THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

CMVM Institutional Bridging Funding for Clinical Academics

Guidance for applicants

Eligible candidates, i.e. post-PhD or MD, may apply for up to two years' salary (maximum) from the end of their current contract to allow time to construct and submit applications for an external fellowship based at the University of Edinburgh.

Successful candidates will be given a Senior Clinical Research Fellow contract with the University of Edinburgh and an appropriate honorary contract with NHS Lothian (where relevant). For medical/surgical specialists this will be an Honorary Consultant contract and salary will be on the consultant pay scale (although there may be exceptions depending on individual circumstances). For GPs, NMAHPS and vets, the honorary contract will be according to their clinical role and salary will be commensurate with their experience in this role.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates should be developing clinical academics (medical, veterinary and health & care professionals) who are planning external research fellowship applications. They should have obtained a higher degree (PhD / MD) or have conducted a significant period of postdoctoral research at the University of Edinburgh. At application, they will typically be employed by the University of Edinburgh or NHS Lothian/ NHS Borders/ NHS Fife.

Medically qualified candidates must have attained CCT by the time their Senior Clinical Research Fellowship (SCRF) starts, and must be clinically active in NHS Lothian during the SCRF.

EXPECTATIONS

If your application is successful and you are appointed to a Senior Clinical Research Fellowship, the following expectations will apply:

1. CLINICAL WORK

You must undertake your clinical work in NHS Lothian.

2. FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS

You must provide updates on the progress of your fellowship application(s) as follows:

a. at 6 months: a face-to-face meeting with the CMVM Associate Dean for Clinical Academic Careers (Jürgen Schwarze);
b. at 12 months: a written progress report and a face-to-face meeting; and
c. at 18 months: a written progress report and a face-to-face meeting.

Ad hoc meetings can be arranged at any time.

3. CONTINUED EVALUATION OF FELLOWSHIP PROPOSAL(S)

You must seek continued evaluation of your fellowship proposals and you must share your fellowship outline in good time – i.e. at least 6 months before the deadline. As well as seeking feedback from those in your own team/lab/centre, you must seek feedback from those outside your specialist area. This is extremely important because funding panels consist of people from a wide range of disciplines who won't be specialists in your area. Everyone who reads your fellowship application must be able to understand it and find it compelling. There is a team of experienced and knowledgeable colleagues on-hand to assist with this (the Clinical Fellowship Support Group) that we can put you in touch with. Please get in touch as early as possible via CMVMCLAC.support@ed.ac.uk .

4. CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Early discussions should take place around contingency planning and exit strategies in case fellowship funding isn't achieved by the end of the bridging funding period.

5. ON SUCCESSFUL AWARD OF A CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP

On successful award of a fellowship, you will move off bridging funding as quickly as possible and within three months of the date of the fellowship award letter.

APPLICATION & ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Application documentation should be submitted by the relevant deadline. Applications will be reviewed by a panel chaired by the CMVM Associate Dean for Clinical Academic Careers and comprising a selection of representatives from across the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine:

CMVM Associate Dean for Clinical Academic Careers (Chair of the panel)
CMVM Academic Adviser
CMVM Dean of Clinical Medicine
CMVM Dean of Medical Research
CMVM Dean of Research
Head of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Head of School of Genetics and Cancer
Head of School of Regeneration and Repair
Director of the Roslin Institute
Head of School of Population Health Sciences
Head of School of Neurological and Cardiovascular Sciences
Multiple Long Term Conditions (MLTCs) PhD Programme for Health Professionals
ECAT (Edinburgh Clinical Academic Track) Programme
TRACC (to Train and Retain Academic Cancer Clinicians) Programme

Upon review, candidates may be asked to meet with representatives of the panel to discuss their application. Instead, or in addition, they may be asked to revise and re-submit their application for further scrutiny.
In the interests of fairness and equity for all candidates, the panel is not able to accept re-applications for bridging funding.

BEFORE YOU APPLY

Panel meetings are held twice a year. You are therefore advised to plan early, and indicate your intention to apply preferably at least 12 months ahead of your CCT date/contract-end date, where possible. Please be aware that it takes a minimum of 10 weeks to process a Bridging Funding contract after the panel decision.

For inquiries and/or indication of your interest, please get in touch with the Clinical Academic Support Team via CMVMCLAC.support@ed.ac.uk.

You must notify your Centre Director and Head of Institute that, if successful, you will be based within their Centre/Institute. You may be asked to provide written evidence of their support.

You should also notify your NHS Clinical Director and obtain approval that your clinical work can be accommodated within the department. You may be asked to provide written evidence of this.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION

	Document	Remarks
1	One-page supporting statement	The supporting statement should include: **a)** Details of the external fellowship(s) that you aim to apply for; date/deadline of proposed fellowship application(s); **b)** A clear outline of your external fellowship plans (including your hypotheses; an outline of your research plan); and **c)** A brief outline of how you will use the bridging time to strengthen your fellowship application (eg pilot data, finalised publications, etc) .
2	Two-page CV	
3	One-page publication list	Focus on your most important publications. The minimum font size is Arial 10.

For the sake of fairness, additional documentation will not be considered by the panel.

All enquiries should be directed in the first instance to CMVMCLAC.support@ed.ac.uk.