

MRC Transition Support Award 2020: Guidance for Applicants

1. The Application

The guidance below is supplementary to the [Guidance for Fellowship Applicants](#) and both should be read ahead of completing your proposal.

2.1. Je-S proposal form

All proposals must be completed and submitted through the Je-S system by **16:00 (BST) on 14th October 2020**. The call will be available to select on Je-S from 2nd September 2020.

Certain sections and headings in the proposal form are set out below, along with a description of the information required in each section. Please note these sections should be filled out in relation to the work being undertaken during the Transition Support Award, and not your existing fellowship award. The content of some of these sections may therefore be brief.

Project title: The title of the project should read as follows “MRC Transition Support Award [CDA or CSF] [First name Surname]”

Objectives: Please list the objectives of your proposal for the Transition Support Award, in order of priority.

Summary: Provide a plain English summary that can be understood by a non-academic audience of the proposal for the Transition Support Award, explaining the overarching aims of your existing fellowship, the progress made to date, and how the Transition Support Award would provide a platform towards research leadership. The section is limited to 4000 characters, including spaces.

Technical summary: Provide a more in-depth summary aimed at reviewers (academic and non-academic) who have some knowledge of the areas of research involved. The section is limited to 2000 characters, including spaces and returns.

Other support: Support on current projects from other sources. Applicants must declare any relevant financial support which has been awarded or applied for. This should include any funding that has been obtained or requested for any aspect of the project currently being **applied for by the applicant**.

Related proposal: Please include the MRC Grant reference, MR/XXXXXXXX, of your existing CDA/CSF Fellowship award.

Honorary Clinical Contract and Clinical Details

Applicants from a clinical background must also complete the ‘Honorary Clinical Contract and Clinical Details’ section. Applicants who are not clinically qualified should answer ‘No’ to the question ‘Would an Honorary Clinical Contract be sought?’ and enter ‘NA’ or ‘0’ in the subsequent required fields.

2.2. Case for support (maximum of four sides of A4)

The Transition Support Award is specifically designed for fellows whose research momentum has been impacted by multiple/complex issues that have affected their productivity and subsequent outputs. They will have progressed their research and met many of the criteria for research leadership already (see assessment criteria), however due to genuine mitigating circumstances they will not yet be competitive for the next funding stage.

The case for support should outline:

1) Progress made to date with the fellowship

Please detail progress made with the key deliverables and objectives of the fellowship, any arising research achievements, and demonstration of research leadership potential, profile and influence. All achievements and outputs should be highlighted, such as undertaking training opportunities, national/international collaborations, evidence of standing/influence within the field and the community, track record of effectively managing your own research staff, dissemination of research outcomes. Unpublished data may be included to support your application.

2) Why you consider that you are not yet competitive for the next funding stage

Please provide rationale for why you have been unable to consolidate your fellowship due to mitigating circumstances and be competitive for the next funding stage. Detail any delays or unexpected issues that have arisen during your fellowship and note any mitigating strategies taken to counter these circumstances.

3) Added value that a Transition Support Award would provide

Please provide evidence of the added value that a Transition Support Award would provide and how it will enable you to fully establish yourself as an independent researcher, maximising your potential and competitiveness at the next funding stage. Clearly articulate how your proposed plans for the resources and time requested would provide a platform towards research leadership.

4) Institutional support

Transition Support Award applicants should outline how their host organisation have and will continue to support them towards research leadership. Fellows may choose to move institution for the period of Transition Support Award. If this is the case, applicants should explain why this will be beneficial for their career development.

2.3. Justification of resources (maximum of two sides of A4)

Applicants may request up to two years funding, based on the needs of the candidate and the project. Anticipated costs would include salary costs (at 50%), continuity of existing research staff a small consumables budget and overhead costs. The support for new team members would only be considered in exceptional circumstances. There is no limit on the level of resource applied for. It is expected that a typical application would request up to a maximum of £400k. All awards will be made at 80% FEC.

2.4. Data management plan (maximum of three sides of A4)

The data management plan should be used as an opportunity to describe how the data are going to be managed. If there are no significant differences from the Data Management Plan in your original application, you may use the same plan.

2.5. Letter of support (maximum of two sides of A4 or equivalent on headed paper or sent by email)

There is a mandatory letter of support required from a senior authority within the host organisation for the duration of the Transition Support Award.

This letter of support must summarise:

- The applicant's suitability for a Transition Support Award
- How they have supported the fellow to date (if applicable)
- The commitment the department will make to mentor and support the fellow
- Confirmation of the commitment to 50% of the fellow's salary and, in line with institutional policies, a commitment to providing a secure position at the end of the award.
- Confirmation that research time will be protected to allow 100% of their contracted working time for research, training and development, for the duration of the Transition Support Award funded period

2.6. CV (A maximum of two sides of A4)

The fellow must include an up-to-date CV, using the MRC Fellowship CV template. This should include details on any additional funding sought or awarded and any other relevant information.

2.7. Publications (One side of A4)

The fellow must include a list of relevant publications, including any that have arisen from the fellowship. This may be in preparation, under review or in press. Where relevant, data from unpublished work may be referenced in the case or support. The MRC supports the use of pre-prints.

Queries regarding the MRC Transition Support Award scheme should be directed to fellows@mrc.ukri.org