

Fellowship Research Start-up Grant guidance

Introduction

The Royal College of Pathologists' Fellowship Research Start-up Grant provides support to postgraduate and undergraduate students at the beginning of their pathology research project for up to 1 year. A maximum amount of £1,000 is awarded to undergraduate students and £4,000 to postgraduate 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 to begin research in any pathology specialty. It can provide support for a project that may form the basis of further applications. The grants can support work in any specialty of medical, scientific, veterinary or oral pathology and are not restricted to cellular pathology or histopathology.

We aim to award between 3 and 6 undergraduate grants and between 1 and 3 postgraduate grants this year. We intend to run a round of applications every year.

Eligibility

Applications will be assessed against the criteria listed below.

Undergraduate students must:

be studying for a biomedical science (IBMS accredited), medicine, dentistry or veterinary degree in the UK





 not be in receipt of any financial support from other sources for the project that is the subject of the application.

Postgraduate students must:

- be a medical, scientist, veterinary or oral pathology trainee in a pathology specialty
- already be undertaking a 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.

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.

The following are excluded:

- travel costs
- salary contributions
- departmental overheads (including office equipment)
- costs for the dissemination of the work (including conference attendance and publication costs).

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

Research projects must be completed within 1 year of the grant being awarded. We recognise that due to work and/or study commitments, it may take some individuals longer to complete their research project, and where applicable, individuals may apply for up to 18 months to complete the research project.



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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 6 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 time frame.	
Situation of the applicant	We will prioritise those with limited access to research funding or a short-term gap in funding that 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 science (IBMS accredited), medicine, dentistry or veterinary undergraduates 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)	In addition to ensuring that high-quality research is achievable in the time available, the project must be suitable for the student's skill level, while 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. 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.



Conditions

If successful, the awardee of the grant must:

- undertake the project within 1 year (unless an extension is agreed)
- 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 1 year of the award, to be submitted in either Microsoft Word (doc, docx) format or PDF format. No other formats are acceptable.
- write an article, to include high-resolution photos, about the project/activity for inclusion
 in either the Bulletin, the College's magazine, or a blog for the College's website
 (guidance on deadlines and writing style will be provided by the Communications
 Directorate on request). No fees will be payable for any of these uses.
- ensure all reports/work submitted are original and do not infringe the rights of any
 other party. The Royal College of Pathologists reserve the right to undertake searches
 on appropriate software to satisfy themselves that this is the case.
- agree to be bound by these rules. The Royal College of Pathologists reserves the right to exclude any entrant at any time and at its absolute discretion if they have reason to believe that an entrant has breached these rules.

The Royal College of Pathologists reserves the right to cancel the fellowship grants or alter any of the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of its control.

If the winner is unable to be contacted after reasonable attempts have been made, the Royal College of Pathologists reserves the right either to offer the prize to a runner up, or to re-offer the prize in any future competition.



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Application, supporting documentation and reporting

To apply, an applicant must complete the <u>Fellowship Research Start-up Grant application</u> form and submit the following subsequent supporting documentation by email to Research@rcpath.org:

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

The evaluation <u>report form</u> on the outcome of the research must be emailed to research@rcpath.org within 1 year of the award (unless an extension is agreed).

Applications will be rejected if:

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



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