

The Royal College of Pathologist Fellowship Research Start-up Grant Guidance Document

Introduction

The Royal College of Pathologists' Fellowship Research Start-up Grant provides support to postgraduate and undergraduate students at the beginning of their research project for up to one year. A maximum amount of £4000 is awarded to postgraduate students and £1000 to undergraduate students.

This document provides all the relevant information you need to apply for the Fellowship Research Start-up Grant.

These Fellowships are designed to support undergraduates and postgraduates begin research in Pathology and so may provide support for project that may form the basis of further applications. The grants can support work in any discipline of medical or veterinary pathology and are not restricted to cellular pathology or histopathology.

We aim to make at least one and up to three post-graduate awards and at least three and up to six undergraduate awards this year. There will be another round of applications next year.

Eligibility

Applications will be assessed against the criteria's listed below.

- Postgraduate students: must be a medical, scientist, veterinary or oral pathology trainee in an RCPATH specialty.
- Already undertaking postgraduate research qualification under a UK institution or hold an academic national training number.
- Not hold another active research grant other than their funding for their postgraduate degree or small travel grants.

Undergraduate students must:

- be studying in biomedical (IBMS accredited), medical, dentistry, or veterinary in the UK.
- not be in receipt of any financial support from other sources for the project that is in the subject of the application.

Funding and payment

The Fellowship Research Start-up Grant provides funding for 12 months covering:

- Chemicals and/or equipment
- Consumables
- Licences for specialist software required for the project
- Equipment access

Excluded are:

- Travel costs
- Salary contributions
- Departmental overheads (including office equipment)
- Costs for the dissemination of the work (including conference attendance and publication costs)

Funding also should not replace or reduce institutional or funding agency support.

Research projects must be completed within one year of the grant being awarded. We recognise that due to work and/or study commitments, it may take some trainees longer to complete their research project, and where applicable trainees may be granted eighteen months to complete the research project.

If an application for the Fellowship Start-up Grant is approved, the applicant will be required to provide bank details for payment, which will be made into a UK bank account within six weeks of the grant being awarded. Please note the grant will need to be paid into your institution's bank account and not a personal bank account.

Assessment process

All applications will be reviewed by members of the Research Committee and assessed as follows:

For medical, scientist, veterinary or oral pathology trainees in an RCPATH specialty	
Quality of research:	Reviewers will assess novelty and pathology impact of the proposed project.
Feasibility of proposal:	Your proposal must be clearly written and costed and must be feasible to complete in a 1-year timeframe
Situation of the applicant:	We will prioritise those with limited access to research funding or a short-term gap in funding which is impacting a specific project.
Impact of the funding:	Reviewers will assess how completion of your project will benefit your career. Examples include promotion/new position/new research prospects or chances for further funding.

For biomedical (IBMS accredited), medical, dentistry, or veterinary trainees in the UK	
Merit of the student:	Reviewers will assess the student's aptitude and interest in practical work; their academic abilities; career ambitions and how much this project is likely to benefit them.
Suitability of the research work (including alternative research work and project):	<p>In addition to high quality research achievable in the time available, the project must be suitable for the student's skill level, whilst providing an appropriate level of challenge. It should give the student experience in a range of techniques and concepts. The application should also consider provision of adequate resources to train and supervise the student. It is expected that the project will be completed in 1 year.</p> <p>The application must show how the applicant has sufficient time to carry out the proposed work. The application must include a letter of support from the supervisor.</p>

Conditions

If successful, the awardee of the grant must:

- Undertake the project within 1 year.
- Acknowledge The Royal College of Pathologists on all materials, websites and social media relating to the project/activity as well as at the activity itself.
- Provide an evaluation report on the outcome of the research within one year of the award.
- Write an article, to include high res. photos, about the project/activity for inclusion in The Bulletin, the College's magazine, or on the College's blog page (guidance on deadlines and writing style will be provided by the public engagement team as soon as possible after grants are awarded).

Application, supporting documentation and reporting

To apply an applicant must complete the [Fellowship Research Start-up Grant application form](#) and submit the subsequent supporting documentation by email to Research@rcpath.org.

- Supporting letter: a letter from the Head of Department of Teaching Supervisor.
- Curriculum vitae: a short CV of your education and work history.

The evaluation [report form](#) on the outcome of the research must be emailed within one year of the award.

Applications will be rejected if:

- the applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- the application is incomplete and supporting documentation not submitted.
- the application does not adhere to the length limits instructed in the application system.
- the funding request exceeds the grant amount limit.

