



NIHR Research Professorships & Global Research Professorships

and

Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research 2024

Guidance for UCL internal selection process

Applications are invited to UCL’s internal selection process for the **Round 14 NIHR Research Professorships (RP)**, **Round 7 NIHR Global Research Professorships (GRP)** and the **Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research 2024 (SJTA)** calls.

UCL may submit a maximum of **three** applications to the RP call, a maximum of **two** applications to the GRP call and a maximum of **one** application to the **SJTA** call. UCL is therefore implementing an internal review and selection process overseen by LMS Faculty Deans and Senior Academics. For the **RP and GRP calls**, where **two** nominees are put forward **at least one of them must be female**. For the **RP call**, if a **third** nominee is put forward **at least one must be from an ethnic minority group**.

It is expected that the NIHR calls will open in September with a deadline in late November 2023. The SJTA call is expected to open in August, with a preliminary deadline early November 2023. UCL is opening the internal selection process before both calls open to enable successful nominees sufficient time to prepare strong bids given the prestigious and highly competitive nature of these professorships. **The notes below are based on the previous rounds and hence, may be subject to change.**

Important dates:

UCL timeline (Internal Triage Process)		
UCL deadline for internal applications	5 th September 2023 (12:00 lunch time)	
Shortlisting of written applications and UCL interviews	15 th September	
	NIHR Research Professorships	Sir Jules Thorn award
Calls open	September 2023 (TBC)	August 2023 (TBC)
Deadline for stage 1 applications	November 2023 (TBC)	November 2023
Calls for stage 2 applications open	April 2024 (TBC)	January 2024 (TBC)
Deadline for stage 2 applications	May 2024 (TBC)	May 2024 (TBC)
Funder interviews	June 2024 (TBC)	No interviews

NIHR Research Professorships and Global Research Professorships

Scope: The RP and GRP schemes offer a fixed **five-year award** that allows outstanding academics to work at **professorial-level** based at a Higher Education Institution, **in partnership with an NHS organisation, or other providers of health, public health and/or care services.**

For both schemes, the **effective translation of research into practice** remains a high priority. Research leadership gaps exist at **two** key stages in the innovation pathway; **firstly**, in translating new fundamental

discoveries into improved treatments for patients/service users, and improvements in public health and care; and **secondly**, in evaluating promising ideas to drive into routine clinical and care practice.

For the GRP, UCL can nominate up to **two** health, public health and social care researchers and methodologists. Nominees should have an outstanding research record of clinical and applied health, public health or care research, and its **effective translation for improved health and welfare of people in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)**. For this scheme, the partner organisation can be based in a relevant LMIC.

Funder website: [NIHR Research Professorships](#), see [full guidance](#) from previous round (**Round 13** for RP); [NIHR Global Research Professorships](#), see [full guidance](#) from previous round (**Round 6** for GRP).

Budget: max £2m (average cost of successful applications between £1.7 - £1.8m). Eligible costs include salary of the fellow, 3 support posts, research costs, travel expenses, leadership development, sabbaticals. Full cost of clinical trials is not eligible. Up to 80% of the full economic cost will be paid by NIHR.

Key Eligibility and Remit Criteria for both RP & GRP calls:

- Applicants should a) be working in experimental medicine, public health, health services research, social care research or methodological approaches, b) be seen as research leaders within their field in the UK or abroad and c) have a demonstrable record in effective translation of research into improved health, public health or adult social care.
- Competitive candidates need to demonstrate a steep career trajectory over the last 5-10 years on course to becoming outstanding leaders. They will currently be at an early career stage having spent **NO MORE than 5 years at their current level of seniority** (Professor, Reader, Senior Lecturer/ Fellow, Clinical Scientist, Group Leader or similar) at the time of application (Nov 2023). Applicants close to/ at the professorial level should be qualified for a professorship within the coming few years or recently have been appointed as full Professor (not Associate or Assistant).
- Established leaders are not eligible, only applicants on an upward trajectory to becoming one at the end of the award. NIHR Senior Investigators are also not eligible.
- Non-medical healthcare, public health and social care professions (e.g. social scientists, health economists, bio-informaticians, clinical psychologists, nutritionists, research scientists) are particularly encouraged to apply. For those not directly involved in delivering clinical, public health or care services, you will need to demonstrate how you will link with clinical, public health or care practice colleagues in order to deliver your research for the benefit of patients, public health or adult social care users.
- NIHR supports early translational, clinical and applied health research, public health and care research. The proposal must have **clear potential for benefitting patients, public health and care users and carers**. The research can involve: patients, the public, care users and/or carers; and/or their samples or data; populations; health technology assessment; or health services research. Please note these calls **do not support basic research or work involving animals or their tissue**.
- **Specifically for the RP call:** as the lead (employing) organisation will be an HEI, the application should **make clear the arrangements with partner organisation(s)** (e.g. NHS, public health, social care services) which will enable the nominee to work with service providers to translate research into practice. The majority of Research Professor's time will be spent on research; however a continuing link with service delivery will be an essential part of funded professorships. In this regard, RPs will be funded to continue to spend up to 2 sessions per week delivering service directly or, if the nominee is not a health, public health or care professional, an equivalent time collaborating with others to facilitate service delivery.
- **Specifically, for the GRP call: proposals must fulfil the below ODA eligibility criteria with the research focussed on people in low- and middle-income counties (LMICs)**. Applications must demonstrate:
 - Which country or countries on the [OECD DAC list](#) of ODA eligible countries will directly benefit
 - How the application is directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of those countries
 - How the outcomes will promote the health and welfare of a country or countries on the [OECD DAC list](#).

- For the GRP call, **collaboration with researchers in OECD DAC list countries is essential**. GRP nominees will be required to have existing strong collaborations or links with collaborators or partners in institutions in countries on the [OECD DAC](#) list and the award should plan to strengthen these/support training and capacity development/mentorship in these partners.
- As in the case of RPs, GRPs will be funded to spend the equivalent time (up to 2 sessions per week) delivering services directly in the relevant LMIC or have relevant collaborations which can be supported to fulfil this. Equally, if the nominee is not a health professional, an equivalent time collaborating with others to facilitate service delivery in the relevant LMIC.
- NIHR advice is that applicants who are **already** Professors would need a **clear justification as to what benefit this award would bring to their upward career trajectory and how it would change their potential to be a leader in their field**. In practice, NIHR are certainly willing to fund Professors if the above is addressed.
- Successful proposals must have **clear potential for benefitting patients and public**.
- These are **personal awards, not programme grants**. Applications must clearly demonstrate the principal investigator's **leadership role and research vision**, and the plan for how the award would be **transformative to the candidate's career**.
- Key institutional commitments: a) support the ongoing employment of the applicants beyond the duration of the award b) explain how any funds freed up by the award will be recycled to increase research capacity c) support the project and the applicant's leadership development.

Instructions for internal selection process

- Please review carefully the PDF file with the previous year's funder Guidance Notes for both calls (from Round 13 (RP call) and 6 (GRP call)), available on the [LMS Internally Managed Calls](#) webpage.
- The UCL internal application comprises two documents:
 1. **Expression of Interest (EOI) form** (complete using Arial 11pt)
 2. **A letter of support (LoS) signed by the relevant Divisional/Institute Director** (max 2 A4 pages)
 - This must confirm that the relevant Division/Institute Director supports the candidate and their ongoing employment beyond the duration of the award and that the candidate will be provided the required space and resources as well as relief (if applicable) from teaching or administration duties to focus on the professorship.
 - Indicate when the applicant is expected to be appointed as full professor, and if already a professor, why they still qualify and how this award will impact their potential to become established leaders.
 - Indicate any additional support to be provided to applicants to become established leaders in their field. Further, explain how the applicant's salary costs will be recycled to increase research capacity.
 - Finally, explain how this proposal aligns with the Division/Institute's strategic priorities.
- Please combine the completed EOI form and signed LoS into a **single PDF** file and submit the application to lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk, indicating "NIHR RP 2023/24" or "NIHR GRP 2023/24" in the subject line followed by the **applicant's name**.
- Please note, to streamline the process there will be **no** interview stage.

Sir Jules Thorn Award for Biomedical Research

Scope: Supports a **five-year** programme of **original translational biomedical research** selected following an internal competition among applicants sponsored by UK medical schools and NHS organisations.

Scheme's notes online: See [SJT Award for Biomedical Research](#) and previous year's (2023) [guidance notes](#).

Budget: £1.7M (direct costs only) for up to 5 years

Key Eligibility and Remit Criteria

- The research must be at the leading edge of international science, and must be led by a Principal Applicant of outstanding quality in the **early years of an established research and academic career**.
- The work involved must be the major commitment of the Principal Applicant, comprising at least 70% of their research time or 50% of their total time, whichever is greater.
- Any co-applicants are expected to be actively involved in the work. Their precise role and time commitment must be stated.
- The award may not be used to meet the salary costs of the applicant(s) who should be in institutionally funded posts for the duration of the grant.
- The proposal must involve research on **patients and be based on appropriate bio-statistical analysis**. Proposals might include a) work which could lead to improved diagnosis and/or prognostic methods as well as new treatments b) concept validation c) intervention trials.
- There must be a clear specification of the hypothesis, based on pre-clinical experimental data supporting the rationale of the clinical study, arising from the applicant's own work (not derived from someone else's observations). Further work to support hypotheses or substantiate questions arising from clinical experiments may be supported by animal work in the early phase of the grant.
- There must be a **clear strategy** explaining how the research will translate to **patient benefit** and the timescale for realising this.

Instructions for submitting an internal Expression of Interest (EOI):

- Please review carefully the PDF file with the previous year's funder Guidance notes (2023), available on the [LMS Internally Managed Calls](#) webpage and the current scheme guidance as soon as it becomes available before applying.
- **Complete the EOI form** (using Arial 11pt)
- Provide a **Letter of Support** (LoS) dated recently and signed by the relevant Divisional/Institute Director (2 pages max) confirming that they support the candidate and their submission and that they will be provided with the required space and resources. The letter should also explain why the Director nominates the candidate for this call as well as the relevance of their proposal to the Division/Institute's research strategy.
- Combine the completed EOI form and signed LoS into a **single PDF** document and submit it to lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk, with "SJTA 2023/24" in the subject line followed by the **applicant's name**.
- Please note, to streamline the process there will be **no** interview stage.

Late submissions to the internal deadlines will not be accepted.

Questions? Please refer to the scheme's guidance notes and FAQs on [LMS Internally Managed Calls](#) webpage. If you can't find the answer to your question, please contact lms.facilitators@ucl.ac.uk.