

Joint British Geriatrics Society / Dunhill Medical Trust Doctoral Training Fellowship

Guidelines for applicants 2023



BGS

British Geriatrics Society
Improving healthcare
for older people

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1. THE OPPORTUNITY

The Dunhill Medical Trust (DMT) has partnered with the [British Geriatrics Society](#) (BGS) to co-fund one Doctoral Training Fellowship to support front-line healthcare professionals with an interest in developing a career in ageing-related research.

Applicants can apply for up to £300,000. We acknowledge that this amount of funding may not be sufficient for some applicants, and therefore welcome applications that can be part funded by the host institution either financially¹ or in-kind through the provision of services, facilities and/or tuition fee waiver. The award will be expected to cover:

- an individual's salary (at the appropriate grade on the relevant pay scale), plus on-costs
- tuition fees for a PhD
- an additional amount to cover consumables, travel costs to present their work etc.

Full details on eligible costs are included in [Section 2.4](#).

¹This may be from internal university funds and/or funding from industry, other trusts, foundations and/or charities etc.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

2.1 WHO CAN APPLY?

The scheme is open to front-line healthcare professionals working with older people – including doctors, nurses and allied health professionals.

You must be a member of the British Geriatrics Society² for the lifetime of the grant and meet the requirements for a programme of PhD study at a UK-based University.

In addition, you are required to have at least one prospective supervisor (your Primary Supervisor) who will need to be invited to contribute to your application (more details on this are provided in [Section 4.1](#)).

There are no nationality or age restrictions, but candidates must have (or plan to obtain) permission to live and study in the UK. The host institution is responsible for securing all necessary permits and related costs for the Fellow.

2.2 RESEARCH TOPICS

The focus of your proposed research must be aligned to understanding and treating ageing-related diseases and frailty, and/or improving the health and social care of older people, with an emphasis on projects that address one or more of the priority research themes highlighted on page 15 of the Dunhill Medical Trust's [2020-25 Strategic Framework](#). We are particularly interested in research with the potential to improve the health and social care of older people within 5 years of the end of the Fellowship.

Please note that projects with a specific focus on cancer will not be eligible for funding.

2.3 PERIOD OF SUPPORT

The Fellowship is intended to be flexible and may be undertaken on either a full-time or part-time basis. Full-time Fellowships will be awarded for a maximum period of 3 years, whereas part-time Fellowships can be awarded for a maximum of up to 6 years.

If you are applying for a part-time Fellowship, you will need to include your salary costs on a pro-rata basis accordingly (more details on completing your budget are provided in [Section 2.4](#) below).

2.4 ELIGIBLE COSTS

In your application, you will be expected to provide detailed budgetary information on the costs you are requesting, phased annually. Please note that if your application is successful, you will need to provide a quarterly breakdown of your budget, as a condition of your award, before we can issue you with a Grant Offer Letter.

² For membership queries please contact the British Geriatrics Society at membership@bgs.org.uk

The budget table within the **Financial support** section of your application should be reviewed and/or completed by the relevant Administrative / Finance Manager from your host institution (this individual can be invited to contribute to your application in the Grants Management Portal, and more information on this is provided in [Section 4.1](#) and in [our “how to” guide](#)). Please do not include any part or in-kind contributions from other sources in this budget table (you will be given the opportunity to detail these, if applicable, in a separate question).

Please note that host universities receive a contribution to overheads via the [Charities Research Support Fund](#). More information regarding the [Charities element of the Quality-Related \(“OR”\) funding](#) can be found in the ‘What costs will you cover?’ question in our [Funding FAQs](#) on our website. Apart from any specific cases listed, we will not meet overhead costs (typically those identified by Research Councils as Directly Allocated Costs, Indirect Costs and Estates Costs) for research institutions.

The following information outlines the budget table headings and what you can and cannot apply for. For further information on completing your budget within the application form, please read our [“how to” guide for using the Grants Management Portal](#).

With inflation forecasts now increasing, please ensure that you make a realistic assumption regarding inflation when applying the cost uplift for future years.

STAFF COSTS

- **Basic salary**

Please include your basic salary costs / stipend (at the appropriate grade on the relevant pay scale) under this budget heading. All amounts should include provision for relevant increases in pay grade / scale / spine point and inflation if necessary. For this scheme, the Trust will **not** fund salary costs for members of staff other than the Fellow.

- **National insurance and pension**

- **Local allowance**

This includes London weighting, or other location allowances.

- **Career development / support costs**

Career development / support costs will be met when there is clearly defined explanation of how they will contribute to your career development in age-related fields during and beyond the lifetime of the proposed research. Examples of career development costs include mentoring and training (so costs related to your training programme should be included under this heading). We would also expect these costs to relate to the answers provided in the relevant sections of the application form.

- Please note that we will **not** contribute towards the Apprenticeship Levy.

PATIENT, CARER AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

We will meet justified payments for patient, carer and public involvement (PPI). Please ensure that you have read the NIHR guidance resources on the [“Payment guidance for researchers and professionals”](#) page. In addition, ensure that you have considered the [UK Standards for Public Involvement in](#)

[Research](#). We would also expect these costs to relate to the answers provided in the relevant parts of the application form.

RUNNING EXPENSES

- **Animal costs**

If applicable, this can include the costs of attaining appropriate licences.

- **Clinical trials**

A detailed justification for each cost will need to be provided. With regards to Clinical Trial Unit (CTU) staff, we may provide a reasonable contribution towards CTU staff participating in the research, providing appropriate justification is given when requested. Please read our [Funding FAQs](#) on our website for more information on research involving a Clinical Trials Unit.

- **Consumables and other project specific running costs**

The cost of materials and consumables required to carry out the proposed research will be met but should be justified, with special regard to those categories of overhead costs which the Trust will not meet. Estimated figures for consumables / materials are not acceptable and must be itemised.

- **Data storage / archive**

Data storage, archiving and management costs may be met, on condition that they are reasonable and proportionate in the context of the study.

- **Participant costs / expenses / incentives**

- **Steering group / meeting costs**

- **Transcription costs**

- **Travel and subsistence**

Travel and subsistence costs for yourself, supervisors and other members of the team assigned to the research, where required by the nature of the work, will normally be met and should be based on the most suitable and economical form of travel.

EQUIPMENT (INCLUDING COMPUTER COSTS)

Requests for study-specific items of equipment costing up to £10k may be met but should be fully justified. For requests between £10k and £100k, we will expect a detailed case to be provided and at least a 50% contribution towards the total cost of the equipment from the host institution and/or other funders. Suppliers' quotations will also be required.

We would normally expect the involved organisations to provide access to major equipment, but where specific circumstances require either substantial usage or the purchase of a major item of equipment specifically for the study, a detailed case should be provided, with the host institution contributing at least 50% of the costs.

Computers and other IT equipment dedicated to the study may be met, on condition that full justification is provided and the costs are reasonable and proportionate in the context of the study.

OUTPUTS, OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

- **Impact-related costs**

We will meet costs for yourself and, if applicable, other team members to attend conferences as a speaker and/or to present posters etc. to disseminate the findings of the grant. Costs for other dissemination and impact-related activities related to the research may be applied for, provided that full justification is given. We would also expect these costs to relate to the answers provided in the relevant sections of the application form. We will **not** meet costs for attending an academic conference as a delegate only.

- **Monitoring & evaluation costs**

- **Open access / open data costs**

These may be included in applications but should be fully justified and comply with the Dunhill Medical Trust's [Open Access Policy](#).

OTHER COSTS

Please include the costs of your PhD tuition fees under this budget heading. Please note that the Trust will only pay tuition fees at the same rate as home students, meaning your host organisation will be required to waive the higher international fee rate, if applicable.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

The application process will consist of three stages:

1. An online application
2. Peer review and panel review
3. If shortlisted, an interview

The application process for this call will follow the timetable below:

Activity	Date
Call for applications open	3 rd February 2023
Deadline for applications	31 st March 2023 (5pm)
Peer review and Panel review / shortlisting of applications	April – September 2023
Notification of outcome of your application and, if shortlisted, invitation to attend an interview	14 th September 2023 (at the latest)
Deadline for interview presentation to be emailed to the Trust, if shortlisted	25 th September 2023 (5pm)
Interviews held by our Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please do ensure that you are available on this day, as unfortunately there will be little flexibility with this date. • This interview will take place either in London or via Zoom. 	26 th September 2023
Ratification of the Panel's recommendation as to which applicant should be funded	10 th October 2023
Shortlisted applicants notified of the outcome of their interview	Mid-November 2023 (at the latest)
Formal announcement of the Fellowship at the BGS Autumn 2023 or Spring 2024 Meeting, depending on any award conditions that need to be met prior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note that the successful Fellow is expected to attend the relevant meeting and present a short summary of their planned research. • Specific dates for the presentation will be confirmed in due course. 	22-24 th November 2023 or 22-24 th May 2024

Every effort has been made to provide enough time for the various stages of the process while avoiding public / school holidays, but some clashes will unfortunately be unavoidable.

4. ONLINE APPLICATIONS

4.1 OVERVIEW

Online applications will open on Friday 3rd February 2023 and close at 5pm on Friday 31st March 2023.

BEFORE STARTING AN APPLICATION

Please ensure that you have completed our eligibility questionnaire and read our Funding FAQs, both of which can be found on the “[Apply for funding](#)” page of our website. You should also read our [Terms and Conditions for research grants](#).

You should also be aware that we will ask you to provide an ORCID iD when completing your application form. Any prospective applicants without an ORCID iD can [register for one](#). We use the information included in your ORCID profile to help auto-populate the **About you** section of the application form. [ORCID has published a range of help and support](#) for researchers on registering for their iD and managing their ORCID profile.

THE APPLICATION FORM

Applications need to be submitted via our [online Grants Management Portal](#). Please follow [this link for a separate “how to” document](#) with details on registering for an account and using the portal.

You can download [a blank PDF version of the application form](#) from our website. Please note, however, that this is only provided to help you plan your application – only submissions made via the Grants Management Portal before the deadline will be accepted.

Whilst you, as the lead applicant, are responsible for submitting the application form, other people (referred to on the portal as “Participants”) must also be invited to contribute to the form. Please see the table below for more information on who can/needs to be involved at this stage of the application process:

Required	Optional
<p>Principal Supervisor:</p> <p>You must invite your Principal Supervisor to contribute to the Your Principal Supervisor section of the application form.</p> <p>Administrative / Finance Manager:</p> <p>An appropriate Administrative / Finance Manager must be invited to complete a declaration on behalf of your host institution (the lead institution). This individual may also contribute to the Financial support section of the form, if required.</p>	<p>Additional supervisors:</p> <p>You may, if you wish, invite up to two additional supervisors to contribute to the Your Co-Supervisor sections of the application form.</p> <p>Please note:</p> <p>Once any optional participants have been invited, it will not be possible to submit the form until they have completed their contribution or you have indicated on the portal that they are no longer required to contribute.</p>

Head of Department:

You must invite your Head of Department to complete a declaration on behalf of your host department.

Please note:

The application cannot be submitted until all required external participants have completed their contributions.

Detailed information on inviting external participants, and contributing to an application as an external participant, is provided in our [“how to” guide for using the Grants Management Portal](#).

4.2 THE PANEL

The shortlisting and interview Panel will consist of the following members:

- Professor Andrew Clegg (University of Leeds and DMT Research Grants Committee member)
- Professor Dame Louise Robinson (Newcastle University and DMT Research Grants Committee member)
- Dr Sarah Hopkins (University of Cambridge and current Joint BGS / DMT Research Training Fellow)
- Dr Susan Shenkin (University of Edinburgh and BGS representative)

Also present at the shortlisting meeting and/or interviews will be Sarah Mistry (Chief Executive of the BGS) and DMT staff.

Peer review, Panel review / shortlisting and interviews will take place on the dates specified in [Section 3](#).

4.3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Once submitted, applications will be externally peer reviewed, and then reviewed / shortlisted by the Panel based on the following criteria:

- The proposed work is novel and addresses an important research question.
- The proposed methodology is sound and the proposal sets out clear and achievable objectives.
- The proposed work is of high academic quality and will make a significant contribution to knowledge in the field.
- There is a credible, feasible and specific plan to achieve benefit beyond the academic community and improve the health and social care of older people within 5 years of the end of the grant. Including due consideration of equity, diversity and inclusion and patient, carer and public involvement (where appropriate).
- The applicant is eminently suitable, and the proposal demonstrates a clear and genuine focus on career development and provides evidence of the quality and suitability of institutional support.
- The financial support requested is wholly appropriate and the requested resources have been fully justified.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview on the date specified in [Section 3](#) at the very latest. You will be required to give a 10-minute timed presentation on:

- Your proposed project, addressing any Panel feedback received from the shortlisting meeting.
- How you have played a key role in the development of the proposed work.
- Your future aspirations and how this proposed Fellowship fits in.
- How you envisage working with the BGS and DMT during the proposed Fellowship.

The presentation must be emailed to grants@dunhillmedical.org.uk no later than 5pm on 25th September 2023. After the presentation, there will then be questions from the Panel. In total, it is anticipated that the interview will be no longer than 1 hour.

Recognising the impacts of COVID-19 on research activity: We are aware that COVID-19 has resulted in disruptions to research activities for the majority of researchers. As a result, the impacts of COVID-19 will be taken into account when assessing applicants' record of outputs and career progression and we will be providing guidance on this matter to peer reviewers and panellists.

FEEDBACK ON YOUR FULL APPLICATION

All applicants, whether successful at interview or unsuccessful at either the shortlisting or interview stage, will receive feedback. We will also be providing information on the eventual success rate for the call at a later date.

4.4 CHECKLIST

Make sure you have completed all the relevant tasks on this list before submitting your application:

- Have you provided detailed and relevant answers to all of the questions in the application form?
- Has / have your Supervisor(s) read and understood the various guidelines to ensure that the application can be submitted by the deadline on the Grants Management Portal?
- Has an Administrative / Finance Manager from the lead organisation read the application, reviewed and/or contributed to the **Financial support** section, and completed their declaration to ensure that the application can be submitted before the deadline on the Grants Management Portal?
- Has your Head of Department read the application and completed their declaration to ensure that the application can be submitted by the deadline on the Grants Management Portal?
- If you are not currently a member of the BGS, have you applied for membership and/or contacted membership@bgs.org.uk?

5. SUPPORT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

5.1 SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

- Visit our “[Apply for funding](#)” page to see our general Funding FAQs, including what our Research Grants Committee would say a good application looks like.
- Read our [Terms and Conditions for research grants](#).
- Read our [Open Access Policy](#).
- Read our [template intellectual property agreement](#) (if relevant).
- Read our [Funder Action Plan](#) for the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers.
- For guidance on navigating and using the Grants Management Portal, please see our “[how to](#)” [guide](#).
- Read and download the [template application form](#).

5.2 EXTERNAL GUIDANCE

- For information regarding Patient, Carer and Public Involvement (PPI) in research, please do visit the [National Institute for Health Research website for various PPI resources](#).
- For more information on including underserved groups in research, you might be interested in a website hosted by the [INCLUDE initiative from the National Institute for Health Research](#), which provides guidance for ensuring health research is inclusive, as well as instructions on how to register for a free online course run by INCLUDE.
- Applications that include NHS resources will need to adhere to the [Department of Health AcoRD guidance](#). You may also find it helpful to [read the AcoRD FAQs](#).
- For applications that include clinical research, you might consider visiting the [Clinical Research Network portfolio](#) for help and support.
- Feel free to read about “[Secrets on writing a winning grant](#)” in the academic journal Nature.

5.3 CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any queries regarding the call, including if you need any alternative accessible formats at any stage of the application process, please contact grants@dunhillmedical.org.uk. We will do our very best to assist you.

If you have any queries regarding becoming a member of the British Geriatrics Society, please contact membership@bgs.org.uk