

Dear all

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Keep up-to-date with COVID-19 funding calls and resources



Our friends at RDS London have put together a really useful webpage, which is updated frequently with the latest funding calls and resources for researchers looking at COVID-19.

Visit the website [here](#).

RDS WM post award support-we are here to help

If you are conducting a research project for which you received funding from an open, national, peer-reviewed funding scheme and are currently experiencing problems - e.g. due to COVID 19 and the impact lockdown has had on many studies - the RDS can assist you with problems you may be having relating to issues of research design. We can provide assistance whether or not you had RDS support when submitting your study for funding. Do feel free to contact us, either to your local hub or by sending a general support request via our [website](#)

Please note, however, that if you need advice that is *not* to do with research design – e.g. relating to research governance, funding, and logistical issues – this is probably best sought elsewhere, e.g. a Research and Development Department in your organization or the [NIHR Clinical Research Network \(CRN\)](#).

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Latest RDS blog: Innovative research design in action

A big push in research is to increase the efficiency and pace of studies. Innovative design methods can play a role in that by allowing multiple questions to be answered in a single study.

Find out more in [this month's blog](#).



Latest NIHR funding calls

Recovery, Renewal, Reset: Research to inform policy responses to COVID-19 in the health and social care systems

Details: The NIHR funds policy research to enable evidence informed policy making in health and social care. The PRP Programme invites applications for research to inform the policy response to challenges posed by COVID-19, and to capture learning arising from the pandemic. The research specification document sets out the need for research in specific topic areas to inform medium- to longer-term policy decisions for health and social care resulting from COVID-19.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 22nd October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR School for Public Health Research

Details: The NIHR School for Public Health Research (SPHR) is a partnership between eight leading academic centres with excellence in applied public health research in England. SPHR aims to increase the evidence base for cost-effective public health practice.

The NIHR invites academic institutions in England to apply to a new open competition to renew and refresh membership of the NIHR School for Public Health Research (SPHR). The renewed SPHR will conduct world-leading research in public health which responds to and meets the needs of local populations, local government, public health bodies and public health practitioners, and which addresses the nation's changing demographics and priority areas for public health research. The renewed school will aim to continue to strengthen research in public health more broadly, build capacity and fund groundbreaking, internationally relevant research that is key to improving public health policy and practice.

Deadline for proposals: 1pm on 28th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Invention for Innovation - Product Development Awards Call 21

Details: The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) Programme supports the preclinical and clinical development of medical technologies in areas of existing or emerging patient need.

The NIHR Invention for Innovation (i4i) programme invites proposals to Call 21 of its researcher-led Product Development Awards (PDA). PDAs fund the development of disruptive early-stage medical technologies that address existing or emerging healthcare needs. They support translational projects developing medical devices, in vitro diagnostics and digital health technologies that are patient-focused and for ultimate NHS use.

In this competition, we are partnering with ESPRC, Asthma UK and the British Lung

Foundation to highlight our support for the development and adoption of asthma health technologies.

Deadline for proposals: 20th October 2020

Find out more [here](#)

RDS West Midlands can offer free expert support and advice on all aspects of designing and developing applications for NIHR funding and other peer reviewed funding bodies– please complete our online Request for Support form to gain access to our advice.

NIHR Funding deadlines calendar

For an overview of the year's NIHR calls and ongoing opportunities, please view the online calendar: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/researchers/funding-opportunities/>

Funding calls from other bodies

The Nuffield Foundation: Research, Development and Analysis Fund

Details: The Nuffield Foundation is an independent charitable trust with a mission to advance educational opportunity and social well-being. They fund research that informs social policy, primarily in Education, Welfare and Justice. They also provide opportunities for young people to develop skills and confidence in science and research.

The Research, Development and Analysis Fund looks for interesting questions/issues that fit the Nuffield Foundation's mission and is relevant to the questions in their three domains. There should be a clear articulation of what you intend to do, why it matters, and what difference it will make. Applications for research, development and analysis grants are usually between £10,000 and £500,000. Most of the grants awarded are between £50,000 and £300,000 and are between six months and three years in duration, but they will occasionally consider proposals with a larger budget or longer timescale.

Deadline for proposals: March 2021

Find out more [here](#)

MRC: Methodology Research Programme

Details: The MRC/NIHR Methodology Research Programme (MRP) is co-funded by the MRC and the Department of Health's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

For the purposes of obtaining funding from MRP, methodology research must include at least one of the following:

- Research primarily targeting underpinning methodologies, to create generalizable learning. Research must extend beyond a single case-study or application.
- 'Methods in research', the development of methods for their implementation in research standards, with the aim of improving quality and consistency in practice, for example consensus statements.
- Research framed within a pathways to disseminate the developed methodology, or associated learning, such as to maximise implementation and adoption. This can be comparative to test and evaluate methodology or translational to create step changes in utility or uptake.

- Research that is led by the methodological needs of a breadth of researchers, where research outputs are designed to maximise the informative value and utility across this breadth.

Applications can be led by academics based at UK Universities, MRC Units and approved independent research organisations. Applicants should follow the normal application process for the type of grant you wish to apply for:

- [research grant](#)
- [new investigator research grants](#)
- [programme grants](#)
- [partnership grants](#)

Deadline for proposals: 4pm on 11th November 2020

Find out more [here](#)

UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network: Psychological interventions for skin disease

Details: The UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) was formed in 2002 with the aim of developing high quality, independent, multi-centre clinical trials for the treatment or prevention of skin disease. It is a collaborative network of dermatologists, dermatology nurses, health services researchers and patients throughout the UK and Ireland.

The UK DCTN runs an open competition each year on a different skin topic to assist research teams in developing their research idea. This award is principally designed to fund feasibility or pilot work that will eventually lead to a randomised controlled clinical trial, or inform the design of such a study.

The topic for 2020 is Psychological interventions for skin disease.

Deadline for proposals: 30th November 2020

Find out more [here](#)

Wellcome Trust: Investigator Awards in Science

Details: Investigator Awards enable independent researchers with a compelling research vision to tackle the most important questions in science. You can apply for an Investigator Award if you're an independent researcher with a compelling research vision who wants to tackle the most important questions in your field. These awards are also open to joint applications from two researchers whose complementary expertise is essential to deliver their shared vision.

Deadline for proposals: 9th February 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Latest Fellowship opportunities

NIHR Clinical Lectureships in Dentistry 2021

Details: The NIHR Clinical Lectureship (CL) is a postdoctoral award that provides a clinical and academic training environment for dentists to establish themselves as independent researchers and leaders. The NIHR has allocated funding for 11 CLs for recruitment in 2021/22, through the Integrated Academic Training (IAT) Programme. As an NIHR CL you will spend 50% of your time in research or educationalist training.

Deadline for proposals: 31st March 2022

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowships in Dentistry 2021

Details: The NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) is a clinical specialty training post in dentistry that incorporates academic training. The NIHR has allocated funding for 23 ACFs for recruitment in 2021/22, through the Integrated Academic Training (IAT) Programme.

As an NIHR ACF you will have access to Masters-level research training to develop academic skills and spend 25% of your time in research or educationalist training. The NIHR ACF is a 3 year fellowship with a flexible entry level tailored to the career stage of the applicant.

Deadline for proposals: 31st March 2022

Find out more [here](#)

Wellcome Trust: Senior Research Fellowships

Details: Senior Research Fellowships support independent researchers who are emerging as global leaders in their field and want to tackle the most important questions in science.

Deadline for proposals: 9th February 2021

Find out more [here](#)

Wellcome Trust: Clinical Research Career Development Fellowships

Details: This scheme enables clinically active healthcare professionals to continue their research at postdoctoral level and develop scientific independence.

Deadline for proposals: 28th January 2021

Find out more [here](#)

News

Your Path in Research campaign 2020

This campaign will give health and care professionals an opportunity to learn more about research that's taking place around them and highlights a range of ways they can take their first or next step in their research career.

Find out more [here](#)

Clinical Research Network Remote Trial Delivery: Practice examples

The CRN is looking for advice from clinical trial design and delivery experts to help answer some key questions as part of an important national project to inform future NIHR policy and procedures. They would like examples of designing and delivering trials remotely - specifically around recruitment, outcome measures, intervention, patient experience, and quality assurance.

Find out more [here](#)

Blogs and Articles

HRA blog: What's next for health research?

It's been a fast-moving, all-encompassing but highly rewarding time for research in the NHS in recent months. The UK has played a significant global role in coronavirus research, producing some of the most important evidence for managing COVID-19. In this blog (Dr Janet Messer, Director of Approvals Operation at the HRA) looks at the effects that coronavirus may have on the future of health research.

Find out more [here](#)

HRA blog: Embracing data-driven healthcare technology

HRA Engagement Manager, Will Navaie, speaks about the work being done to use data driven technology to improve healthcare, including our role in establishing a cross agency advice service for AI and the introduction of our new data and AI policy team to look at how we improve our services.

Find out more [here](#)

Resources

Online learning resources from the National Centre for Research Methods

The NCRM have created a library of video tutorials and supporting materials. The following resources have been added recently:

- **Embodied methodologies: the body as research instrument** by Eline Kieft
- **Utilizing walking methods and mini-ethnographies in Olympic cities** by Mike Dugnan
- **Reproducible social research** by Vernon Gayle
- **The data analysis workflow** by Vernon Gayle
- **Count data** by Vernon Gayle.

Find out more [here](#)

NIHR / FutureLearn MOOC: Improving Healthcare Through Clinical Research

On this free online course, find out how medical treatments are discovered, tested and evaluated to improve healthcare for all. Everything we do in healthcare has to be discovered and thoroughly tested before it can be put into practice. In this course you will explore clinical research – its challenges and its huge benefits to modern healthcare. You will work through case studies and examine how research contributes to the treatment of major diseases, such as cancer and dementia, examining the process of conducting research and the ethical questions raised. You will learn how members of a research team, academics and participants in clinical research all contribute to this process of discovery.

Find out more [here](#)

Training and events

Webinar: Learn about the NIHR Incubator for Methodology

What: Research methodologists are critical to the design, conduct and delivery of research in health and care. The NIHR Incubator for Methodology is the latest in a number of NIHR research capacity building initiatives. It was created in April 2020 to increase capacity in methodology by focusing on how to attract people to careers in methodology.

This webinar will inform you of the incubator activities so far, outline future plans and let you know how the incubator will involve stakeholders and methodologists. It will also include a Q&A to hear perspectives from the community and answer any questions.

When: 10:00-11:00 on 20th October 2020

Where: Online

Find out more [here](#)

Support available from Clinical Research Network West Midlands

Support and advice is available from the CRN WM Study Support Service Team for any study that is potentially eligible or applying for CRN Support. This includes providing cost attribution advice to support researchers in completing their grant applications and authorising the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT), navigating the approvals process, accessing training provided by the Network, identifying and supporting the management of excess treatment costs, and can highlight further support within the Network to support study set up and delivery to time and target. Once open to recruitment, we will stay in contact and continue to support optimisation of recruitment to your study. Please note that prioritisation of support will be for nationally prioritised COVID-19 Urgent Public Health Research studies.

For more information please contact: studysupport.crnwestmidlands@nihr.ac.uk.

Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/nihr-in-your-area/west-midlands/>

Applying for NIHR funding? Access free advice and support from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Research Design Service West Midlands

Our multi-disciplinary team can offer advice on the key ingredients in a successful health or social care research proposal, including:

- Statistics and health economics
- Qualitative methodology
- Support on involving patients and public in research, identified by the NIHR as a critical component in funding applications
- Peer review of draft grant applications before submission.

Find out more about how RDS West Midlands could help you and your team at <http://www.rds-wm.nihr.ac.uk/>

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