

Primary Care Scientist Launching Fellowship – Further Particulars and Application Process

The Centre for Academic Primary Care, University of Bristol is hosting a Launching Fellowship from the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (<http://www.spcr.nihr.ac.uk/>), a partnership between eight leading academic centres for primary care research in England. The School's main aim is to increase the evidence base for primary care practice through high quality research and strategic leadership. The Launching Fellowship to be hosted by the Centre for Academic Primary Care will fund an exceptionally able primary care scientist to prepare an application for an externally funded research fellowship or a research grant, taking the role of principal or co-principal investigator. It is intended to provide a bridge between doctoral studies and beginning to establish a career as an independent researcher. Applicants must be within 6 months of completing their doctorate or up to 2 years post doctorate on 1 March 2014.

We welcome applications from individuals from a range of research backgrounds such as health services research, economics, medical statistics, medical sociology, health psychology or human geography. Applicants must have a track record in conducting research of relevance to primary health care and in generating important research questions affecting primary health care. We wish to attract applicants who have experience of undertaking primary care research that leads to high quality peer-reviewed publications, have completed (or are very close to completing) a PhD in an area of relevance to primary health care, and demonstrate the capacity to generate research questions and designs appropriate for primary care. The applicant's proposed research must relate to one of the research themes of the Centre for Academic Primary Care.

The Centre for Academic Primary Care, University of Bristol (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare>) conducts research within two broad themes. The first is the diagnosis and management of disease in primary care. There are particular strengths in relation to childhood infection, domestic violence, and primary care mental health, and also projects relating to cardiovascular disease, childhood obesity and complementary therapies. The second theme is improving the delivery of primary care. This includes evaluation of new forms of care (for example the role of telehealth), predicting and preventing avoidable hospital admissions, and studies relating to key issues for the future of primary care, including continuity of care, generalism, multimorbidity and improving the management of long term conditions, and commissioning and quality.

The Fellowship holder will be expected to begin to build their own research portfolio as principal or co-principal investigator. Although we seek to appoint someone with the drive and ambition to ultimately lead their own research programme, it is also important that the successful applicant contributes to the intellectual life of the Academic Centre and the School, and to a co-operative, collaborative and productive working environment.

Person Specification

The qualifications, skills, knowledge and experience outlined below provide a summary of what is expected from the person appointed to the Primary Care Scientist Launching Fellowship. They also form the selection criteria on which the decision on who to appoint will be made. Please ensure that your application form and CV demonstrate how you meet the criteria outlined below.

Relevant Experience, Skills and Knowledge

Essential

- Excellent understanding of important issues for primary care
- Expertise in health services research using quantitative or qualitative methods (or both)
- Experience of developing own innovative research ideas
- Substantial experience of conducting applied health research with relevance to primary care
- A strong record of peer-reviewed publications
- Developing national or international academic collaborations
- Research interests and expertise which build on or complement existing research themes within the Centre for Academic Primary Care

Desirable

- Track record of winning external grant funding
- Experience of managing research
- Experience of supervising junior research staff
- Relevant under-graduate or post-graduate teaching experience
- Knowledge of NHS policy on R&D and modernising the NHS
- Knowledge and experience of ethics and research governance approval systems
- Involved in wider scholastic projects (e.g. peer reviewing grants or papers)

Relevant Qualifications

Essential

- Good undergraduate degree in a relevant discipline
- Within 6 months of completing their doctorate or up to 2 years post doctorate on 1 March 2014, in a relevant discipline.

Desirable

- Masters degree in a relevant discipline

Communication and Interpersonal Skills

Essential

- Fluent in English with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Commitment to team-working, and respect and consideration for the skills of others
- Ability to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team, including with health professionals
- Self-motivated, pro-active, innovative, and able to use initiative where appropriate
- Adaptable to situations and able to handle people of all capabilities
- Hardworking and able to prioritise work to meet tight deadlines
- A 'can do' attitude
- Willing and able to work collaboratively to ensure the continued success of the Centre and School

Desirable

Additional Criteria	
Essential	Desirable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to improving the health of patients within the NHS • Computer literate, including competence in Microsoft Office package • Competence with relevant data analysis software, for example statistical or qualitative • Able to travel to other parts of the University or NHS primary care settings to develop research ideas, some of which may not easily accessible by public transport. 	

Applicant suitability and eligibility

Applicants should have a genuine interest in primary care, a track record of conducting research of relevance to primary care, a commitment to working on a topic aligned to one of the research themes of the Centre for Academic Primary Care at the University of Bristol, a strong publication record, and the potential to be a highly competitive candidate for prestigious external fellowship funding based at the University of Bristol or a principal or co-principal investigator on a grant application. The Centre for Academic Primary Care has an outstanding track record in supporting individuals to gain external Fellowships and in securing prestigious grants from bodies such as the NIHR.

The Launching Fellowship is intended to provide a bridge between doctoral studies and beginning to establish a career as an independent researcher. To be eligible for the Launching Fellowship you must be within 6 months of completing your doctorate or up to 2 years post doctorate on 1 March 2014.

Allowed costs

Awards will cover the applicant's salary at I/J grade level on the University of Bristol pay scale (up to a maximum of £36,661).

Funding is available for 12 months full-time equivalent but the post is open to individuals who wish to work part-time over a longer period, as long as the Launching Fellowship is completed no later than September 30th 2016. A small budget for research expenses may be made available where appropriate, depending on the candidate's proposed programme of work.

The Primary Care Scientist Launching Fellowship will offer

- A salaried position funded by a prestigious body (the NIHR School for Primary Care Research) to enable you to develop and submit a quality external Fellowship or grant application.
- Access to a range of expertise within the Centre for Academic Primary Care and the wider School of Social and Community Medicine, to support your area of research.
- Advice on crafting your external fellowship or grant application from experienced researchers familiar with your field.

- Guidance through the external fellowship application process from initial concept to submission. This will cover suitable funding sources, costing the proposal, peer review of your application and interview support.
- Access to outstanding career development and training opportunities within the School of Social and Community Medicine and the wider University.

Further information

For further details or an informal discussion about the Launching Fellowship, please contact Dr Alison Heawood (ali.heawood@bristol.ac.uk) or Professor Chris Salisbury (c.salisbury@bristol.ac.uk).

Application process

Prior to application, potential candidates should visit the website for the Centre for Academic Primary Care (<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare/>) to find out more about the research themes and current studies within the Centre and identify members of academic staff who could act as mentor(s) to the applicant's proposed research. Mentors may provide topic or methodological expertise, or both. Potential applicants should make informal contact with at least one staff member from the Centre for Academic Primary Care to discuss their research ideas for *before* submitting their application. Potential mentor(s) should be named within the application.

Please submit:

- A completed application form
- A full CV ((including a full list of grants and publications, and the names and contact details of three academic referees)

Selection process

Selection will be a two stage process. Firstly, shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview at the Centre for Academic Primary Care, University of Bristol. The interview will include a short presentation to the selection panel, detailing the candidate's proposed programme of work for the Launching Fellowship and plans for the future grant or external Fellowship application. Secondly, post-interview, details of the preferred candidate will be submitted to the Board of the NIHR SPCR for a final decision. The successful applicant will be notified after approval by the Board.

Deadline

Applications should be submitted to Nancy Horlick (nancy.horlick) by 09:00 (GMT) Thursday 27th February 2014.

It is anticipated that interviews will take place on Thursday 13th March 2014.