



Birmingham-Wellcome Trust Career Development Hub

FAQs

(Updated: 12/04/2017)

This document sets out answers to a range of questions which potential applicants may have. It may be updated while the call is open to elaborate or supplement answers, in response to received queries.

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Accelerator Fellowship

Can I apply for an accelerator fellowship if I am not a recent postdoc?

The schemes are designed to provide flexibility to enable the right support to be given at the right time in anyone’s career. It is possible to apply for an accelerator fellowship if you are not a recent postdoc, although we would not expect to be funding salary costs.

Additionally, the application would need to clearly state what the award would enable you to do that a pump-priming or mobility award (to generate data and collaborations) would not. Any good case is welcome, and panel decisions will be based on your CV, track record and performance at interview.

Continuity Awards

Can the Continuity Award pay for a proportion of applicant salary costs?

If there is a clear reason that part of your salary is needed in the Continuity Award then the Panel will be receptive – the guidance is there as a broad overview, not as a strict limitation. Any strong case will be welcome, as long as it has clear justification why a particular form of support is critical.

Critical Data Awards

Can the Critical Data Award be used to apply for funding to collect pilot data where a research proposal has not been internally peer-reviewed?

Yes. You can apply without internal or external peer review, but the case will be strengthened by these – particularly where they come from experts outside of your immediate group.



Global Mobility

Can the Global Mobility Award be used to collect data in Low & Middle Income Countries (LMICs) or is it intended for the learning of new techniques from an external institution?

There is complete flexibility in what can be applied for, but the Panel will have to make a judgement on how beneficial different approaches are. Fostering interactions and collecting data in LMICs is equally welcome as learning new techniques and developing collaborations in strong non-LMIC institutions.

Under the Global Mobility Award can funding be used to be build-upon/strengthen existing links?

Yes. Funding can be used to build on existing links if there is a strong rationale. Ultimately, the Panel's decision will be based on how significantly a particular activity advances your strength for major external funding applications such as (but not limited to) Fellowships.

Can a PhD student apply for the Global Mobility award?

The preference is for researchers themselves to undertake this. However, if this was an excellent PhD student who was looking to apply for a Fellowship soon after, then potentially yes. The Panel's concerns would be around investing in training-up personnel who may be lost to the institution in the near future. Any application would need to justify why there was no opportunity to do this from existing student funding.

Other

Can a proportion of salary costs be requested to conduct research in the Critical Data Awards or Global Mobility Award?

A very clear justification would be needed as to why this is appropriate in your particular circumstances, but all strong applications are welcome and the Panel can be flexible on the types of support provided.

It is advisable to discuss this with your local Research Support Office (details can be found below), to get feedback and support, before making a formal application.

Are Birmingham Fellows classed as early or mid-career researchers?

Depending on their career stage they could be either, and there is no preference – this is not something that should be of concern. The Panel will consider the strength of the candidate at the relevant point in their career, and neither stage will be a particular advantage or disadvantage.

Queries and questions

I have a question not answered – who should I contact?

Project specific questions should be directed to your Research Support Office:

- **LES**
Jen Jennings - J.L.Jennings@bham.ac.uk
- **EPS**
Paul Reay - P.Reay@bham.ac.uk
- **MDS**
Georgina Drury - G.E.Drury@bham.ac.uk

If you have any questions or queries about the technicalities of applying for the Birmingham-Wellcome Trust Career Development Hub please contact: centralfunds@contacts.bham.ac.uk