

Research Funding Opportunities 2019 – First into Research (FiR) Further Information

1. Who we are

Research Capacity Building Collaboration (RCBC) Wales (<http://www.rcbcwales.org.uk/>) was created in 2005. Its aim is to drive an increase in the research capacity and capability of nursing, midwifery, pharmacy and allied health professional groups and to contribute toward the development of clinical academic roles.

The collaboration comprises six university nursing and allied health departments/schools in Wales which co-operate to provide shared infrastructure and support for research fellowships across the research trajectory, from First into Research opportunities, Master's degrees, doctoral and postdoctoral studies, to a senior health career research fellowship. To date RCBCWales has supported 89 fellowships.

The scheme is funded by Health and Care Research Wales, Welsh Government.

2. Application Process

Please complete and submit the 'Eligibility Checklist' [available at <http://www.rcbcwales.org.uk/funding-opportunities/>] as soon as possible in order to give yourself the maximum time to develop your research ideas and speak with your preferred host institution(s). The deadline for receipt of the Eligibility Checklist is **15th FEBRUARY 2019**, but you can submit the form any time up to that date. We will confirm your eligibility to apply to this scheme within 10 working days of receipt. This part of the application process is not a review of quality of your proposed project but we do require a title along with a brief outline of your project.

To assist in refining their ideas, eligible applicants will be invited to participate in a webinar with experts in research design, qualitative and quantitative methods, patient involvement, ethics, and health policy and service improvement. They will also consider maximising impact and managing their project. The webinar will be held on **5th MARCH 2019**.

The deadline for receipt of full applications is **15th MARCH 2019**. **Please leave plenty of time to obtain the declaration from your proposed (first choice) supervisor, confirmation of support from the higher education institution (HEI) and from your line-manager/employer.** There are up to eight First into Research Fellowships available and six HEIs forming this collaboration, so we strongly advise including any other preferred institutions in your application.

After shortlisting full proposal applications, selection will be conducted via interviews. Interviews will be held on **26th MARCH 2019**.

In shortlisting the full applications for interview, reviewers look at the relevance of the project to the aims of RCBCWales, whether something new is being proposed which has the potential to make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Wales and to lead to a larger study, and where some thought has been given to involving the public in the project.

Reviewers also consider the scientific potential, any ethical issues raised and feasibility in the timescale. The latter is an important point and applicants are advised to be realistic about what can be achieved. Reviewers

take into account that applications will be from novice researchers and that the aim of the fellowship is to build confidence and capability in research.

Fellowships will commence **1st APRIL 2019**.

3. Eligibility

The personal eligibility criteria set out in the advert must be met. Previous applicants are welcome to re-apply.

4. Funding support

Each First into Research award will be for a fixed amount of £10,744. Of this, £6,489 will be payable to the employing institution for the day release of fellows, £3,605 towards supervision and training costs in the host HEI, and £650 towards research costs, including CoS attendance (subject to receipts).

| | Award | To include: |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| Year 1 | 10,744 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £6,489 payable to the employing organisation for day release*• £3,605 payable to the host institution for supervision & training• £650 towards research costs and attendance at Community of Scholars events |
| Total | £10,744 | |

*** You are advised to discuss any differential between your salary and the RCBCWales funds allocated to employers with your employer.**

5. Community of Scholars

The key mechanism that RCBCWales has adopted to promote a collegiate environment to nurture researchers is via its Community of Scholars (CoS). This adds value to the fellowships by providing mentorship and master classes in research methods and research leadership, including in engaging with and influencing policy. All members of the RCBCWales scheme join the CoS for the duration of their fellowship and **attending CoS is a compulsory requirement of the award**. CoS meets six times per year including a two day residential (i.e. 7 whole days per year). Travel funds are provided to attend these sessions (see above), with costs for overnight accommodation for the residential being met by RCBCWales. More information is available at <http://www.rcbcwales.org.uk/community-of-scholars/the-training-sessions/>. Once Fellowships are completed there is a CoS Alumni to enable Fellows to keep in contact.

6. Mode of study

FiR Fellowships are for part time study for 12 months on the basis of one day per week. **Applicants currently working part-time are advised that RCBCWales cannot pay FiR Fellows directly and they should explore payment options with their employers for any increase in hours that might result from taking up a Fellowship**. Applicants should be aware that it is essential that both the first choice host university and their employer complete the relevant section in the application form. All Fellows will be assigned at least one supervisor/mentor, the principal supervisor being located within one of the RCBC partnership Schools/ Departments. Supervisors from other academic and/or clinical/professional areas may also contribute to the project with the agreement of the principal supervisor.

7. Commitments

In addition to completing the funded piece of research and attending and evaluating all CoS events, Fellows are required to submit quarterly reports and a final report to RCBC Wales that we make available to our funders. Commitment to disseminate findings and maximising the impact of the research undertaken should be a key component of all fellowships. Fellows will be required to present their research at the conclusion of the scheme at a Community of Scholars event.

8. Apply

The relevant application forms are available online at <http://www.rcbcwales.org.uk/funding-opportunities/>

For information about the specific opportunities, please contact the relevant institutions directly (see below). General enquiries may be addressed to Marina McDonald, RCBC Wales, University of South Wales. Email: marina.mcdonald@southwales.ac.uk Telephone: 01443 483070.

Collaborating Institutions and Contacts:

University of South Wales
Faculty of Life Sciences and Education
Operational Leads: Prof Joyce Kenkre
Email: joyce.kenkre@southwales.ac.uk
Or Dr Gina Dolan
Email: gina.dolan@southwales.ac.uk

Bangor University
School of Healthcare Sciences
Operational Lead: Dr Sion Williams
Email: sion.williams@bangor.ac.uk

Cardiff Metropolitan University
School of Health Sciences
Operational Lead: Dr Robert Mayr
Email: rmayr@cardiffmet.ac.uk

Cardiff University
School of Healthcare Studies
Operational Lead: Prof Danny Kelly
Email: KellyDM@cardiff.ac.uk

Glyndwr University
Social Science and Education Division
Operational Lead: Dr Joanne Pike
Email: j.pike@glyndwr.ac.uk

Swansea University
School of Health Science
Operational Lead: Prof Jaynie Rance
Email: j.y.rance@swansea.ac.uk