

**MRC/NIHR Clinical Academic Research Partnerships**

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/pre-announcement-clinical-academic-research-partnerships-2021/>

**Key dates:**

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| **UCL deadline for Expressions of Interest** | **6th October 2021 at 5pm** |
| CARP call opens | **27th August 2021** |
| CARP call closes  | **18th November 2021** |

The 4th round for the Clinical Academic Research Partnerships scheme (CARP) will open in August, with a submission deadline of 18th November. The scheme is for research-qualified (PhD, MD or with equivalent experience) healthcare professionals at consultant level or equivalent, not currently undertaking any substantial research activity, to take part in collaborative high-quality research partnerships with established leading biomedical and health researchers.

Whilst there is no cap on the number of applications UCL can submit, UCL Life and Medical Sciences (LMS) are running a *“light touch”* **review process** to provide support for and feedback on applications, and to ensure awareness of the financial commitment and approvals required.

Please note: The funding application is to be submitted via JeS and requires a number of attachments, such as case for support, data management plan etc. and letters of support. You are therefore advised to start preparing your application alongside the UCL Expression of Interest (EOI) form and consult the full scheme guidance once available (27th August).

*Alignment to and contacting (if appropriate) UCL’s Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs):*

UCL and the [UCLH](http://www.uclhospitals.brc.nihr.ac.uk/), [GOSH](https://www.gosh.nhs.uk/our-research/nihr-great-ormond-street-hospital-brc) and [Moorfields](https://www.moorfields.nhs.uk/nihr-moorfields-biomedical-research-centre) BRCs are particularly keen to support collaborative projects across Trusts/BRCs that address known barriers to clinical careers, are aligned to strategic BRC themes, and address national or global challenges. Where relevant, applicants should first discuss their proposal with the appropriate BRC theme lead (see contacts below) who will provide advice on the application and research partner. Proposals which link more than one of the UCL - affiliated NIHR BRCs are welcome. If the proposal is not relevant to any of the BRC themes, the applicant or UCL investigator may contact UCL LMS facilitators for advice.

UCLH BRC: Nick McNally, Managing Director Research UCLH/UCL (use email address for Sharon Hay s.hay@ucl.ac.uk )

GOSH BRC: grants.advice@gosh.nhs.uk

Moorfields BRC:

* Phil Luthert, p.luthert@ucl.ac.uk, Moorfields BRC Training Lead
* Helen Khan, h.khan@ucl.ac.uk Moorfields BRC Communications Lead

UCL LMS Facilitators: slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk

**Funding**

Due to the financial shortfall arising from the nature of the scheme (the gap between the backfill of the applicant's post and the salary amount funded), **interested applicants must ensure to discuss their application with the Division /Institute Finance Manager prior to submitting the EOI for internal review.**

The expectation is that the Host Institution will meet the 20% shortfall in salary cost for the Clinical Applicant via indirect costs. In order for the reduction to be approved via Worktribe, these projects will need to be manually adjusted to reflect the 20% reduction in the indirect budget line, which would then be transferred to the Indirects (Partner Costs Section). This will enable decision making as to the viability of the project, based on the actual cost / overhead recovery for UCL. If you have any costing queries that the local finance team or your Research Services Pre-award contact cannot answer please contact Research Services: Stavroulla Stavrou, s.stavrou@ucl.ac.uk.

**Internal Process for the light touch review**

Applicants, together with their UCL partner, should review these guidance notes and submit the enclosed Expression of Interest form and applicant’s CV to **slms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk** by the **6th Oct 2021 (5pm)** indicating “CARP 2021” in the subject line followed by the applicant’s name. **The signature of the Division / Institute Director must be obtained in order to confirm their approval that they will meet the salary shortfall from the overheads**.

**Scheme information**

Prior to the call opening on 27th August please consult the information on the [UKRI preannouncement webpage](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/pre-announcement-clinical-academic-research-partnerships-2021/). As a guide, supporting documents from the [previous year’s call](https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/mrc-clinical-academic-research-partnership/) can be found under the ‘How to Apply’ or ‘Additional Info’ sections. Once the call opens, please ensure to consult and follow the Round 4 guidance. Further information can also be found here: [Chair’s summary from round 1](https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/carp/clinical-academic-research-partnerships1/carp-round-1-chairs-summary/), [Chair’s summary from round 2](https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/carp/clinical-academic-research-partnerships1/carp-round-2-chairs-summary/) .

**Scheme Details**

**Scope:** Projects are welcome across all areas of the MRC and NIHR’s remits and are open to all clinical specialities. Please note, proposals seeking to undertake pilot or feasibility studies to support possible future trials are unlikely to be competitive.

**Funding available:** Awards will be a minimum of one year and a maximum of three years. Each award will support between 20-50% of the applicant’s basic salary to support protected research time, and reasonable costs for the project (such as consumables, facility usage costs and equipment below £10,000).

Salaries of research staff other than the applicant (such as post docs, research assistants etc) are not expected to be costed into the application. Staff costs can be requested where essential for the delivery of the project. For example, to assist data collection in another country, requirement for an independent statistician, a trial coordinator for blinding participants in a trial, though this is not an exhaustive list. Costs should be reasonable, fully justified and only form a small part of the request for funding. Please consult the full guidance once available.

As a guide, the total funding available in the previous round was £5M with 21 projects awarded, therefore the average amount applied for was £238,100.

**Key eligibility criteria for applicants and their UCL partners (please see full guidance):**

* The scheme is open to **healthcare professionals at consultant level or equivalent** (working at a senior level with specialised knowledge and demonstrable capacity for professional independence and leadership)with **a PhD or MD** (or equivalent postgraduate qualification; for example, three years’ consolidated research time where you have been the intellectual drive behind a project and achieved strong outputs from your research experience) and **hold a contract of employment, or will hold an honorary contract, with UCL for the duration of the award**.
* Applicants should **not be undertaking any substantive research** activity and will usually have limited or no research funding. It is expected that applicants will have less than one PA of research time in their current job plan. Proposals from applicants with more than one research PA are welcome, but they should ensure the added-value of the award is articulated (for example to support you in working in new environments, with new research partners and providing a step-change in your research trajectory).
* Applicants should be a member of NHS staff, staff contracted to the NHS or working within the public health or care sector. This includes, but is not exclusive to doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, healthcare scientists, pharmacists, clinical psychologists, registered public health practitioners, social workers and others in either primary care, secondary care, community care or public health.
* UCL research partners are expected to have a proven track record of peer-reviewed research programmes from high-quality funders.

**Insights from previous rounds and pre-announcement guidance:**

* The strength of the research partnership is critical to the assessment. The expectation is that the applicant is embedded within an established and funded research group/programme and that the partnership is of clear mutual value.
* Applicants already involved in studies and giving the impression of wanting to do ‘more of the same’ will not be competitive.
* Applicants should be seeking to develop their research skills and be fully involved in the project delivery; proposals where the applicant would be delivering the clinical aspects of the project only, e.g., collecting samples, undertaking imaging or patient recruitment, are not competitive.
* **Letters of support** are required from the i) Research Partner, ii) UCL Division/ Institute Director, and iii) NHS organisation or equivalent that employs the applicant.
* The UCL host Division/Institute will need to demonstrate appropriate support (such as access to facilities) to enable the applicant to successfully undertake their project.
* Trusts will need to have a clear plan for the applicant’s time to be backfilled.

**UCL Expression of Interest Form for CARP 2021 call (includes applicant’s CV)**

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| **Applicant** |
| Name |  |
| Email address |  |
| Employer |  |
| Post & duration of employment at the Trust  |  |
| Is this a resubmission? |  |
| Proposed % time dedicated to project (20-50%) & duration of project (1 – 3 years) |  |
| Plans for your clinical time to be backfilled by the Trust |  |

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| **UCL Research Partner** |
| Name |  |
| Email |  |
| Post & duration of employment at UCL |  |
| UCL Division/Institute/Department |  |
| Peer-reviewed research programme for applicant to be embedded with (funder, amount & duration of award, partner’s role, e.g. PI) |  |

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| **BRC alignment:** Please indicate which BRC and theme your proposal aligns to (if none, add N/A) |
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| **Project title:** 150 character limit, it should reflect the aim of the proposal |
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| **Research Partnership** (max 250 words):Please describe the added value of your proposed collaboration to both parties and explain the applicant’s role Please note: The strength of the research partnership is critical to the assessment. The expectation is that the partnership is of clear mutual benefit to the applicant and partner. |
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| **Research Proposal** (max 1000 words):Please include rationale of proposed work, objectives, experimental design/key methods employed, expected outputs, their timelines and impact. Applicant may also include plans to continue to engage with research beyond this award.  |
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| **Signatures** |
| Name of applicant’s Clinical Divisional lead (or equivalent): | Signature |
| Email:  |
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| Name of UCL Division/Institute Director (LMS) or Department Head (BEAMS/SLASH/IoE):  | Signature |
| Email: |
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| Name of BRC theme lead (if applicable): | Signature |
| Email: |

***Applicant’s CV –2 pages max, Arial 11pt***

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| **Date of PhD/MD Viva** (month and year): |  |
| **CCT date** (month and year): |  |
| **Royal College Examination** (Name of examination and date (or anticipated date) of completion, e.g. MRCP 2013) |  |
| **Current job plan (please outline PAs undertaken, and indicate if working LTFT):**  |

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| **Education** |
| **Dates (month/year)****From To**  | **Universities/colleges attended** | **Subjects read** | **Qualification and grade / class** |
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| **Employment History:** Provide details of your employment in chronological date order (most recent first) and including your present position in the table below: |
| **Dates (month/year)****From To**  | **Name of organisation and position held.** Please briefly detail the nature of the position, e.g. whether fully clinical or research focused, the split of clinical/research time if relevant, principal investigator for research projects undertaken etc.  | **Type of appointment** Permanent / fixed-term, full- or part-time etc. |
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| **Career Breaks: Please detail any career breaks in the table below:**<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/documents/pdf/career-breaks-and-flexible-working-guidance/> |
| **Dates (month/year)** **From To** | **Reason** |
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| **Dates (month/year)** **From To**  | **Name of grant held.**  | **Your position on the grant:** e.g. PI, Co-I, RA | **Total amount awarded** | **Did this pay for your full salary? Y/N** |
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| **Prizes and Awards: Please detail any prizes or awards in the table below:** |
| **Date (month/year)** | **Award** |
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| **Additional information: (Please indicate** any further details you wish to bring to our attention**)** |