



# South West Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme

HEE/NIHR Post-doctoral bridging  
award (2020/21)

## Guidance notes

**For further information contact:**

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### Introduction

Health Education England (HEE) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) have established an overarching Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) programme for non-medical healthcare professionals.

'Clinical academics are clinically active health researchers. They work in health and social care as clinicians to improve, maintain, or recover health while in parallel researching new ways of delivering better outcomes for the patients they treat and care for'

(Building a Research Career, NIHR 2015)

The ICA programme is intended to increase research capacity in order to improve health and healthcare, by developing people with the potential and aspiration to become leading clinical academics and independent researchers in the future.

This year (2020/21) we have secured local funding to support a number of post-doctoral bridging awards for non-medical clinical academics from the South West region. These awards offer the unique opportunity to complete an individualised, structured, twelve-month period of training and development for those looking to undertake a post-doctoral fellowship. With their clinical academic supervisor, successful individuals will have the opportunity to design a bespoke educational programme tailored to suit their specific clinical academic needs and aspirations. You can apply for an award from one of two panels: Exeter/Plymouth or Bristol.

The awards can be completed on a full or part-time basis, as long as all costs remain within the maximum funding envelope of £20,000. Proposals should align their organisations research priorities and the HEE Mandate objectives.

Useful link:

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/hee-nihr-integrated-clinical-academic-programme.htm>

### Eligibility

The awards are open to Allied Health Professionals, Chiropractors, Non-medical Public Health Speciality Trainees, Nurses, Midwives, Optometrists and dispensing opticians, Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians, Practitioner Psychologists, Healthcare Scientists and wider Dental Team Professions. To be eligible for one of these awards you will need to provide evidence that you have the following:

- Registered with the relevant professional body as per ICA programme requirements (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/documents/ICA/TCC-ICA-Eligible-Professions-and-Registration-Bodies.pdf>)
- Applicant must be employed by a provider of health and/or care services that is providing at least 50% of its services free at the point of delivery. The applicant must also be spending at least 50% of their current role delivering health and/or care services which are free at the point of delivery.
- Applicants must hold a relevant PhD or Prof Doc (see eligibility criteria <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/ica-professional-doctorates-eligibility->

[criteria/12291](#)), or have submitted their thesis for examination at the time of application. Applicants must have been awarded their Doctorate by the time they start.

- For the post-doctoral bridging support, being a current or previous ICA, Clinical Academic Training (CAT) or Healthcare Science (HCS) award holder is desirable but not essential.
- One year's post-registration practice experience
- Support from your line manager to undertake the award
- A keen interest and clear suitability for a senior clinical academic career
- Mentorship from a named clinical academic supervisor (identified by applicant)
- Access to a bespoke educational programme related to specific aspects of the research methodology or data analysis. This could include an academic module, a short course or further accredited academic training
- The opportunity to develop links with an existing clinical research team (identified by applicant)

You are expected to take up the award between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and to complete the award within 12 months. If there are circumstances where this is not possible, requests for adjustments will be considered on an individual basis.

## How much is the award and how can the funding be used?

Each successful applicant will be awarded up to £20,000 to cover costs including salary backfill, incidental costs, research and clinical supervision, and formal education costs. Suggestions on how the budget can be spent are presented below;

**Clinical backfill:** it is recognised that this may form the main budget expenditure. The most appropriate backfill arrangements can be decided by the awardee and their line manager.

**Research project:** this could include expenses related to the applied research objectives e.g. patient and public involvement, digital voice records, reference management systems, dictation services etc.

**Training and support:** It is essential to have academic mentorship throughout the award. Ideally this support should be from a University within the South West region, however it is recognised that some professional groups may have to find this support from outside of the region. It is recommended that academic supervision costs do not exceed 20% of the overall spending plan. In addition to academic supervision, it may also be appropriate to access further formal courses, visits to other centres, personal coaching, informal learning and access to relevant workshops. All of this should support the individual in applying for further post-doctoral level fellowship funding to progress their clinical academic career.

**Dissemination costs:** an element of the award is to disseminate the findings through publications and/or conference presentations. Therefore the award can be used to fund conference or publication costs. It is also anticipated that each successful applicant will produce a poster for HEE working across the south west.

It is recommended that the spending plans are checked by finance teams prior to submission.

## Monitoring and expectations

- Attendance at two group sessions  
Preparation may include oral presentation or written submissions of
  - A research protocol for scientific review
  - A PPI review
  - Advanced fellowship of clinical lectureship application for review
- A written progress report will be required after 6 months
- A full report will be completed at the end of the award.

## Application process:

You can apply for an award from one of two panels: Exeter/Plymouth or Bristol. You can get further information or discuss the options with the contacts provided on the front page.

Prior to submitting an application, it is recommended that applicants contact the research leads within their NHS Trust to discuss applying for this award and investigate what support and help is available within the organisation.

Please submit a completed checklist (see Appendix 1) and all corresponding documentation to: [v.goodwin@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:v.goodwin@exeter.ac.uk) by Midday Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020.

### Key dates:

<b>Closing date for applications:</b>	Midday Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2020
<b>Interviews:</b> <b><u>Exeter/Plymouth Panel</u></b> University of Exeter, St Lukes Campus, Magdalen Road, Exeter EX1 2LU <b><u>Bristol Panel</u></b> University of the West of England, Glenside Campus, Blackberry Hill, Bristol, BS16 1DD	Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2020  Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2020

***Applicants who choose to apply must be available for interview on the above date.***

## Appendix 1: Post-doctoral Bridging Award – Checklist

<b>Name:</b>		
<b>Area of clinical academic interest:</b>		
<b>Contact details:</b>	<b>Email:</b>	
	<b>Telephone:</b>	
<b>Panel that you are applying to:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Exeter/Plymouth	<input type="checkbox"/> Bristol
<b>Criteria</b> <i>Please ensure you have provided all the information listed below before submission. Incomplete submissions may not be considered.</i>	<b>Answer Yes/No</b>	
<b>1. Registration with an appropriate UK regulatory and professional body</b> Regulatory/professional body: ..... Registration number: .....		
<b>2. Curriculum Vitae confirming the following;</b> a) Employment with a provider of health and/or care providing at least 50% of its services free at the point of delivery, where the applicants spends at least 50% of their current role delivering health and/or care services which are free at the point of delivery b) Minimum of 3 year’s post registration practice c) Evidence that PhD has been awarded		
<b>3. Cover letter (on headed paper) 1,200 words max (excluding references):</b> a) <b>Outline of proposed activity</b> (including background to the research area and up to 10 references) b) <b>Planned outcomes of the bridging award</b> (including how these address team/service clinical priorities and needs as discussed with your line manager) c) <b>Reason for applying for the bridging award</b> (including capability to continue on a clinical academic career pathway and planned Benefits and learning of internship) d) <b>Impact on quality of patient care</b> (specify how your planned research and related clinical practice will improve the quality of patient care) e) <b>Patient and Public Involvement</b> (specify any PPI you have done or plan to do during the award) f) The <b>support available to you</b> at a senior clinical academic level		
<b>4. Letter of support from line manager</b> Line managers are requested to confirm that they agree in principle to support the applicant and their application. Emails from work email address are acceptable.		
<b>5. Letter of support from clinical academic supervisor</b> Supervisors are requested to highlight relevant areas of expertise and fit with current research themes. Emails from work email address are acceptable.		
<b>6. A detailed spending plan of up to £12,000 for the award period</b> Please check your budget with your line manager and/or finance team if possible.		
<b>7. I understand that, if successful, a confirmation letter from my organisation of management support and financial plans will be required prior to the provision of funding.</b>		

I can confirm that I meet the criteria for a Clinical Academic Post-Doctoral Bridging Award and I have submitted all of the evidence described above;

**Signed:** ..... **Date:** .....