

## Wellcome Clinical PhD Scheme in Northern England 4ward North Clinical PhD Academy



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### Guidance for Stage 1 Applications

**Who are we?** The Universities of Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield have come together to set up the 'The 4ward North Clinical PhD Academy' to raise the quality of clinical academic research training in northern England. By bringing together our institutions, our metrics in research income, research published and clinical trainees on fellowships from major funders stand alongside the very best in UK clinical and biomedical research. As testimony to this unified approach, we have gained enthusiastic collaboration from the Francis Crick Institute (FCI) in London and received funding from the Wellcome for 5 places on a prestigious 3-year PhD programme for each of the next 5 years. In short, this is an excellent opportunity and setting to launch your career as a clinical academic of the future. Each individual PhD will be hosted by one of our four institutions. Those successful at stage 1 will participate in a lead-in period when you remain in your current post and your normal clinical training will continue.

**What do we offer?** Those who secure a place on the 3-year PhD programme will become 'Wellcome clinical PhD fellows', a prestigious marker of esteem for a future career combining research with clinical practice. For those familiar with the old national Wellcome scheme, this award replaces that funding stream, i.e. salary + pension contributions, project running costs and an annual training allowance. The funding is also very similar to that offered by the Medical Research Council (MRC) for its clinical research training fellowship (CRTF) scheme. However, in addition, our successful awardees will receive: a comprehensive quarterly training programme with leading clinical academics and bespoke mentoring; a personalised training plan with one of the Programme Directors; an additional £2,000 per annum bursary for three years awarded after the PhD for flexible training and meeting attendance; and, towards the end of the PhD, an opportunity to compete for our 'Leading Scholars' Programme' in collaboration with the FCI which offers 12-months research immediately after the PhD to pump-prime postdoctoral clinical career development applications.

**What is the process?** At Stage 1, we will select 20 individuals based on Stage 1 application forms (available on the website (<http://www.4wardnorth.org.uk>) and comprises details of your CV and a brief vision statement). These individuals will be advised and guided on building a project with members of our supervisor pool (see supervisor brochure) and on putting together a full Stage 2 application. This Stage 2 application will be assessed and approximately 10 candidates will be shortlisted for interview. It is anticipated that 5 places on the Wellcome Trust 3-year clinical PhD programme will be awarded to start 1<sup>st</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020.

### Can I select my own supervisors from outside the 4ward North Clinical PhD Academy?

Our supervisor pool has been approved by the Wellcome as meeting the highest standards. However, we are aware that many clinical trainees have established mentorship and guidance and/or developed

productive research links with a number of high quality researchers beyond our supervisor pool. We are still very keen that you apply for this scheme and, if successful at Stage 1, we will advise you on how to develop your project that hopefully builds productively on your past experience and your aspirations.

**What if you don't make the final 5?** This is one of the advantages of our scheme. If you are one of the 20 (i.e. you made it through Stage 1) but fell short at Stage 2, we still want to help you build your project, and guide, advise and mentor you through the application process for an equivalent research training award from other funders, such as the MRC. Remember, being part of the initial 20 brings you into contact with excellent supervisors at the leading edge of their specialties and disciplines. Our approach will provide a fantastic springboard for other doctoral fellowships where we can overcome one of the commonest failings at national panels; namely, that candidates are excellent but their projects are weak and do not draw upon sufficient leading expertise, experience and training opportunities. We want applicants to work with the best, not necessarily the closest.

**Who should apply?** We welcome applications from trainees in all clinical specialties. You must be eligible now to undertake clinical practice in the UK. You will have completed MCRP or equivalent and are likely to have embarked upon training in a specific clinical specialty. You may be close to completing or have completed an NIHR academic clinical fellowship. You may have previously undertaken published research, written up case reports, and / or undertaken an intercalated BSc while a medical student. While ultimately we will select the best, we realise that the best come in many different shapes and forms; we are particularly keen to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed independent of personal circumstances and background.

#### **What do we require now for your Stage 1 application?**

To apply for this exciting opportunity, applicants should submit:

- Complete Stage 1 application form
- The deadline for Stage 1 applications is **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (9am)**
- Ensure you are able to attend our session on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019** if you are shortlisted (venue: Inox, Sheffield)

**What will happen next?** Your Stage 1 application will be reviewed by experts familiar with the selection of clinical PhD fellows and we hope to let you know the outcome in the week commencing **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019**. Feedback may be given on unsuccessful applications but is not guaranteed. If selected you must be able to attend an all-day event on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019** in Sheffield (details on venue and precise timings will be given with the outcome of the Stage 1 application).

**Contact for submission of Stage 1 applications and enquiries:** [N4@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:N4@sheffield.ac.uk)

- Stage 1 applications deadline **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (Noon)**

## Guidance for Stage 2 Applications

### What do we require now for your Stage 2 application?

- Complete Stage 2 application form (available on website <http://www.4wardnorth.org.uk/how-to-apply/application-process> )
- The deadline for Stage 2 applications is **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 (9am)**
- Reserve **28<sup>th</sup> April 2020** which is when we will be interviewing for the Wellcome Trust clinical PhD places in Leeds.
- Inform your clinical training programme director and discuss that you may wish to commence a 3-year full time PhD (OOPR) commencing in late summer-early autumn 2020.

**Completing your Stage 2 application form.** We have included information for the Stage 2 application within each section of the application form to help you but you may still have queries – please contact email [N4@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:N4@sheffield.ac.uk) or phone Jodie Burnham on 0114 2159571.

### Costing:

- Please ensure the costing is carried out by the institution who will **host** the award.
- The costing should include reasonable costs to undertake the research work and include the postholder's salary (remember to ask your finance administrator to adjust your salary costing to include any anticipated changes relating to the Junior Doctors Contract if this applies to you).
- Your costs should include inflation at host institution's standard rate.
- Remember to include the host institution's PhD registration fees

If you are uncertain whether you should include certain costs please contact 4ward North administration [N4@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:N4@sheffield.ac.uk)

**What will happen next?** Your Stage 2 application will be reviewed by the 4ward North Directors panel and we hope to let you know the outcome by week commencing **10<sup>th</sup> March 2020** or very shortly afterwards. Feedback will be given on unsuccessful applications.

**Contact for submission of Stage 2 applications and enquiries:** [N4@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:N4@sheffield.ac.uk)

- Stage 2 applications deadline **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020 (9am)**