
WELLBEING OF WOMEN RESEARCH TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS 2010

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Applicants are strongly advised to read these guidelines before they commence writing their application and to note the conditions of acceptance. Failure to follow the format suggested by the guidelines may reduce an applicant's chance of success. The upper limit for this award is £175,000.

ABOUT WELLBEING OF WOMEN (WoW)

WoW funds basic science and clinical research on all aspects of obstetrics, gynaecology and neonatology. Gynaecological endocrinology, urology and oncology are all appropriate to WoW's funding.

THE FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

Applicability

Applications are invited for a Research Training Fellowship, to be undertaken in the UK, to further the training of a medical graduate embarking upon a career in obstetrics and gynaecology. Wellbeing of Women in association with the RCOG is inviting applications for training in basic science, clinical or translational research including explanatory and feasibility studies in one of the following three areas:

1. Gynaecological Cancers
2. Pregnancy and Birth; including pre-term birth, miscarriage and fertility
3. Quality of Life issues; including menopause, incontinence and prolapse, sexual health, menstrual disorders and endometriosis

Fellowships are awarded for up to three years and cover the cost of a full time salary per annum for Specialist Registrar (or equivalent) and will be consistent with current NHS or academic scales. Registration fees for a higher degree and reasonable research expenses may be allowed and should be specified in the application form.

Research Training Fellows will normally be expected to enrol for a higher degree. A Fellowship will only be awarded to an applicant who has been accepted for a place in a department with established expertise in the specified field. Candidates must also provide evidence of previous interest and a training component in research methodology. Both the training and research project must be capable of being brought to a conclusion within the duration of the Fellowship.

Level of Award

Applications may be made for the financial support of work which is already in progress, or for a new project, provided a substantial element of training is provided during the course of the work.

The award of a Fellowship is subject to the acceptance of the Wellbeing of Women's Terms and Conditions for Research Training Fellowships, which are listed at the end of this document.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to Research Training Fellowships:

- Fellowships are not intended as a project grant and may not be used to fund sub-specialty training.
- Funds will not be released without evidence of ethical committee support.
- WoW does not pay indirect costs.
- Charges for administration by University or NHS Authorities will not be met.

Interviews

Applications will be subject to external peer review. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to attend for interview by the Wellbeing of Women Research Advisory Committee at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in London 1n May 2010. Interview expenses within the UK will be reimbursed.

Shortlisted candidates will also be asked to formally agree to their application being considered by the Wellcome Trust, and may be asked to attend for interview at the Trust's offices in London on 15th /16thJuly 2010.

These nominees will be required to sign up to the Wellcome Trust's grant conditions, and any eventual award will be made in accordance with the Trust's policy for costing Training Fellows.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

Please use the application form for Wellbeing of Women/RCOG Research Training Fellowship 2010, in font size 10-12 pt throughout. One email version sent to ahaysom.wellbeingofwomen@rcog.org.uk, plus one disc version and 1 original signed version of the completed form, must be received by Ann Haysom, Research Grants Manager, Wellbeing of Women, at 27 Sussex Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4SP, by the closing date.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday March 2nd 2010.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The points below relate to specific numbered sections of the application form:

1. Application Details

Proposed Department and Proposed Institution: This will be the point of contact for all correspondence throughout the duration of the Fellowship.

Proposed Start Date: At this stage this may be an estimate. However it should be as accurate as possible.

Proposed Duration: This should be in months.

Total Funds Requested: This should be the total from point 5, Financial Information.

Title of Project: This should be as brief as possible and should be relevant to the work undertaken.

2. The Applicant

2.3 **Contact details if different from 1.:** Applicants who do not wish correspondence relating to the application to be sent to their hospital/university address should complete this section.

2.7 **Postgraduate Career:** Please do not include a separate CV. Details of previous posts must be contained within this section of the form.

3. About the Project

3.2 **Structured Abstract of Research:** This should be up to 400 words and include scientific objectives, collaborations and methodology.

3.3 **Research Summary:** Applicants must give a simple description up to 250 words, of the proposed research. This summary may be used by WoW for publicity purposes. As a guideline, you may wish to describe the disease or condition to be studied, the nature of the proposed research, what the research is trying to achieve and its possible benefits in terms of improving women's health.

3.4 **Research to be Undertaken:** You should include the aims and objectives of the research together with the techniques to be used and training to be undertaken. A detailed account should be included of the methods employed, particular attention to any technique that is new or not well known, the number of experiments proposed (if relevant) and the estimated time required to complete the study. The level of expertise of the applicant and of his/her supervisors in the proposed methodology should be indicated. References central to the proposal may be included. Do not use more than one additional sheet of A4.

4. Approval for Research

4.1 An application will be accepted by WoW if evidence of permission for Ethical Committee Approval has been sought. No funding will be released until a copy of the Ethical Approval has been received by WoW.

4.2 **HFEA Licence Number:** Projects involving the use of human embryos must show the HFEA licence number, and in addition, documentary evidence of HFEA approval for the project must be enclosed.

4.6 Wherever possible, WoW would prefer the use of procedures and techniques that avoid the use of animals, but where this is not possible, the minimum number of animals that will give valid results in any experiment should be used. It is required that all general and local regulations relating to the use of experimental animals will be observed.

5. **Financial Information** The upper limit of funding is £175,000.

5.1 **Salary:** The award may be for up to three years and the salary will in no case exceed the top of the Specialty Registrar scale (or equivalent). The Research Grants or Finance Officer of the proposed institution must complete this section. The amount should be as accurate as possible and should include estimated pay awards for Years 2 and 3.

Any higher degree fees payable to the employing institution must be clearly specified.

5.2 **Expenses:** The amount requested in addition to the Salary (5.1) must not exceed £175,000 overall.

6. **Previous applications or current submission of this proposal to other funding bodies:** It is important that you indicate whether any financial support from another funding body has been sought, is already provided, or is being sought for the same or related research. If a decision is pending, please indicate the month when a decision is expected.

7. **Certificates**

No application can be accepted without completion of this section by the Applicant his or her Head of Department and the Finance Officer responsible for administering the grant.

7.4 For research involving NHS patients, a signature is needed from the R&D Director or Deputy confirming that the project will be carried within the NHS research governance framework.

8. **Lay Description**

Applicants must give a simple description of the research to be undertaken which will be understandable by an educated lay audience. You should include the aims and objectives of the research together with the techniques to be used. This may be used for publicity purposes by WoW.

For monitoring purposes, please could you enter how you became aware of this award.

Supporting Statement: Current Head of Department or Personal Referee

Your current Head of Department should complete this section. If you have recently moved departments and have been working in your new department for less than six months you may prefer to seek this statement from your previous Head of Department.