MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers
West Midlands

Developing the Next Generation of Clinical Research Leaders Across the West Midlands

The Medical Research Council (MRC) Regional Accounts for Clinical Researchers (RACR) Programme is pleased to invite applications for protected research time to develop clinical academic careers.

Led by University of Birmingham in partnership with University of Warwick, Keele University and Aston University, the West Midlands RACR programme aims to strengthen the regional pipeline of outstanding clinical researchers aligned to the remit of the MRC.

The awards will support talented post-doctoral clinical professionals to develop competitive research careers through protected research time, mentorship, training, interdisciplinary collaboration, and access to a vibrant regional research ecosystem

About the Awards

The WMRACR Awards are designed to:

- Support the development of future MRC-funded clinical professionals;
- Enable protected research time alongside clinical practice;
- Foster interdisciplinary and translational research;
- Strengthen collaboration between universities, NHS organisations, industry, and non-academic partners.

Award holders will join a regional network of clinical academics and receive:

- Tailored mentorship and career development support;
- Access to research training;
- Opportunities to engage with industry and translational partners;
- Support to prepare competitive applications for future national fellowship schemes;
- Participation in a collaborative regional research community.
- Bursary of up to £10,000 for research expenditure and training

Who can apply?

- Holders of a PhD or MD
- Researchers whose work is within the MRC's remit
- Resident and consultant level doctors (including GPs); registered health and care professionals at a developmental stage appropriate for progression towards independent clinical academic research funding.
- We expect applicants to be employed by a West Midlands NHS Trust or other NHS organisation. Alternatively, they should hold an honorary clinical contract evidencing continued clinical practice.
- Please note that Academic Clinical Lecturers (NIHR medical and dental ACLs) who are within six months of obtaining their Certificate of Completion of Training are eligible to apply. We will support them to arrange clinical sessions on appointment.

Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional applicants employed by a higher education institution should hold an active clinical role, with ongoing clinical responsibilities that inform and support their research. This may include substantive or appropriately supported honorary clinical appointments, provided there is clear evidence of continued clinical practice alongside academic development.

Please note the following:

- Applicants who already hold a Personal Fellowship or other funded research time should clarify the additional activity and value that they would derive from securing this award.

  We particularly welcome applications from:

  - Individuals from underrepresented backgrounds;
  - Specialties and professions traditionally underrepresented in MRC funding;

Please note that you will need to secure the support of your employer (NHS or university) for you to undertake this award and evidence this via a letter of support (from your CSL, department manager, or line manager).

We do not set a limit on the time that has elapsed since your PhD was awarded. This scheme is also for people looking to re-establish their research after a period of mainly clinical or teaching work.

What We Are Looking For

Successful applicants will demonstrate:

- Strong potential for development as a clinical researcher;
- Commitment to clinically relevant research within the MRC remit;
- A clear vision for future research career progression;
- Willingness to engage with regional collaboration and mentorship opportunities.

Duration and Support

Awards will provide:

- Protected research time (flexible but usually up to 0.5WTE for 12 months);
- Research development support;
- Mentorship and networking opportunities;
- Access to regional training and development activities.
- We would expect successful candidates to take up their award within 6 months of the outcome

How can I apply?

Please complete the following documents:

- RACR application form

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- RACR CV template document
- Source an employer letter of support
- An anonymised Candidate EDI Data Form (please note that this is not mandatory)

Please then confirm that you are submitting an application via this EOI Form and return your application documents to icat@contacts.bham.ac.uk

For informal enquiries please email icat@contacts.bham.ac.uk