

SoAR researcher initiation award (internship) in collaboration with NIHR BRC Southampton

This award is intended to introduce professionals working within University Hospital Southampton to research with the aim of helping them consider/start a clinical academic career. The award offers an introduction to aspects of clinical research through gaining research experience by observing/visiting/working in a research environment and undertaking study in research in preparation for applying for a NIHR Pre-doctoral Clinical Academic Fellowship (PCAF) or a NIHR clinical doctoral academic fellowship (CDRF) in the future. This award may fund up to a maximum of £10,000 to support an individual who:

- is able to demonstrate understanding that research can help practice
- is looking for an opportunity to experience the research process within an established team of leading health researchers.
- Wishes to run a small self-contained project/literature review/analysis etc. that contributes to one of five research themes: nutrition, lifestyle and metabolism; respiratory and allergy; data, health and society; microbiology, immunology and infection; and perioperative and critical care.
- Conduct a project that is embedded in their practice and will help to generate ideas for future projects.
- Help us understand the priorities for research and improvement in their area and build up networks for ongoing collaboration.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for this award you will need to provide evidence that you:

1. Are a healthcare professional other than a doctor or dentist working in the healthcare sector at University Hospital Southampton
2. Have a bachelor's degree in a health-related subject
3. Hold a substantive full or part time contract with University Hospital Southampton
4. Have support from your line manager to undertake the internship
5. Have a keen interest and clear suitability for research focused academic career
6. Have a named research supervisor (identified by you)

Please note: Individuals already in receipt of a research grant/fellowship from elsewhere are not eligible for this award.

What is our Strategy?

The Southampton Academy of Research, ([SoAR](#)), aims to nurture the potential of our research workforce to drive the next generation of clinical discoveries, enabling them to advance knowledge and improve healthcare.

The NIHR Southampton Biomedical Research Centre takes new discoveries, treatments and technologies into the clinic, using unique tools, facilities and world-changing expertise across our five key research areas. We aim to improve people's health and resilience throughout life, generating the next generation of improved and individually personalised treatments.

How can the funding be used?

The successful applicant can use the award to cover costs including salary backfill, incidental costs, research and clinical supervision, and training costs. Suggestions on how the budget can be spent are presented below.

1. Salary backfill - it is recognised that this may form the main budget expenditure. The most appropriate backfill arrangements should be up to one day a week (0.2 FTE) and should be decided by you and your team/line manager.
2. Supervisors and mentors: we advise you to allocate a total cost of £500 for each supervisor or mentor you named in this application to backfill their time to support you during the award, considering that an hour a week with a Research Supervisor is perhaps quite reasonable.
3. Training – It is essential to have supervision and mentorship throughout the award. Ideally the primary support should be from a member of the Southampton BRC. We recommend that training costs do not exceed 20% of the overall spending plan. In addition to supervision, it may also be appropriate to access other aspects of research training. If so, a training needs analysis plan should be submitted with your application. You need to explain how the proposed training will benefit your current and future career.
4. Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)- Please indicate the ways in which you will involve patients and public in your research plans and include costs for any planned PPI activities. You can find further resources at: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/documents/payment-guidance-for-researchers-and-professionals/27392>
5. Dissemination costs – an element of the award could be used to disseminate any research findings through publications and/or conference presentations. You can include the cost of a maximum one journal article and/or one conference.

NB: Please get your spending plan checked by the R&D finance team (researchgrants@uhs.nhs.uk) prior to submission. The amount awarded will be held in a research fund named for you. Your Line Manager will need to agree to facilitate a cross-charge to enable salary backfill, and state this in their letter of support.

Evaluation:

A full evaluation report will be required at the completion of the award period.

Application process:

Please submit a completed form and all corresponding documentation using the Qualtrics links by 19th January 2023.

Key dates:	
Application period opens:	16th January 2023
Closing date for applications:	17th February 2023
Notification of outcome:	29 th March 2023
Award period:	6 months (part time) Flexibility on award period duration may be considered on request

For further information about the SoAR/BRC internship, contact k.mitchell@soton.ac.uk.

To submit an application please provide the information required on the application checklist (including the checklist) to k.mitchell@soton.ac.uk.