**North West Cancer Career Development Research Fellowship**

The NWCR Career Development Research Fellowship is the charity’s most prestigious fellowship grant. The Charity awards these fellowships to outstanding researchers who show a commitment to cancer research and who do not hold an established tenured position.

**North West Cancer Research:**

North West Cancer Research (NWCR)has been at the forefront of world class cancer research for 70 years, supporting the best cancer research and researchers across the North West of England and North Wales. As an independent Charity based in, and focussed on the North West, we are dedicated to tackling the forms of cancer which have the greatest impact on our region.

Since 2000, we have funded over £40,000,000 of world class research and supported hundreds of local clinicians, scientists and students in the fields of basic, translational and clinical research.

NWCR ensures money stays in the North West allocating resources to understanding the unique factors which define this region, and funding research tackling the cancers which hit the people of the North West hardest.

Our promise is simple. We only support the best research, to stop cancer sooner.

**Research Environment:**

The institutions within the North West of England and North Wales offer a vibrant, supportive and nurturing environment to develop todays cancer researchers into independent world class cancer research leaders.

The institutions have long established research programmes with internationally renowned cancer research leaders, across an extensive range of cancer specialities.

Our institutions have comprehensive research programmes in basic, translational and clinical research. Amongst the institutions internationally established cancer research portfolios are the areas of:

* Hepatobiliary cancer
* Head and neck cancer
* Haemato-oncology cancer
* Ocular cancer
* Radiobiology and proton beam therapy
* Cancer cell signalling
* DNA damage and repair
* Cancer and the micro-environment
* Cancer pharmacology
* p53 biology

This list is not exhaustive and applicants with research topics not listed here are encouraged to engage in early discussions with the charity and should not consider themselves ineligible for an application.

Applicants will be able to choose the host institution most suited to support their research topic area and, therefore, provide expert developmental mentorship.

**Application:**

Applications are now invited from post-doctoral researchers for a Career Development Research Fellowship. Candidates should demonstrate a commitment and ambition to become a world leader in their field of cancer research which will be considerably contributed to by the award granted by NWCR.

Applicants must have an established track record in cancer research evidenced by publication, collaborations or other grant funding, as a co-applicant or principal applicant. Applicants should be developing their own independent research programmes and be proposing work that is innovative, ambitious and important to our regional setting.

Applicants must demonstrate a designated mentoring team based within the North West of England or North Wales.

**The Award**

Applicants may apply for total costs of up to £500,000 to support their research.

The charity will fund the Fellow’s salary and additional direct research costs of up to £180,000 to support their research (based on a Fellow salary at Grade 8).

This may include:

* Materials and consumables;
* Technicians/research assistant/administrative support;
* PhD student and
* Conference fees and training.

An example of a proposal costing is given below for information and guidance.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Employee (1)** | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3** | **Year 4** | **Year 5** | **Total** |
| **Fellow** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Scale**  | Fellow | Fellow | Fellow | Fellow | Fellow |  |
| **Grade** | Grade 8/37 | Grade 8/38 | Grade 8/39 | Grade 8/40 | Grade 8/40 |  |
| **Basic** | 40,927.82 | 43,019.88 | 45,164.62 | 47,443.62 | 49,815.50 | **226,371.46** |
| **NI** | 4,033.66 | 4,299.26 | 4,571.50 | 4,860.94 | 5,103.99 | **22,869.35** |
| **Pension** | 7,367.04 | 7,743.54 | 8,129.54 | 8,539.86 | 8,966.85 | **40,746.83** |
| **Total** | **52,328.52** | **55,062.68** | **57.865.38** | **60,844.42** | **63,886.64** | **289,987.64** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Employee (2)** | **Year 1** | **Year 2** | **Year 3** | **Year 4** | **Year 5** | **Total** |
| **PhD Student** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grade** |  | NWCR stipend | NWCR stipend | NWCR stipend |  |  |
| **Basic** |  | 19,000.00 | 19,000.00 | 19,000.00 |  | **57,000.00** |
| **Tuition Fees** |  | 4,260.00 | 4,260.00 | 4,2600 |  | **12,780.00** |
| **Total** |  | **23,260.00** | **23,260.00** | **23,260.00** |  | **69,,780.00** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Consumables** | 10,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 10,000 | **56,000.00** |
| **Training/travel** |  | 1500 | 1500 | 1000 | 1000 | **5,000.00** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Total**  | **62,328.52** | **91,822.68** | **94,625.38** | **97,104.64** | **74,886.64** | **420,767.64** |

Funding is available initially for the period of three years full-time or five year’s part time. A further two year’s full time or three year’s part time funding is available following the completion and subsequent positive assessment of the impact of the initial funding commitment.

The Charity considers the award to be suitable for a Tenure Track positon at the Fellow’s chosen host institution. Applicants are encouraged to discuss this with their chosen Fellowship mentor. The Charity would expect potential mentors to have discussed, and have agreement from their institution, that the candidate be offered tenure track following the successful completion of the Fellowship and on reaching the institutions award criteria. Letters of support should be provided with the application form both from the potential Fellow’s chosen Mentor and Head of Department. These letters of support should detail: a plan for tenure track; confirmation that the host institution can and will host the Fellow; confirm the institution has the facilities to support the Fellow and their PhD student’s research activities; provide a plan of mentorship and detail the suitability of the environment.

Applications should demonstrate the researcher has:

* important, original and impactful work;
* made important contributions to their area of research, e.g. publications, patents, software development or an impact on health policy or practice;
* an internationally competitive research position;
* a commitment to developing and mentoring less experienced researchers.
* a sustained track record of delivery of high quality and respected research with demonstrable impact;
* an ability to act as an independent researcher and be able to lead and train others;
* a knowledge of cancer research not within their immediate interest topic.

**Eligibility**

* Applicants should have a proven track record of research demonstrated by high quality journal publications in the field of cancer research across a range of projects.
* It is recognised that in some fields of cancer research some researchers may have followed a different but equivalent academic track i.e. clinical track - MRCP, MRCPath, MD. Applicants that cannot demonstrate an academic research award will not be considered.
* Applicants should not already be in open-ended, university funded posts (i.e. lecturer).
* Applicants must be eligible to work in the UK.
* The host institution must be within the North West of England or North Wales.

A NWCR Career Development Research Fellowship will sit between late ‘progression’ and ‘independence’ and will be aiming to develop into the ‘leadership’ category



*Source: mrc.ukri.org/skills-careers/fellowships*

**Your research proposal**

All research proposals must:

* Sit within the NWCR research strategy and focus exclusively on cancer;
* describe an innovative and ambitious programme of work;
* explain the approaches that will be used to deliver that programme of work and
* be distinct from activities already supported by other awards.

We will review:

* your research contributions;
* the importance of your research question(s);
* the feasibility of your proposal and
* the suitability of your research environment(s).

**North West Cancer Research Senior Research Fellow Person specification**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Essential/Desirable | Assessed on |
| A PhD in an area of biomedcial or biological sciences, or relevant research experience  | Essential | Application form |
| An established track record of high quality publications, awards, invited speaker oral presentaiton, poster prizes in the field of cancer research | Essential | Application form |
| A five year plan for the further development of a research topic, +personal profile and department that will achieve impact with international reach. A statement should be added (max 500 words) detailing how this will be achived. | Essential | Supporting Statement / Interview |
| An established reputable research profile in the field of cancer biology as evidenced by indicators of esteem such as, invited speaker; editorial work etc. | Essential | Application form |
| Demonstration of involvement in securing research funding as a prinicpal or co-applicant in cancer research. | Essential | Application form |
| A plan for a three-year research project suitable for a PhD student. | Essential | Application form/interview |
| Ability to communicate research findings effectively, and demonstrate how your research fits with the strategic direction of NWCR, to a peer group including non-academics or clinicians. | Essential | Application form/presentation/interview |
| Ability to represent NWCR’s acitvities to groups outside the University inlcuding potentially other charity groups, NHS, industry, local government and local schools.  | Essential | Interview |
| Abillity to work co-operatively and flexibly with colleagues and undertake leadership of the fellowship and staff associated with it. | Essential | Interview |

* Application Form – assessed against the application form, curriculum vitae, project outline and covering letter and scored as part of the shortlisting process. Applicants are not asked to answer a specific ‘supporting statement’ regarding these criteria.
* Supporting Statement – applicants are asked to provide a statement to demonstrate how they meet specific criteria. Responses will be scored as part of the shortlisting process.
* Interview – assessed during the interview process by competency based interview questions.
* Presentation 1–30 minute research presentation to staff and panel members on past achievements and future plans. Presentation will be scored as part of the interview process.

**Timelines for the assessment and recruitment of a Senior Research Fellow.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event** | **Details** | **Date** | **Responsibility** |
| Advertise Fellowship | * Advert goes live on website
* Advert placed in leading journals i.e. Nature
* Circulate to Institutions- communication and dissemination teams
* Circulate to known and current investigators
* Social Media – Twitter/LinkedIn – team Fundraising/Comms/research
 | May 2019 | NWCR Research Manager |
| Close call and charity triage | Application administrative check e.g. Completeness * CVs
* Nominated referees
* Letters of support
* Tenure track commitment form host institution
 | 15th July 2019 (1700hrs) | NWCR Research Manager |
| Preliminary review of applications | * Subcommittee of the Research Strategy Group (RSG), Charity representatives
* Review of applications-
	+ Do they fit the fellowship call criteria? Specifically, level of expertise of the applicant -based on research track record, project experience and supervision of junior staff; topic area/proposal; engagement experience and added value criteria.
	+ Appointment of independent reviewers by Sub committee
 | 18th July 2019 | NWCR Manager and RSG sub committee |
| Call for nominated referees | Nominated referees offered by the candidate are approached to review the fellowship proposal and comment of quality, relevance, competence of applicant and mentor’s expertise to complete the fellowshipThis is provided through a pro-forma steering the reviewer and is offered in writing to the RSG at the review of the proposal | 18th July 2019 onwards | NWCR Research Manager |
| Call for independent reviewers (experts in the filed | Independent experts, appointed by the RSG subcommittee, are approached to review the fellowship proposal and comment on the quality, relevance, competence of applicant and mentor’s expertise to complete the fellowshipThis is provided through a pro-forma steering the reviewer and is offered in writing to the RSG at the review of the proposal | 18th July 2019 onwards | NWCR Research Manager |
| RSG meeting | The RSG and NWCR Charity representative meet to review the proposals and reviewers’ comments. An independent and anonymous score is made of each proposal reviewed. The top three-five proposals approved are invited to present to a subcommittee of the RSG. | Week 19th August 2019 | NWCR Manager and RSG committee |
| Interviews  | Candidates present their proposal to the committee and a short interview follows. A scoring pro-forma is completed by each member of the interview panel. The top scoring candidate is recommended for approval as the NWCR Fellow. | Week commencing 2nd September 2019 | NWCR Manager and RSG sub committee  |
| RSG meeting | RSG meet to ratify interview panel’s recommendations | 9th September 2019 | RSG committee |
| Board of Trustees | The Board of Trustees meet to review and consider the recommendations of the RSG. Approval of the candidate as the Fellow is formalised. | 27th September 2019 | Board of Trustees, NWCR CEO, NWCR Research Manager |