

About

Cancer Research UK is the world's leading independent organisation dedicated to cancer research.

With a scientific spend of £315 million in 2006/07; they fund over 4,250 world-class scientists, doctors and nurses in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

They fund an extensive programme of cancer research in hospitals, institutes and universities in over 35 cities and towns across the UK.

How

Cancer Research UK's Research funding Committee funds its research through 10 committees:

- [Clinical Trials Advisory & Awards committee](#)
- [Clinical and Translational Research Committee](#)
- [Discovery Committee](#)
- [Feasibility Study Committee](#)
- [New Agents Committee](#)
- [Population and Behavioural Sciences Committee](#)
- [Science Funding Committee](#)
- [Tobacco Advisory Group](#)
- [Training and Career Development Board](#)
- [Translational Research in Clinical Trials Committee](#)

Sample of funding opportunities

Cancer Research UK offers a number of funding opportunities at different levels organised under the following headings:

Basic biology, clinical and translational research funding

(Covering all areas of basic biological clinical, and translational research, including pre-clinical development of novel therapies and biomarkers through project or programme grants)

[Project grants](#) cover any area of basic, clinical and translational research and are judged on the basis of scientific excellence, innovation and relevance to cancer research. Applications for extensions or renewed periods of funding are also considered. **Applications** under this scheme should **not exceed £10,000 pa** for up to **36 months** with cases being considered in February, May, August and November each year.

[Programme grants](#) cover any area of basic, clinical and translational research and are judged on the basis of scientific excellence, innovation and relevance to cancer research. Applications for extensions or **renewed periods of funding** are also considered. There is **no set value** for these awards but it is important to note that intention to apply must be discussed in advance with the Research Funding staff at RCUK prior to submission. Funding under this scheme is normally provided for a period **up to 60 months**. Applications are considered in February, May, August and November each year.

[Discovery committee grants](#) aimed at directly developing research for patient benefit. The aim of the scheme is to improve the likelihood of research eventually leading to new preventative, therapeutic or diagnostic entity. Typically projects will be funded up to a maximum of **£500,000** in total for up to **2 years**.

[Career establishment awards](#) provide five year funding to new, non-clinical investigators who have just taken up their first HEFCE funded post. Their purpose is to encourage the best new investigators to develop a career in cancer research, and to provide the core support required to enable successful applicants to establish their own research groups. Applications are welcome from those with interests in any aspect of Biomedical Science, (including biology, chemistry, physics, and maths) as long as the applicant is able to explain the relevance of their proposal to cancer research. The award will **supply funds** for one **junior post-doctoral position** and one **research assistant** or **technician**, as well as running expenses which may include a supplement for the applicant's own bench costs. A separate amount can be requested for equipment (up to £25,000) and also for animal costs. The period of funding is normally for up to **60 months**.

[Large equipment grant scheme](#) available to those who hold Cancer Research UK funding, either a programme grant from the Science Funding Committee or Population and Behavioural Sciences Committee, a Senior

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Cancer/Clinical Research Fellowship or Career Development Fellowship. Applications of between **£50,000 and £250,000** are available to provide for the direct costs of **purchasing equipment and service contracts**. Applications are considered in February and August each year.

Clinical trials funding

Cancer Research UK funds a number of clinical trials yearly through the following funding streams:

[New Agents Committee \(NAC\) Trials](#) which aim to provide a one-step process for selecting new anti-cancer treatments and diagnostic and taking them into early clinical trials. Applications are considered from individuals based in academic institutions and industry collaborators worldwide undertaking:

- The late stage preclinical development of a novel agent for clinical trial and/or
- The testing of novel agent in mechanistic/Phase I clinical trials in the UK: and/or
- The testing of a novel agent in early Phase II clinical trials in the UK.

The funding period under this scheme is typically for a period of **2 years** with **no set value** attached to them.

[Feasibility Study Committee \(FSC\) project grants](#) aim to provide support for feasibility and/or pilot studies and/or phase II studies. These studies should be viewed as purpose-driven preparatory work for phase III trials, to assess the activity, or feasibility of toxicity of new treatment approaches, and be used to screen out inactive treatments. Funding is available for up to **24 months** to a maximum of **£25k**.

[Phase III clinical trial grants](#) for the funding of clinical trials up to 10 years usually up to a level of approximately **£10,000 pa**. It should be noted that biological studies will not be funded unless they are being used to define treatment options. In all other cases, a separate application to the [Translational Research in Clinical Trials Committee \(TRICC\)](#) must be submitted.

[Translational research in clinical trials grants](#) enable high quality translational research to be embedded in clinical trials. The **particular area of interest** is on studies that contribute to a mechanistic understanding of treatment outcome within the clinical trial or investigate the value of genotype, novel diagnostic and surrogate markers in determining response and clinical outcome to a trial intervention. Applications should not exceed **£10,000 pa** (£500,000 in total for a **five year study**). The committee meets to consider applications in February, June and October.

Personal funding

Fellowships:

[Senior Cancer Research Fellowships](#) support outstanding non-clinical scientists who have shown special promise in their initial studies in a cancer relevant research field. They provide **support for six years** and **cover salaries** for the **fellow**, up to two **post-doctoral researchers**, a **technician** and a **student**. **Consumables** and **equipment** costs are also included. This is an annual competition with applications by the end of September in each year.

[Career Development Fellowships](#) for individuals who have shown special promise in their initial studies in a cancer relevant research field, but may not yet have sufficient experience or the track record to obtain a more senior Fellowship. **Support for 6 years** as well as **salaries for the fellow**, a **post-doctoral researcher** and **technician** is covered together with **consumables** and **equipment** funding. The competition is an annual one and is advertised in March each year with a June deadline.

[Senior Clinical Research Fellowship](#) support clinicians at **Consultant level** who have completed the equivalent of at least two years' postdoctoral training and who are ready to start an independent research group. **Support for six years** is funded together with the opportunity for exceptional clinical researchers to concentrate on a period of research and the opportunity to establish an independent research group. This is an annual competition with applications needing to be submitted by end of November each year.

[Clinician Scientist Fellowship](#) provides up to **five years' support** for outstanding clinical researchers who wish to consolidate their research skills and make the **transition from doctoral research training to independent postdoctoral investigators**. In addition to the standard Clinical Scientist Fellowships, CRUK has partnered with the Royal College of Surgeons of England to offer a [joint Fellowship for trainees in Surgery](#).

[Clinical Research Training Fellowship](#) are **intended to support** clinicians who wish to undertake a period of full-time training in a cancer relevant research field, leading to the presentation of a PhD or, exceptionally, an MD. They offer **three years' support** for clinicians to work towards a PhD or **two years' support for an MD** with an appropriate salary and running expenses. There is the possibility of an additional year of salary funding to facilitate re-entry into clinical training included. This is an annual competition with an October deadline.

[Clinical Research Training Fellowship in Primary Care Oncology](#) support **general practitioners** who wish to pursue an academic career in cancer research within the field of primary care. A combined academic/clinical programme can be developed to provide training in cancer research while maintaining clinical skills. The research should lead to the presentation of a PhD or, exceptionally, an MD. Fellowships are **tenable for two or three years** depending on whether the Fellow is working for a PhD or MD. **Research expenses**, an appropriate salary in line with the applicant' current salary and grade are covered. This is an annual competition with a January deadline.

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[Clinical Research Training Fellowship in Psychosocial Oncology](#) intended for **medical graduates**, or appropriately qualified **psychologists** who aim to pursue a career which includes psychosocial aspects of cancer. Individuals are expected to continue their training in a designated speciality for which they will seek accreditation, such as psychiatry, medical oncology, psychology, clinical oncology or palliative medicine. The research should lead to the presentation of a PhD or, exceptionally, MD. Fellowships are normally **tenable for four years** with the equivalent of two years to be spent in clinical training. **Research expenses** together with an appropriate salary in line with the applicant's current salary are covered. This is an annual competition with a January deadline.

[Senior Clinical Nursing Research Fellowship](#) support outstanding **senior clinical nursing researchers** who can demonstrate the promise of becoming future research leaders. Applications are invited for projects on **any relevant aspect of clinical cancer nursing**. The focus should be on evidence-based practice, quality of life issues and/or education programmes for patients and healthcare professionals. Applicants must have a PhD in a cancer-relevant research project and have the equivalent of at least two years' full time postdoctoral research experience. Fellowships are awarded for a period of **six years** with an appropriate salary, a postdoctoral worker, technical assistance, a 'set-up' equipment grant (usually up to £25,000) and research running expenses. This is an annual competition with a December deadline.

[Clinical Nurse Scientist Fellowship](#) support outstanding **clinical nursing researchers** who wish to consolidate their research skills and develop a clinical academic research career. The award is open to **members of the nursing profession** who are registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council and who have obtained a higher degree (PhD.) in a cancer-relevant research project, or expect to have received their doctorate by the time they intend to take up an award. An award of up to five years, dependent on the stage of a Fellow's career has reached will be considered. The Fellowship provides an **appropriate salary, technical assistance and research running expenses**. This is an annual competition with a December deadline.

[Nursing Research Training Fellowship](#) supports **nurses** who wish to undertake a period of full or part-time training in a cancer relevant research field, leading to the presentation of a PhD. The Fellowship provides **research expenses, an appropriate salary** in line with the applicant's current salary and grade. Towards the end of the Fellowship, requests for an **additional year of funding** for the Fellow's salary will be considered, in order to facilitate transfer back into clinical practice. This is an annual competition with a January deadline.

[Clinical Research Training Fellowships in Molecular Pathology](#) is a new **training programme** in Molecular Pathology at the University of Cambridge and the Institute of Cancer, Barts and the London medical School. The programme will develop a cohort of medical and non-medical scientists equipped intellectually and technologically to conduct the highest quality research on the molecular pathology of

cancer. The programme offers **two types of fellowships** each year - the [3-year Clinical Research Fellowship](#) and the 5-year Clinician Scientist Fellowships

[Graduate Training Fellowship in Cancer Public Health & Epidemiology](#) aim to develop a cadre of well trained cancer epidemiologists and public health specialists who will be influential in developing effective cancer prevention methods, strategy and policy, together with clinicians, researchers and policy makers. Fellowships are tenable for three years and funding provides research expenses and an appropriate salary in line with the applicant's current salary and grade. Towards the end of the Fellowship, requests for an additional year of funding for the Fellow's salary will be considered, in order to facilitate a transfer back into clinical practice. This is an **annual competition with a January deadline**.

[Population & Behavioural Science Non-clinical Postdoctoral Fellowship](#) intended for individuals who have a PhD in either population or behavioural research relevant to cancer, to allow them to develop their own research ideas and gain post-doctoral experience. It supports non-clinical researchers who wish to pursue an academic career in population, educational, psychosocial or behavioural research relevant to cancer and are tenable for three to five years providing a personal salary, appropriate running expenses (an average of £7,500 pa) and a maximum of £10,000 for equipment funding during the duration of the fellowship. This is an **annual competition with a January deadline**.

Bursaries

[Short Training Course bursaries](#) fund attendance at oncology workshops or at workshops designed to promote transdisciplinary working or promote new (relevant) technology.

[Collaborator Bursaries](#). This is a **new scheme** which replaces the Sabbatical Bursaries scheme. Comprehensive details of the scheme are yet to be published. The link above directs to an email address where further details can be requested.

[Research Bursaries for clinicians and professions allied to medicine](#) These bursaries are intended to allow **time free from clinical duties** in order to pursue academic research alongside clinical practice. The intention is to support people who wish to work as part of a research team for a short period rather than those who intend to become team leaders. The bursary provides up to **£25,000** which may be used to part fund the applicant's salary or the research expenses, or for a combination of the two. It is anticipated that most bursaries will be **12 months or less** in the first instance. There are two application deadlines in May and October each year.

Other types of funding

[Travel & Meeting Awards](#) support grant holders and staff paid through grants (in the University sector on Fellowships, Project or Programme grants NOT those in

core-funded institutes) to **attend scientific meetings** providing that they will be making a presentation (either poster or oral) at the meeting. Each application is considered individually on merit and full or a contribution may be awarded.

[Specialist Topic Meeting Funding](#) supports **specialist topic meetings** that are driven by common demand and will be organised by the researchers rather than by Head office. Requests for support for this type of meeting may come from groups of CRUK supported researchers or directly from a Funding Committee. Funding up to **£20,000** per meeting is available with applications from junior group leaders and postdocs particularly encouraged.

[China Fellows Programme](#). This annual competitive scheme enables outstanding young **Chinese postdoctoral researchers** (both non-clinically and clinically qualified) to obtain a further three years of postdoctoral training in leading cancer research centres in the UK. Core-funded institutes and other research groups. The programme's objectives are:

- to provide Chinese scientists with a three year postdoctoral training period to develop skills and international experience
- to allow Cancer Research UK investigators to recruit well-trained, highly motivated and very able postdoctoral and clinical fellows
- to establish links between cancer research in the UK and in China
- to ensure UK researchers engage with the best science around the world

Three years funding is provided including the salary for the fellow, appropriate running expenses and an annual allowance for travel to China. Starting salary will be not less than **£25,000** pa.

[Tobacco Advisory Group \(TAG\) Grants](#). Funds two main areas of national and international tobacco work – policy

research and policy campaigning activities with a small amount of support given to health promotion interventions... This annual competitive scheme enables outstanding young **Chinese postdoctoral researchers** (both non-clinically and clinically qualified) TAG is a small funding committee offering grants in the range of **£10,000 - £30,000** but which rarely exceed £50,000 pa.

Open access policy

It is a condition of funding that Cancer Research UK funded researchers deposit an electronic copy of peer-reviewed, published papers arising from their Cancer Research UK funded work in the UKPMC database, as soon as possible and no later than 6 months after publication. Please note that CRUK will not make available additional funds to cover the costs of open access publishing however the situation will be closely monitored and actual costs to researchers will be reviewed in summer 2008. For more information click [here](#).

Method of application

Cancer Research UK have their own dedicated electronic [Application Management System](#) (AMS) for those applying for Basic Biology, Clinical and Translational Research grants (excluding Development Committee grants) or Population and Behavioural Sciences grants.

Further information

Further information can be found via the RCUK website at <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/> or by telephoning direct to 020 7121 6699