

Postdoctoral award

# Postdoctoral Award cohort 1

## Overview

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**Opportunity status:** Open

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**Type:** Career development

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**Opening date:** 26 March 2025 at 1:00 pm

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**Closing date:** 3 July 2025 at 1:00 pm

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**Reference ID:** 2025/98

## Ready to apply?

Apply for this scheme through our new online application platform.

**Apply now**

[https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s\\_Login.jsp](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp)

The NIHR [Postdoctoral Award](/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award) (/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award) is aimed at anyone with a PhD or a submitted PhD thesis under assessment who hasn't yet been appointed to a professorial post. This award provides funding to help you develop your academic career across a broad range of postdoctoral career stages.

The award supports research in any scientific discipline or sector that can demonstrate a contribution to improving health, including public health or social care and is within the [NIHR's funding remit](/nihr-academy-remit-personal-awards). (/nihr-academy-remit-personal-awards)

It also supports individuals who wish to develop their academic careers while continuing as practitioners, including Health and Care Professionals and PhD holders in local authority settings. For these applicants, up to 40% of award time may be dedicated to practice or policy roles.

**[Watch webinar: Get tips for putting together a strong application](https://youtu.be/ZJliANSXaNI)**

[\(https://youtu.be/ZJliANSXaNI\)](https://youtu.be/ZJliANSXaNI)

## Eligibility

To be eligible for the award, you must:

- hold a relevant PhD or MD, or have submitted your thesis for examination at the time of application. You must have been awarded your PhD or MD by the time you attend the interview
- propose to undertake the award at a Higher Education Institution (HEI), NHS body, Local Authority or other provider of health or social care services, either in England or a participating devolved nation
- not already hold a chair position at the point of application
- for clinical applicants: must have completed relevant pre-registration training

## Devolved Administration Applications

Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are not participating in Cohort 1 Postdoctoral Award.

Please see more details about eligibility on the [Postdoctoral Award page](/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award). (/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award)

## What is available through a Postdoctoral Award?

The Postdoctoral Award provides funding for:

- your salary (including clinical service or practice time where applicable)
- a research project
- a support post to assist your research (including a training and development budget)
- the cost of a tailored academic and professional development programme
- annual conference budget

Full details of costs for this scheme are available via the [Postdoctoral Award page](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award>). Guidance about how to cost your application is available via the NIHR [finance guidance](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/finance-guidance-for-applicants#tab-375136) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/finance-guidance-for-applicants#tab-375136>).

## How much can you apply for?

With the exception of staff and conference costs, there are no strict budgetary caps. All costs must offer value for money and be fully justified in your application, please refer to the [finance guidance for applicants](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/finance-guidance-for-applicants#tab-375176) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/guidance/finance-guidance-for-applicants#tab-375176>) for more detail.

## How to work out the duration of your award

This is a flexible award, and you are able to choose a duration of between 2 and 5 years Full Time Equivalent (FTE). You can also take it up on a full time or part-time basis between 50% and 100% FTE.

If you work in a clinical or local authority setting, you will have the option to request up to 40% of your time to be dedicated to clinical practice and development work, with this time funded by the award. [Find out more about how to calculate your award duration](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/nihr-academy/apply-nihr-career-development-awards/personal-career-development-award-durations) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/nihr-academy/apply-nihr-career-development-awards/personal-career-development-award-durations>).

## Key dates

**26 March 2025**

Application opening date

**3 July 2025**

Application closing date

## July - December 2025

Application assessments

## January - February 2026

Interviews and application funding decision

## 1 April 2026 - 1 September 2026

Award start dates

## Themed calls and highlight notices

NIHR themed calls are funding opportunities focusing on a particular priority research area and Highlight Notices call attention to areas of ongoing health research priorities for NIHR. Full details are available on our [themed calls](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/themed-calls) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/themed-calls>) webpage.

We are particularly interested in receiving applications that will develop skills and experience within our strategic themes:

- Social Care
- Mental Health
- Public Health
- Health Data Science
- researchers working in a Local Authority setting
- applicants hosted by post-92 HEIs and non University Hospital practice settings

Applications received under these Strategic Themes will still have to meet the same quality threshold required for funding but will be given priority if the number of fundable applications exceeds the maximum that can be funded.

## Partnership awards

[Partnership awards](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/nihr-academy/partnership-awards) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/nihr-academy/partnership-awards>) are funding opportunities offered jointly by the NIHR and our charity and industry partners. The charities and industry partners offering a partnership award for this submission window are:

## Industry partners

The NIHR wants to promote and increase the number of people with the necessary skills and experience to work at the interface between Higher Education Institutes (HEIs), industry and the NHS.

We encourage you to think about how you can involve an industry partner in your application where relevant. If we receive more fundable applications than our budget allows, we will prioritise fundable applications that include 25%-50% of industry co-funding.

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### Pfizer

You can apply to a partnership award with Pfizer and propose research in areas:

- atopic dermatitis
- alopecia areata
- Vitiligo
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
- Idiopathic Inflammatory Myopathies (IIMs)

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## Charity Partners

### Kidney Research UK

Kidney Research UK is interested in funding research that focuses on the immediate priorities in its research strategy: Transforming Treatments, Multiple Health Conditions and Health Inequalities.

Elaine Davies

Director of research operations

[elainedavies@kidneyresearchuk.org](mailto:elainedavies@kidneyresearchuk.org) (mailto:elainedavies@kidneyresearchuk.org)

01733 367835

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## **Moorfields Eye Charity**

[Moorfields Eye Charity](http://www.moorfieldseyecharity.org.uk/) (<http://www.moorfieldseyecharity.org.uk/>) is interested in funding research in eye health, vision research, ophthalmic related service improvement, education or clinical practice. Please note: applicants will normally be hosted by either the Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or its main HEI partner (University College London). If hosted by another institution a direct collaboration with and benefit to Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust must be demonstrated in order to be eligible to apply for a Partnership Fellowship.

Martin Cordiner

Funding Manager

[martin.cordiner@nhs.net](mailto:martin.cordiner@nhs.net)

0207 566 2565

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## **Motor Neurone Disease Association**

[The Motor Neurone Disease \(MND\) Association](https://www.mndassociation.org/research/for-researchers/apply-for-funding) (<https://www.mndassociation.org/research/for-researchers/apply-for-funding>) funds cutting-edge MND research, facilitating ground-breaking international research collaboration. The association recognises that health and social care professionals supporting people living with and affected by MND have a unique understanding of the condition and the challenges of providing best care and want to fund research proposals that improve the care of people living with and affected by MND.

Sophie Nyberg

Programmes and Partnerships Manager

[sophie.nyberg@mndassociation.org](mailto:sophie.nyberg@mndassociation.org)

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## **MS Society**

[MS Society](https://www.mssociety.org.uk/research/researchers) (<https://www.mssociety.org.uk/research/researchers>) is the UK's leading charity for people affected by MS and the largest charitable funder of MS research in the UK, transforming the understanding and treatment of the condition. For 70 years they have been at the forefront of support, research, and campaigning to improve the lives of people with MS.

They welcome applications for research projects that will increase understanding of the cause and find new effective treatments or prevention strategies for MS. And projects improving care and services for people affected by MS too. They fund discovery and translational research, including our world-leading MS clinical trials program. They want to work with everyone who shares our vision of a world free from the effects of MS.

David Coutts

Senior Research Manager

research@mssociety.org.uk

020 8438 0822

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## **Rosetrees Trust**

[Rosetrees Trust](https://rosetreestrust.co.uk) (<https://rosetreestrust.co.uk>)'s overall aim is to fund translational research in any clinical area that has a clear plan and trajectory to deliver patient benefit within the short to medium term. They are very keen to build relationships with our grant holders with a view to providing longer-term funding to exceptional candidates.

Dr Vineeth Rajkumar

Head of Research

VRajkumar@rosetreescio.net

0208 951 2588

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## **Colt Foundation**

[Colt Foundation](https://www.coltfoundation.org.uk) (<https://www.coltfoundation.org.uk>) funds high quality research in environmental and occupational health with a particular interest in projects that are likely to inform policy and working practices and thereby improve the health and wellbeing of workers and the wider population. In recent years the Foundation has also focused on building research capacity within work and health by supporting academics with fellowships of up to five years. Examples of recently funded project grants include: understanding and tackling the barriers to employment experienced by autistic adults; Long Covid in NHS staff: demographic and psychosocial risk factors and the relationship with sickness absence; Investigating the differential toxicology of micro-, nano-plastic particulate co-exposure with various ambient air pollutants upon healthy and diseased lung models in vitro; and A mixed-methods study to evaluate the influence of bio-psycho-social and cultural factors on the

presence of work-exacerbated asthma. Many more examples of projects funded by the Colt Foundation can be found on their website.

Tash Heydon

Director

tash@coltfoundation.org.uk

01798 342 831

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## Apply now

[https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s\\_Login.jsp](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp)

Please read our application guidance to help you complete all aspects of your application. You must read the application guidance alongside the linked resources, which detail specific requirements for this award.

- [application form guidance](/research-funding/guidance/domestic-personal-career-development-award-research-funding-application-guidance) (/research-funding/guidance/domestic-personal-career-development-award-research-funding-application-guidance)
- [Postdoctoral Award page](/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award) (/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award)
- [Postdoctoral Award assessment criteria](/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award/assessment-criteria) (/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award/assessment-criteria)
- [finance guidance](/research-funding/application-support/guidance/finance-guidance-for-applicants) (/research-funding/application-support/guidance/finance-guidance-for-applicants)
- [blog: characteristics of a great Postdoctoral Award application](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/blog/characteristics-great-postdoctoral-award-application)  
(<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/blog/characteristics-great-postdoctoral-award-application>)

## Application form uploads

You must provide the following uploads as part of your application:

- narrative CV
- letters of support from your contracting organisation and your partner organisation (if applicable)
- detailed research plan
- gantt chart or project plan document



- references
- career development programme
- schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT) (if applicable)

## Choosing a contracting organisation

You must choose a contracting organisation to include in your application. Your proposed contracting organisation must be:

- a recognised HEI based in England
- an NHS body based in England
- an English local authority
- any other third sector or publicly funded provider of health and/or social care services based in England, such as a hospice or commissioned social enterprise

You must be based in England at your contracting organisation for the duration of the award, except for travel for research, training or development activities as outlined within the proposal.

You must also choose a partner organisation if:

1. your employer for the duration of the award will not be your contracting organisation.
2. you are requesting salaried clinical or practice time through the award, but you will not undertake it within your contracting organisation

We will not support applications in which the individual is living overseas from their contracting organisation. Read more about [choosing your contracting and partner organisations](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/nihr-academy/apply-nihr-career-development-awards/choosing-contracting-organisation-career-development-awards) (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/nihr-academy/apply-nihr-career-development-awards/choosing-contracting-organisation-career-development-awards>).

## How to apply

When you're ready to apply, [log into our new awards management system](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp) ([https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s\\_Login.jsp](https://awardsmanagement.nihr.ac.uk/s_Login.jsp)). You'll need to create a new account to submit your application.

**The closing date for this application is 03 July 2025 at 1pm. Late submissions will not be considered.**

Please note that you will not be able to submit your application until all parties, such as your Head(s) of Department and mentors, have confirmed their participation on the system. Be sure to allow enough time for these confirmations before the deadline.

If you're applying to multiple career development opportunities and one application is successful, you'll need to decide which opportunity you want to continue with.

## **Research inclusion**

At NIHR we are committed to [creating a diverse and inclusive culture](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/research-inclusion) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/research-inclusion). We encourage applications from people from all backgrounds and communities bringing diverse skills and experiences.

## **Additional support**

### **Reasonable adjustments**

If you would like to discuss reasonable adjustments to support your application or the undertaking of your award (if successful) please email: [personal.awards@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:personal.awards@nihr.ac.uk) (mailto:academy@nihr.ac.uk)

You should not provide details of this request in your application. If your application is successful, you will be able to propose funding for reasonable adjustments to undertake your award during the subsequent contracting stage.

### **Research Support Services**

The [NIHR Research Support Service \(RSS\)](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-support-service/) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-support-service/) provides free and confidential advice to those developing applications for NIHR funding.

Assistance is primarily focused around refinement of research questions, research design and methodological support. The RSS also assists prospective applicants to develop public involvement and engagement strategies. This includes involvement of service users, carers and/or practitioners in social care.

The RSS is delivered collaboratively through eight hubs, which each support a broad range of research designs, from pre-application through to post-award delivery, as well as providing specialist topic or methods expertise.

RSS specialists centres

- [RSS Specialist Centre for Social Care](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-support-service/social-care-specialist-centre.htm) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-support-service/social-care-specialist-centre.htm)
- [RSS Specialist Centre for Public Health](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-support-service/public-health-specialist-centre.htm) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-support-service/public-health-specialist-centre.htm)

## Local authority settings

If you are based in a local authority setting, you may consider seeking input from elected members within the local authorities, as they represent their communities' interests.

## NIHR Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs)

Our ARCs support applied health and care research tailored to local population and system needs. These 15 local partnerships between NHS providers, universities, charities, local authorities, Academic Health Science Networks, and other organisations also focus on implementation research to enhance the uptake of research findings into practice.

You should consider contacting their local ARC prior to applying to explore potential support. Find full information, [including how to find your local ARC](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/what-we-do/infrastructure/applied-research-collaborations) (https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/what-we-do/infrastructure/applied-research-collaborations).

## NIHR Schools

NIHR Schools exist to develop evidence bases that will inform and improve practice within particular fields and welcome contact from individuals seeking support and to connect with others who share their interests. Full information is available via the school webpages:

- [NIHR School for Social Care Research](https://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/) (https://www.sscr.nihr.ac.uk/)
- [NIHR School for Public Health Research](https://sphr.nihr.ac.uk/) (https://sphr.nihr.ac.uk/)
- [NIHR School for Primary Care Research](https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/) (https://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/)

## James Lind Alliance (JLA)

JLA is an NIHR funded non-profit making initiative, bringing patients, carers, and healthcare professionals together in Priority Setting Partnerships (PSPs) and is a useful resource to prospective applicants for postdoctoral applicants.

PSPs prioritise unanswered questions or evidence uncertainties, forming a 'Top 10' list of research questions that matter most to those who rely on the research. Over 160 Top 10s have been agreed, and all priority research questions are [published on the JLA website](http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/) (http://www.jla.nihr.ac.uk/).

## Existing data resources

You are encouraged to consider whether existing data resources may be able to provide suitable data for your future studies, contributing to the feasibility and scope of a study. The [UK Data Service](https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/) (<https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/>) provides a unified point of access to an extensive range of high quality social and economic data, including UK census data, government funded surveys, longitudinal studies, international macrodata, and qualitative data.

## Local authority researchers

Developing Local Authority Researchers is a new workspace on the [FutureNHS platform](https://future.nhs.uk/system/login?nextURL=%2Fconnect%2Eti%2FLocalAuthorityHealthCareResearch) (<https://future.nhs.uk/system/login?nextURL=%2Fconnect%2Eti%2FLocalAuthorityHealthCareResearch>) which supports researchers based within local authorities and allied settings to network, share knowledge and receive notifications of future development opportunities. The workspace is open to all, and includes an active forum, monthly virtual catch-up meetings, a members directory, and links to other resources and opportunities.

Visit the following pages for:

- help with eligibility, remit and completing your application contact [personal.awards@nih.ac.uk](mailto:personal.awards@nih.ac.uk) (<mailto:personal.awards@nih.ac.uk>)
- help with research and methodological design contact [Research Support Service \(RSS\)](https://research.support.services) (<https://research.support.services>)
- more information about the award visit the [postdoctoral page](/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award) (</career-development/research-career-funding-programmes/postdoctoral/postdoctoral-award>)