

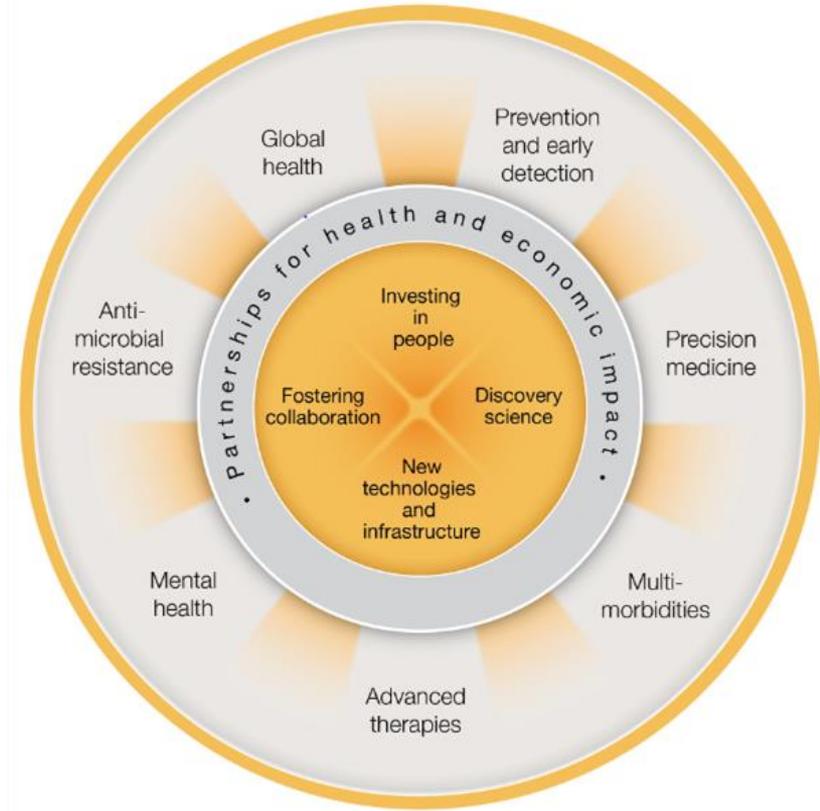


Medical
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MRC funding opportunities

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2nd Sept 2020

“MRC’s mission is to improve human health through world-class medical research, from fundamental science to early clinical trials and preventive medicine.”



Types of Funding

- **Researcher-led**

- Regular, continuous funding opportunities.
- Proposals are reviewed at board and panel meetings.
- Funding is available for any area of science relevant to the MRC, to eligible groups and individuals, offering funding on a range of scales, across career stages, from fundamental to translational research.

- **MRC Strategic**

- Funding opportunities in a specific research area defined by the MRC, usually for a one-off call or a time-limited period. One-off calls which will be focused on a key strategic area
- Proposals may have special application and review mechanisms.

- **Career Awards**

- Fellowships
- Studentships



Council

Strategy Board

Molecular
and
Cellular
Medicine
Board

Population
and
Systems
Medicine
Board

Infections
and
Immunity
Board

Neuro
sciences
and Mental
Health
Board

Applied
Global
Health
Research
Board

(launched
Jan 2020)

Translation
Panels
MRP, EME
Biomedical
Catalyst
(DPFS, CIC
MAC)

Population Health Sciences Group

Translational Research Group

Training and Careers Group

Global Health Group (folds into the Applied Global Health Research Board)

Training
Panels
Skills
Clinical
Non-clinical



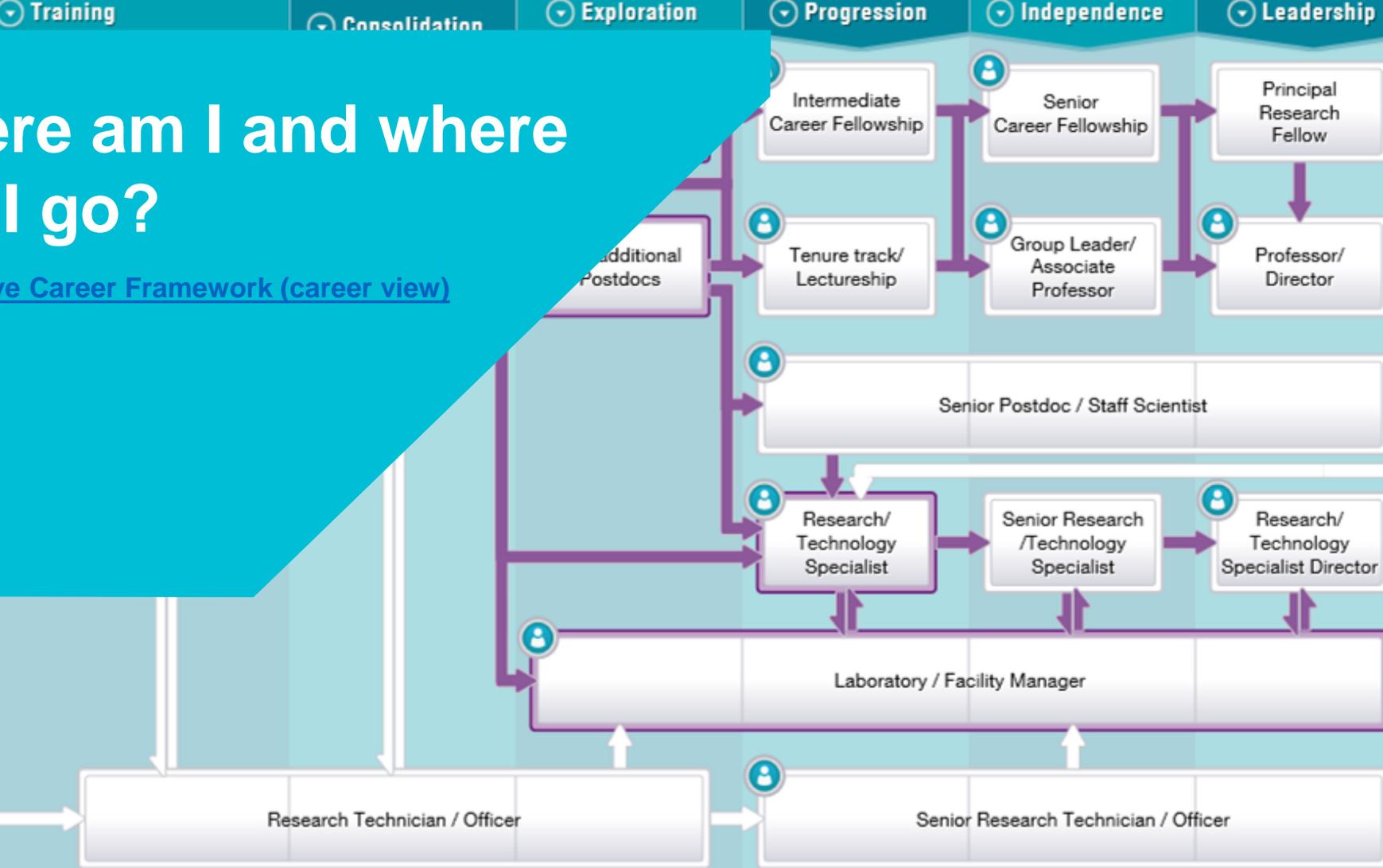
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Before you Apply



Where am I and where can I go?

[Interactive Career Framework \(career view\)](#)



What kind of funding can I apply for?

Interactive Career Framework (funding view)

Transition to independence awards

Awards for research leaders

Career re-entry awards

Research / project grants

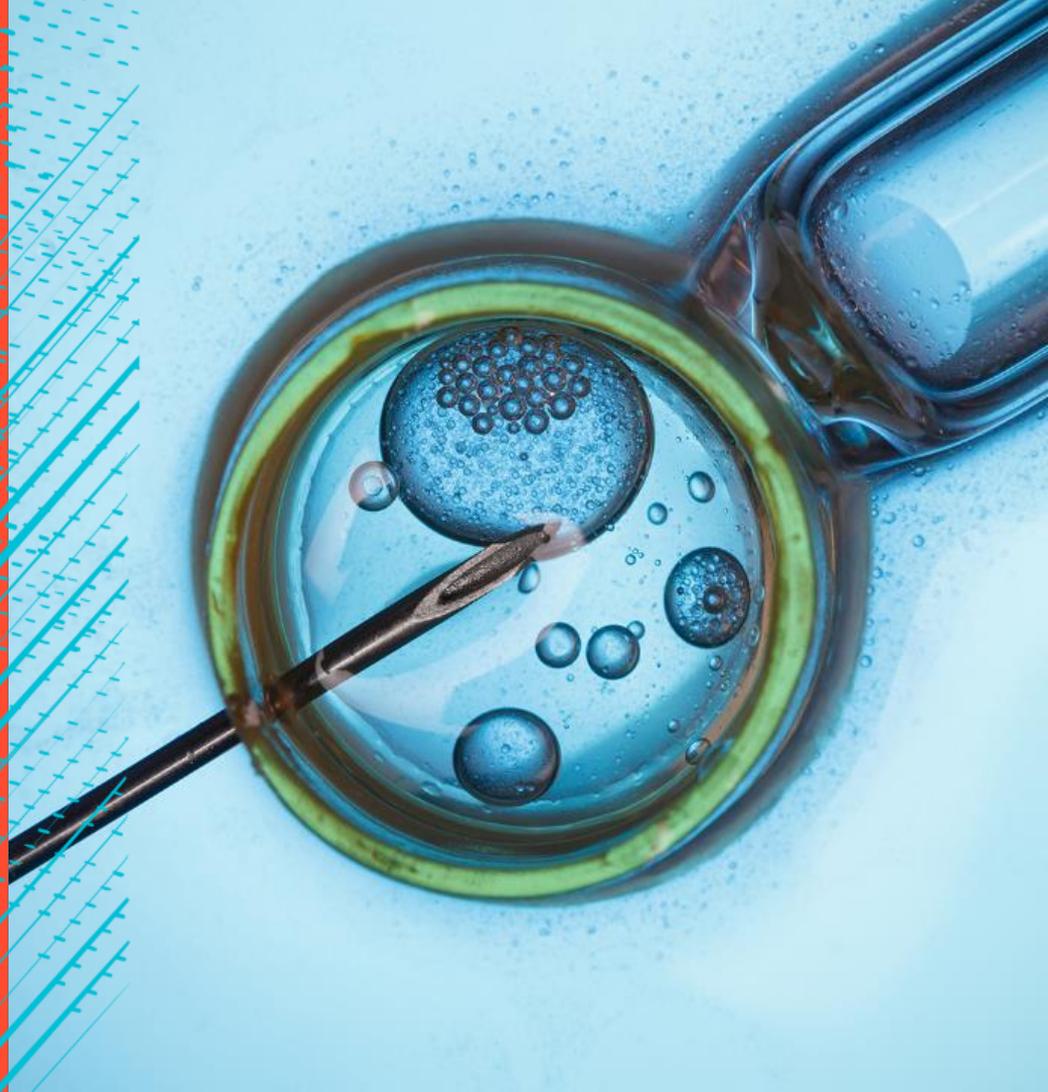
Pilot projects / small grants

Select a funder: ALL funders ▶



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What does a Fellowship provide?



What is an MRC fellowship?

- **Personal award** for talented researchers to support key transition points in their careers
- Protected time for research **shielded** from other professional commitments (e.g. teaching, clinical duties)
- Development as a researcher enabling **progression** towards fulfilling long term career goals
- Prestigious

Fellowships	Grants
Full Salary covered	A few hours per week
Is the fellows main focus; T&Cs limit time fellow can dedicate to non-fellowship activities	Can hold many grants concurrently
Development of the fellow	Focus is on the science and project

An MRC award also provides:

- Applicants may spend up to twelve months of their award at a second organisation (costed in to application)
- Annual Symposium
- Induction and mid-award workshops
- Opportunity to observe an MRC Board Meeting
- Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS) Mentoring Scheme
- MRC Public Engagement in Science Activities - Seed Fund
- Medical Research Foundation Research Dissemination Scheme

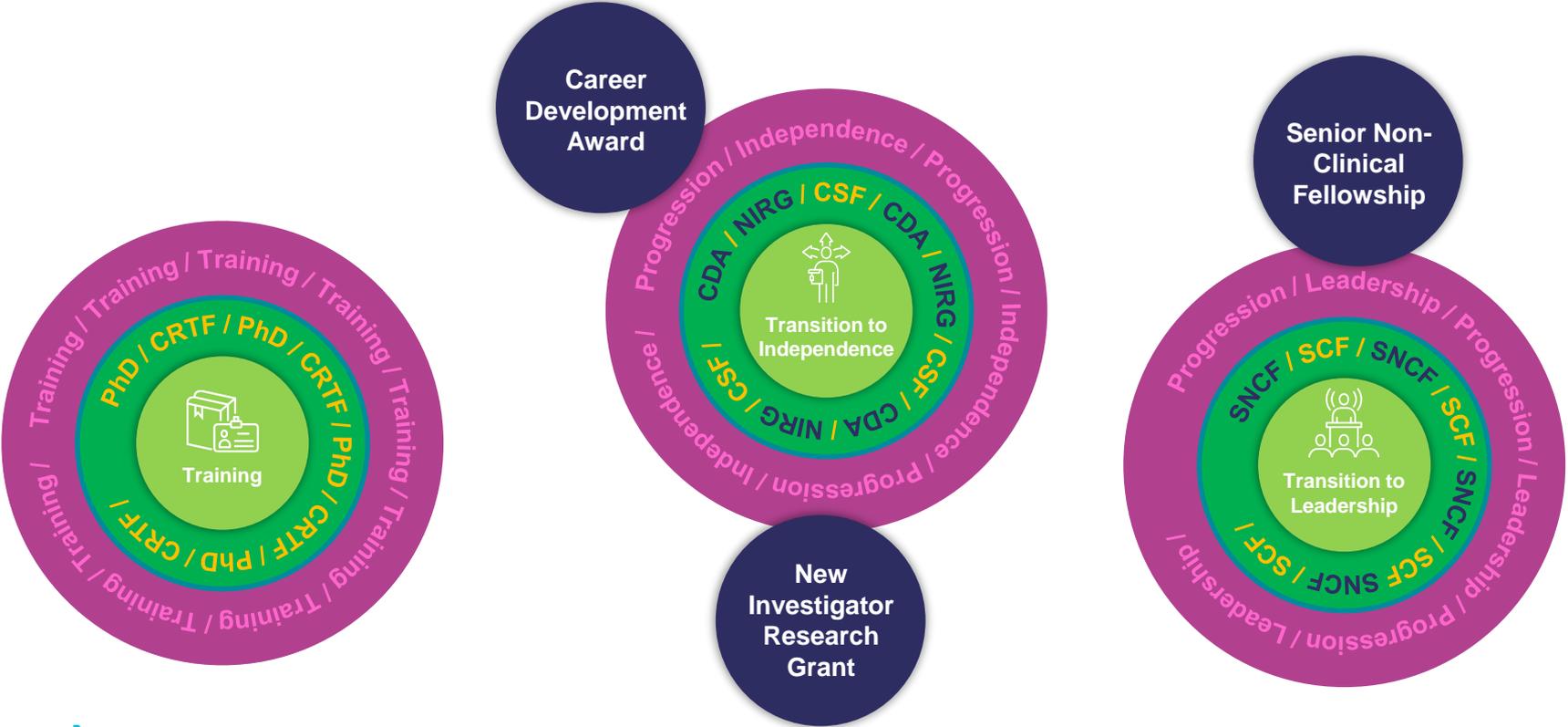


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Types of Award



MRC Non-Clinical Fellowships



Transition to Independence

- **Career Development Award (CDA):**

Supports talented post-doctoral researchers to lead their own research plans and transition to independence. Up to 5 years' support provided. No eligibility rules based on years experience.

- **Clinician Scientists Fellowship (CSF):**

Supports talented clinically qualified professionals to lead their own research plans and transition to independence. Up to 4 years' support (5 years' for patient-oriented research or tenure track awards – host institute provides the final year of the fellow's salary).

- **New Investigator Research Grant (NIRG):**

Similar career stage to CDA/CSF, supporting the transition to independence.

NIRGs are normally of 3 years duration and support up to 50% of individuals' time. The remaining time (and salary) must be underwritten by host institute.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate their **skills and experience** match those of the transition to independence career stage.

Transition to Independence

New Investigator Research Grant



Intermediate Fellowship (CDA/CSF)

MRC support for flexible careers

- No age limits
- No limits on number of years post-PhD
- Open to individuals returning to research following a career break
- Awards can be held part-time
- Support for parental/sick leave
- Guidance for reviewers and applicants on assessing the effects of career breaks or flexible working
- Researcher Co-I status
- 6 hours per week can be used for non-fellowship activities

<https://mrc.ukri.org/skills-careers/additional-career-support/flexible-working-policies/>

UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF)

- Supporting early career researchers in their transition to independence
- Funding available for up to **7 years (4+3)** to tackle adventurous, difficult or multi-disciplinary areas that require fellowship support
- Provides support all across the **UKRI remit**, no barriers to interdisciplinarity
- Support excellent research and innovation in new ways across eligible organisations in industry, academia, business, and public services
- Help people come back into academia
- Academic employer commitment: tapered salary support and follow-on position.



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What makes a good application?



Skills needed to win support

The skills and experience (relevant to career stage) applicants should demonstrate at the time of applying for an MRC fellowship or New Investigator Research Grant are below. [Career breaks](#), part-time working and changes in discipline will be taken into account when assessing research experience to date and track record.

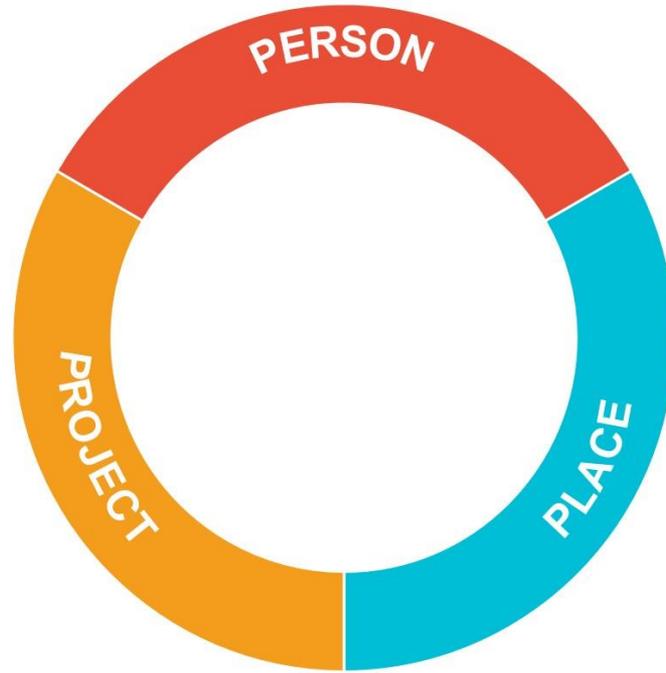
Career stage	Training (PhD students)	Transition to independence	Transition to leadership
Relevant scheme(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clinical Research Training Fellowships ▪ PhD studentships - Funding for studentships is provided to research organisations. MRC does not fund students directly, so prospective students should contact the institution at which they wish to study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Career Development Award ▪ Clinician Scientist Fellowships ▪ New Investigator Research Grant²³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior Non-Clinical Fellowship ▪ Senior Clinical Fellowship
Key criteria	<p>Individuals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ be planning to pursue a research career ▪ show a clear understanding of how the research project will progress knowledge within the field. 	<p>Individuals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ show productivity across past appointments and an upward trajectory ▪ demonstrate clear plans to establish own research 'niche'. 	<p>Individuals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have a track record of nationally competitive research and managing own independent research group ▪ have clear plans to develop into an internationally recognised leader in the field.

Writing the Proposal

MRC New Investigator Research Grant: Writing the proposal



The Concept of the Three Ps



The Concept of the Three Ps



- You have to make a clear case as to:
- How this fellowship is a step change for your
- How you own the project
- The training element and environment of the fellowship
- How you are the right person to deliver this project
- How you assembled the best supervisory team for you and this project

The Concept of the Three Ps



- You have to make a clear case as to:
- What are the research questions and how will you answer them (hypothesis driven, clear hypothesis, detailed methodology that is consistent with the hypothesis)
- What the scope and importance of the project is (focused, not overambitious project, original approach)
- How the proposed project is feasible (preliminary data, key risks considered, mitigating plans, no interdependent aims)

The Concept of the Three Ps

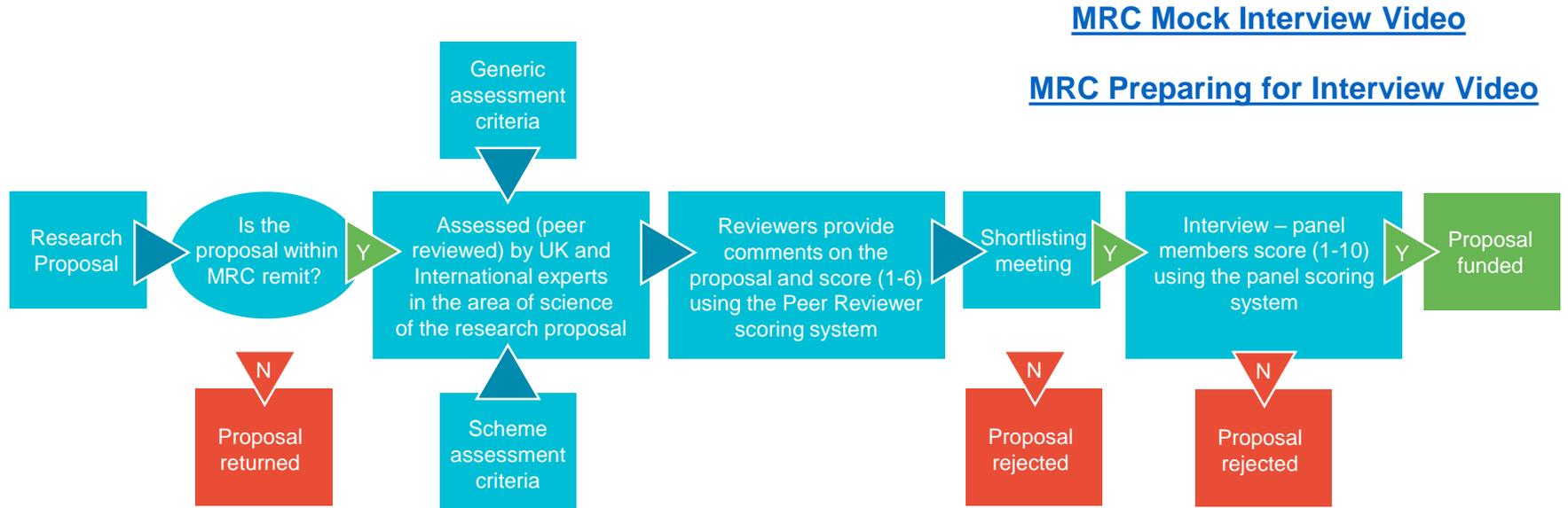


- You have to make a clear case as to:
- How will the proposed research environment enable you to deliver your project (facilities, collaborators, mentors, supervisors/sponsors)
- How the research center has international standing in the project's research area.
- How will the proposed research organization support you

Good, personalized letter of support.

Your RO can support you with personal training (developmental track), mentoring, access to PhD students and other resources, offering you a contract after the fellowship, and other post-fellowship opportunities.

Application Assessment



[MRC Mock Interview Video](#)

[MRC Preparing for Interview Video](#)

[MRC Peer Review Video](#)

An application could fail because:

Scope and importance

- Unfocused, overambitious project
- Unoriginal, pedestrian approach

Clarity of research question(s) and how they will be answered

- No clear hypothesis or not hypothesis-driven
- Methodology not sufficiently detailed, not consistent with hypothesis

Feasibility

- Centre has no international standing in research area
- Lack of infrastructure / facilities
- Lack of preliminary data / key risks not considered

Career progression

- Training element incomplete / unclear; poor training environment
- Unclear how the fellowship will position you
- Lack of ownership of the project
- Right person, wrong project & vice versa! Or wrong supervisory team



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Need Advice?



Sources of Advice

Funder

- Website
- Email

University Grants Office and associated services

- University requirements
- Costing software
- Assistance in preparing grant applications
 - Writing workshops
 - Helpdesk

Experienced colleagues and collaborators

- Past evaluation committee members
- Successful grant applicants
- [Find MRC fellows at your RO](#)





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Thank you



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