

NIHR School for Social Care Research Post-Doctoral Research Fellowships 2026 Application Form

Please ensure you have read the *Guidance for Applicants* before completing this form.

The form aims to provide space for you to think through various aspects of your application logically and help you to demonstrate how you will address the programme priorities. Please read all of the questions before you make a start with your application.

Please complete all parts of the form (1-9) using Arial font size 11.

To apply, please complete the following and email to sscr@york.ac.uk, by **5pm Friday 8th May 2026**:

- 1. Application Form**
- 2. Short CV (2 pages A4 maximum)**
- 3. Cover Letter (1 page A4 maximum)**

Please state 'Post-doctoral Research Fellowship 2026' in the subject line of your e-mail.

If you have any questions please email the Programme Team: sscr@york.ac.uk

PART 1 – APPLICANT DETAILS

Applicant details	
Name (Title, first name and surname)	
Current post(s) held	
Employer Organisation	
Orcid ID	
Contact email	
UK citizen or confirmed right to work in UK for the duration of the award	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Do you have a PhD in a related field? Please give details including title and award date.	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Title: Award date/Viva date: <input type="checkbox"/> No
Have you applied to any other NIHR Fellowship calls recently and do you have any applications pending elsewhere? Please provide details including expected date of outcome	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes Details: <input type="checkbox"/> No
If you have previously been awarded a post-doctoral Fellowship, please provide details of the work completed, the funding received including funder and amount awarded	
If you have previously held a post-doctoral Fellowship, please explain how this Fellowship would add distinct value to your development as an independent social care researcher.	

PART 2 – FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

Proposal details	
Fellowship Title	
Expected start date	
Expected End Date	
Duration (months)	
Full/part time (min 0.6fte)	
Budget requested	

Abstract (250 words maximum) Please summarise your fellowship proposal
Plain English Summary (250 words maximum) Please provide a plain English summary of the project suitable for use on our website. For help with writing lay summaries you may wish to refer to the NIHR 'Plain English summaries' guidance

PART 3 – APPLICANT BACKGROUND

Please describe your research experience and most significant contributions to social care research to date (Max 800 words)

This may include your role in research projects, publications, methodological expertise, contributions to social care practice or policy, collaborative working, and any awards or recognition. Applicants should focus on quality, relevance, and their individual contribution rather than providing a comprehensive list of activities.

Please describe how this Fellowship would further your research and career aspirations, and its context in your longer-term plan? (Max 200 words)

Research funding

Please provide details of any research or personal funding you have held in the last 5 years (most recent first). State the name of the awarding body, names(s) of grant holder(s), title, amount awarded, your role in the project/activity and start and end date. For all active grants, please state the number of hours per week that you spend on the projects (where applicable). Do not worry if you have not received funding in the past. Applications will be judged on individual circumstances and career stage.

Awarding body	Name(s) of grant holder(s)	Title	Award value (£)	Your role	Start date	End date	Hours spent on grant per week

PART 4 - SUPERVISORY TEAM

Details of Lead Supervisor to complete Part 9

Name	
Position	

Employer Organisation	
Contact email	
FTE contribution	
Roles and responsibilities of team member	

Details of Supervisory Team Member (duplicate if necessary)	
Name	
Position	
Employer Organisation	
Contact email	
FTE contribution	
Roles and responsibilities of team member	

PART 5 – CASE FOR SUPPORT

Please do not exceed **6 pages of A4**, excluding references. An allowance of 1.5 pages will be made for section headings.

Details of Fellowship Research

Your description should include:

- The **background** and context to the proposed research and why it is important, including a brief overview of relevant known literature and how your proposed research adds to the evidence base.
- The main **aims & objectives** of the project
- A description of the **design and methods**, including a justification for sampling and anticipated challenges/risks for the design and the proposed solutions.
- Key **ethical** considerations and requirements for related approvals
- Expected **outcomes** from the research and pathway to impact
- The **timetable** and milestones for the project (you may wish to include a Gantt chart – not included in page limit).

Public involvement

Within SSCR, when we talk about ‘the public’ we are talking about people who seek/use social care and their informal/unpaid/family carers. This includes:

- People who require and/or use social care support;
 - Carers - people who offer unpaid care, usually family members, friends or volunteers
- Please refer to the [SSCR Public Involvement webpage](#) and the [SSCR Public Involvement and Engagement Strategy](#) for further information and guidance.

Please detail how members of the public have been and will be involved in your research. This may include involvement in refining research questions, study design, data collection, interpretation of findings, dissemination, and evaluation of impact. Applicants should also consider how they will reflect on and learn from these relationships over the course of the Fellowship.

Practice involvement

Within SSCR, when we talk about ‘practice’, we are talking about people who work in social care, including direct care staff, social workers, commissioners and policy makers.

Please detail how members of the practice have been and will be involved in your research.

This may include involvement in refining research questions, study design, data collection, interpretation of findings, dissemination, and evaluation of impact.

Applicants should also consider how they will reflect on and learn from these relationships over the course of the Fellowship.

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI)

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are key principles for SSCR. We aim to create an environment where equality and diversity are considered at all stages of the research journey.

Please refer to the [SSCR Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy](#) for further information and guidance.

Please detail how you have taken account of EDI in your proposal, this should include the delivery of the research, appointment of research staff and public/practice partners and also in dissemination and knowledge sharing strategies.

Knowledge Exchange & Impact

Knowledge exchange is the mutual sharing of expertise, evidence and experience - and impact, defined as the demonstrable positive difference that research makes to people, practice, policy, and systems.

Please set out proposed outputs, knowledge exchange activities and detailed pathways to impact on policy, practice and future research.

Please consider the [SSCR Knowledge Exchange & Impact and Communications Strategies](#) when completing this section.

References (excluded from word count)

Please provide references to any literature, research papers, policy papers and/or publications that are cited in - and relevant to - your proposal.

PART 6 - CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLAN**Details of career development plan (500 words maximum)**

Please detail the training and development you are proposing to undertake as part of your award. This should include both training you may need to undertake to complete the proposed research and training to support your broader academic development as a future social care research leader. It may include but is not limited to:

- Formal courses
- Training in specialist skills & research methodologies
- Placements with other research groups or centres
- Leadership skills
- Conference attendance
- Overseas research visits

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PART 7 – RELEVANCE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH (Please do not exceed 1 page of A4)

Relevance of proposed research
You should include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How your proposed research is relevant to, and supports, the thematic objectives of SSCR.• If applicable, how your proposed research addresses the NHS Ten Year Plan & Three Shifts Framework' or directly address the recent DNSC adult social care priorities (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/adult-social-care-priorities-for-local-authorities)• How have you chosen the setting in which you plan to undertake the award?
Will this project link to other parts of the NIHR, e.g., ARCs, Incubators, HDRCs? If yes, please briefly describe

PART 8 - RESOURCES

Please complete the [costing template](#) available on the SSCR website and provide a summary and justification below.

Total funding requested Please provide a cost for your proposal and set out details of the resources requested.	
	Total
Total salary costs	£
Total non-salary costs	£
Total overheads (30% of HEI salary costs)	£
Total budget requested	£
Breakdown and justification of resources Please provide a breakdown and justification of all requested resources, clearly explaining why they are necessary to deliver the proposed fellowship.	

PART 9 - DECLARATIONS

Lead applicant <i>I confirm that the information given on this form is complete and correct, that all named on this form have seen a copy of this application, and that I shall be actively engaged in the Fellowship.</i>
Signature:
Name:
Date:
Proposed lead supervisor <i>I confirm that I have read the details of this application. I am willing to act as the applicant's academic supervisor.</i>
Signature:
Name:
Position and Institution:

Date:

Host Institution Authorised Signatory

I confirm that I have read the details of this application and support the application on behalf of the Host Institution

Signature:

Name:

Position and Institution:

Date: