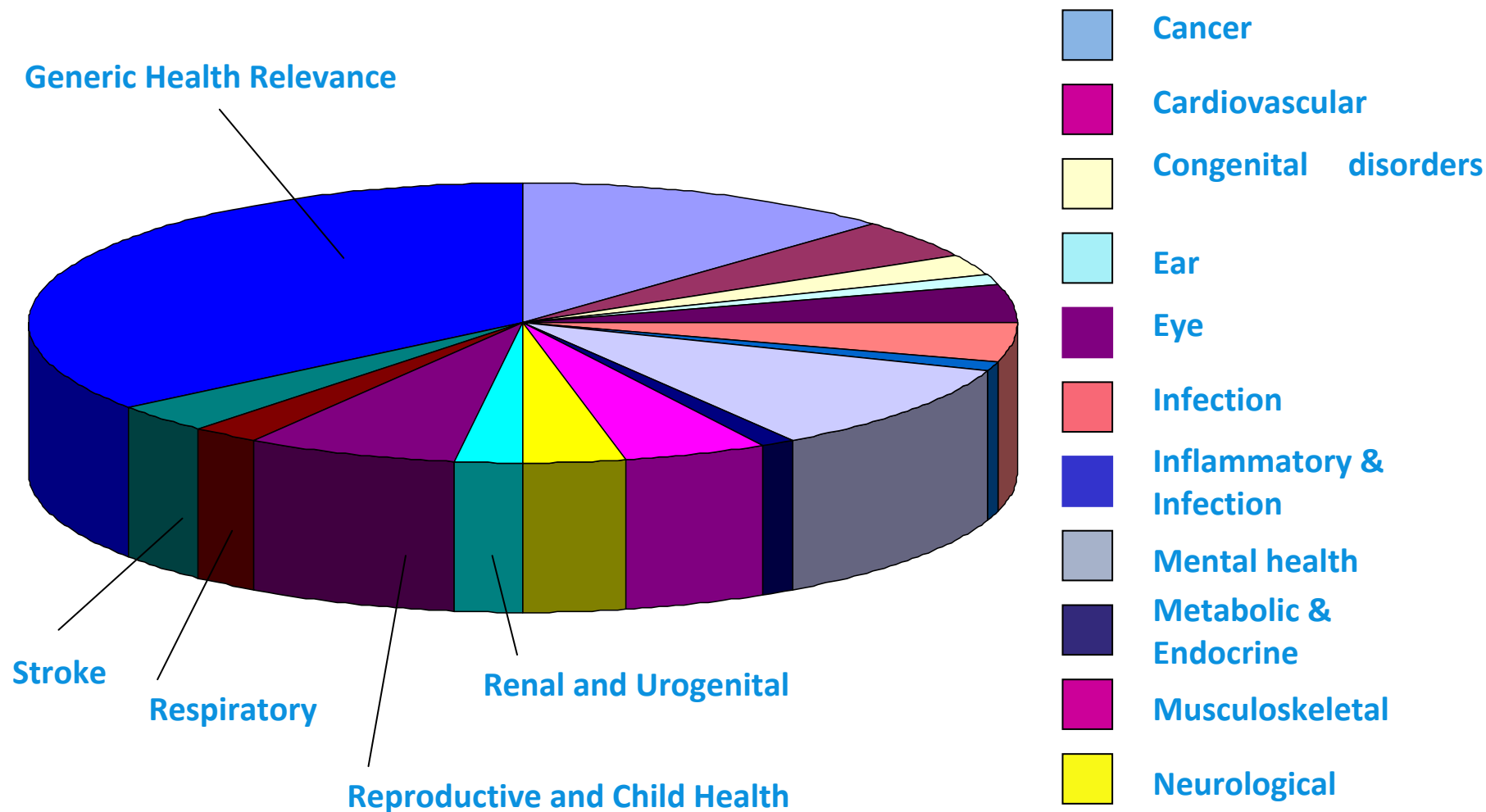
Overall success rate (PAS):

RTF = 15%; PDA = 15%; CSA = 13%; ClinSci =
32%

At interview:

RTF = 49%; PDA = 62%; CSA = 45%; ClinSci =
40%

Health Categories of Award Holders' Research



Dean for NIHR Faculty Trainees

- Career management of all trainees who are funded by NIHR
- Quality of training programmes
- Quality of local and mentoring support
- Leadership training of these individuals.

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NHS
*National Institute for
Health Research*

NIHR TRAINEE CONFERENCE 10-11 September 2008 Manchester

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