

Career development awards: Information for applicants

1. Purpose and scope

As part of Parkinson's UK's continuing commitment to build research capacity related to Parkinson's, this programme aims to support individuals who wish to specialise in Parkinson's research. Career development awards are offered in the form of senior research fellowships and training fellowships.

Career development awards are awarded on the recommendation of a sub-committee of the charity's Research Advisory Panel using the system of expert peer review and a candidate interview.

Applications are invited annually with a closing date each December. The award is made in May.

Career Development Awards are offered for up to **£250,000 for 36 months** in the first instance.

Senior research fellowships

- Applicants should be looking to ultimately establish their own research group for the study of Parkinson's.
- Applicants should have significant experience at a post-doctoral or senior registrar level.
- Funding is likely to cover the cost of the applicant's salary, in addition to appropriate start-up and running costs. It may also provide support for additional research assistance, for example, a technician or research assistant.
- Awards may be for a period of up to five years, depending on suitable progress.
- It is usual for the initial three years to be funded in the first instance. Applicants will be required to submit a formal re-application for the final two years of funding, towards the end of the initial three years.
- Fellowships awarded for more than three years may be dependent upon the host research institution committing some funds towards the latter stages of the Fellowship.

Training fellowships

- Applicants should be appropriately qualified health and social care professionals who wish to undertake research training relevant to Parkinson's.
- Applicants should be aiming to achieve a higher research degree, such as PhD, MPhil or MD.
- Awards must be based in, or linked to, designated host research units, centres, institutes or departments with an appropriate track record in training and research relevant to Parkinson's.
- For applicants with some prior research experience, a full-time award is usually limited to a three-year period.
- For applicants with no research experience, four years funding may be considered with the first year leading to a MSc or MRes in order to gain expertise in research methodology, with a further three years for a doctoral degree.
- Funding supports salary costs, a contribution towards research expenses and attendance at appropriate conferences or short courses that will form part of the Fellow's research training.
- Awards are available on a full-time or part-time basis.

Supervisors should hold employment contracts that extend beyond the period of the grant.

Grants are tenable only at a UK university, research institution, NHS trust or statutory social care organisation.

2. Application procedure

- Grant applications to Parkinson's UK are accepted only through the charity's online research grant application system, which can be accessed by visiting <https://research.parkinsons.org.uk/>
- One signed hard copy must be submitted with copies of relevant approvals. All coapplicants' and collaborators' original signatures must be submitted. Details of any collaboration should be

included and a letter confirming agreement from each collaborator should be submitted. If the project includes work with patients please ensure a letter of written support is supplied from a clinical collaborator.

- The signed hard copy should be sent to: Research Department, Parkinson's UK, 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London, SW1V 1EJ
- Only one publication in press is permitted and this should be directly relevant to the application. Reprints should not be included.
- If information is being pasted from other documents into the online application, please convert the text to Arial 11pt.

3. Ethical approval

Where clinical trials or investigations involving human subjects are intended, local ethical committee approval must be sought and a copy of this approval submitted when awarded.

4. Use of animals

The use of animals for research must fall within the regulations laid down by the Home Office. Projects involving animals should include a brief statement confirming that no reliable alternative approach is possible and that the minimum number of animals will be used. If animals are being used the project and personal licence numbers must be listed.

5. Terms and conditions of grant

Applicants should read 'Grant Terms and Conditions' before completing the application form.

6. Acknowledgement of applications

Applicants will receive confirmation from the online applications system once an application is submitted. Unless the charity requires further information, no correspondence will be entered into until the results are notified. Applicants are especially requested not to initiate contact with the Research Department during the review process.

7. Unsuccessful applications

Edited comments from the combined reports of members of the Research Advisory Panel and external referees will be made available to unsuccessful applicants. No further discussion with Parkinson's UK staff or with members of the Research Advisory Panel is allowed.

8. References

References should be cited in full in the following format:

Surname, Initials (Date), Title of article, Journal, Volume, page - page.

9. Finance

In line with AMRC guidelines, Parkinson's UK will only reimburse direct research costs relating to the application submitted. Parkinson's UK will not fund indirect costs nor will it pay on a percentage basis.

Staff costs

Basic salary should be stated for each individual. Provision for London weighting, superannuation and National Insurance should be shown separately in the space provided. An appropriate grading and salary must be quoted even where a named assistant cannot be specified; both grading and salary should have the approval of the appropriate administrative officer of the institution where the assistant would be employed.

Other recurrent

Details must be given. Project grants do not cover administrative expenses or costs involved in attending conferences.

Animals

The species, number and unit cost of all animals must be shown.

Equipment

Please specify.

Inflationary rate

Estimated annual inflationary rate in percentage terms must be indicated. A maximum of 3% per annum is allowed in the second and third years.

10. Referees

Please use this section to nominate two referees to review the proposal. Nominated referees will not necessarily be used by Parkinson's UK.

11. All applications will be judged by the following criteria:

- quality of the research programme
- quality of the researcher and team
- relevance of the project to health and social gain in Parkinson's
- contribution to training and capacity building for research into Parkinson's in the UK
- value for money
- appropriateness of the plain English summary
- budget and infrastructure

If you have further questions about making an application please contact the Research Department on 020 7932 1332 or 020 7963 9327 or researchapplications@parkinsons.org.uk