



Birmingham-Wellcome Trust Career Development Hub

Funding guidelines

Background and principles

In partnership with the Wellcome Trust (via their Institutional Strategic Support Fund), the University is now establishing a Life Sciences-focused Career Development Hub, [mirroring the broad research remit of the Wellcome Trust](#) in terms of support and funding eligibility. The key themes within this are: effective management of ***critical career transition points*** where researchers are vulnerable; support for ***increased flexibility and responsiveness*** to research opportunities; further support to promote ***development of skills and collaborations***, particularly interdisciplinary; and ensuring ***equality and diversity*** in research careers.

What does the Career Development Hub cover?

This approach covers a range of career stages within the Life Sciences, most importantly:

- Transition from **PhD to post-doctoral** Fellowships;
- **Early-career postdoctoral researchers and Lecturers** looking to secure their first major Fellowship or personal award as lead investigator;
- **Mid-career researchers** facing challenges to maintain career trajectory when moving from externally-funded Fellowships and/or adapting their research direction.

Funding options available

Applications are welcomed at any time, with four annual UoB ISSF Panel meetings deciding the majority of awards.

Deadlines:

September 2017 panel meeting: **25th August**

December 2017 panel meeting: **17th November**

Decisions can be made more rapidly where needed, please get in touch to discuss.

Accelerator Fellowship:

Excellent researchers at either the late PhD or postdoctoral stage of their careers can apply for personal salary support and up to £25,000 per year research pump-priming and mobility funding to establish a competitive position for external Fellowship applications. This could include a discipline-hopping component, an element which is particularly encouraged for current PhD students to gain new skillsets, e.g. through accessing other existing Doctoral Training Programmes. The maximum duration for Accelerator Fellowships is 24 months, but most awards will be of significantly shorter duration (particularly for PhD students). Applicants will be expected to undergo a more rigorous assessment process, [including formal interview](#).

Critical Data Awards:

Excellent researchers across any of our highlighted career stages can apply for funding awards of up to £15,000 (early-career) or £25,000 (mid-career) to deliver key experiments or other research work which either provides compelling pilot data for a specified external application, or supplements existing data to enable publication in a high-impact journal. Applications are expected to clearly demonstrate why the specific data is required as an enabler – for publications, this should include review comments from the journal, and for pilot data underpinning external funding applications this will be strengthened by feedback from internal (outside the applicant's own group) or external grant review.

Global Mobility:

Collaboration and experience outside the UK is essential to deliver world-leading research, and funders are placing increased emphasis on global partnerships which directly address issues specific to regions such as Low & Middle Income Countries (LMICs). Excellent researchers at any of our highlighted career stages are therefore encouraged to apply for Mobility awards (covering travel, accommodation, subsistence and if well-justified a level of research consumables) of up to £10,000. These may establish new partnerships, define critical research questions or learn new skills and techniques which can be brought back to Birmingham. Evidence of support from the partner site is required.



Continuity Award:

Excellent researchers may face a multitude of challenges, within and without the University environment. We wish to offer support for return to work for ECRs/MCRs after responsibilities such as maternity/paternity leave, but also caring for sick family members or other difficult personal circumstances. Funding can provide technician support posts and consumable funding where needed to help vulnerable researchers rapidly re-establish themselves and be in a position to apply for external funding. Award levels are flexible dependent on applicant need, and we would welcome direct discussions prior to application to establish the most appropriate type(s) of support to apply for.

Expectations of award holders:

All award types are critically dependent on evidence of a strong career trajectory; a clear mentoring and support plan from your host environment (School/Institute); and clarity on expected next steps in terms of external funding application(s). Award holders will be required to provide regular reports, and play a key role in annual events which will directly involve the Wellcome Trust as our major partner funders.

Application Process

All applications must be submitted via the online application form available here:

<https://bham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/uob-wellcome-trust-career-development-hub-application>

Once you have submitted your application you will need to email the following attachments to centralfunds@contacts.bham.ac.uk:

The following attachments must be submitted as one combined pdf document which clearly states the 'receipt number' of your application (you will receive this once your application has been submitted). The email subject should state the call name and the 'receipt number'.

1. **CV:** A CV of no more than 2-pages (including employment history and markers of esteem)
2. **Key Publication:** Up to 1-page listing key publications
3. **Preliminary Data (if applicable):** Data which justifies why your project should be supported
4. **Gantt Chart:** A gantt chart which provides clarity regarding design and expected outcomes

To assist in the completion of your application please see below for a list of the questions included within the application form:

Heading	Question
Funding Pitch	<i>Please briefly outline your request for funding, including the specific immediate need for the investment and how it will make a critical impact to your career. [Max. 2000 characters]</i>
Personal Trajectory	<i>Please provide details of your current career stage and plans for the immediate future. Why are you a good choice for investment, and how likely are you to succeed? A CV must be submitted via email. [Max. 2000 characters]</i>
Scientific Rationale:	<i>Please provide details on how your proposed project fits with both institutional and Wellcome Trust strategy; the specific scientific background to the proposed project; any pilot data you have obtained; and critical data or developments needed to progress towards external funding. Preliminary data can be submitted via email. [Max. 4000 characters]</i>
	<i>Please detail any planned partners, and what specific expertise they bring that will support the project. [Max. 4000 characters]</i>
Delivery Plan and Outputs	<i>Please outline your intended approach i.e. what you will do and by when. A gantt chart must be submitted via email. [Max. 4000 characters]</i>
Outcomes and Next Steps	<i>Please clearly detail the list of expected outputs, and how these will benefit the institution as well as yourself. You should also outline the specific next grant or Fellowship you are applying for subsequent to this award, including details of any discussions with local College-based Research Support teams, external collaborators/partners and funding bodies themselves. [Max. 4000 characters]</i>



Funding Request	<p><i>Please provide details on the required funding, including a justification for why costs are needed. This question is broken down into costs which fall under the following headings:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>PI salary costs</i>• <i>Other salary costs</i>• <i>Consumables</i>• <i>Travel and Subsistence</i>• <i>Other Costs</i>• <i>Total</i>
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Queries and questions

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