



Medical
Research
Council

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

Is CARP the scheme for you?

To find out more about the scheme

- <https://mrc.ukri.org/funding/browse/clinical-academic-research-partnerships/clinical-academic-research-partnerships-round-3-pre-call-announcement/>
- <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/clinical-academic-research-partnerships-round-3-pre-call-announcement/25069>
- Email **CARP@mrc.ukri.org**

Clinical Academic Research Partnerships

- Pilot scheme – 2019
- Provided a flexible new route for **research-qualified NHS consultants*** who were not research active to participate in **collaborative high-quality research partnerships** with established leading biomedical researchers.

Funding Available

- Duration: 1 – 3 years
- Salary: 20-50% of the **applicant's basic salary** to support protected research time
- Consumables to undertake project



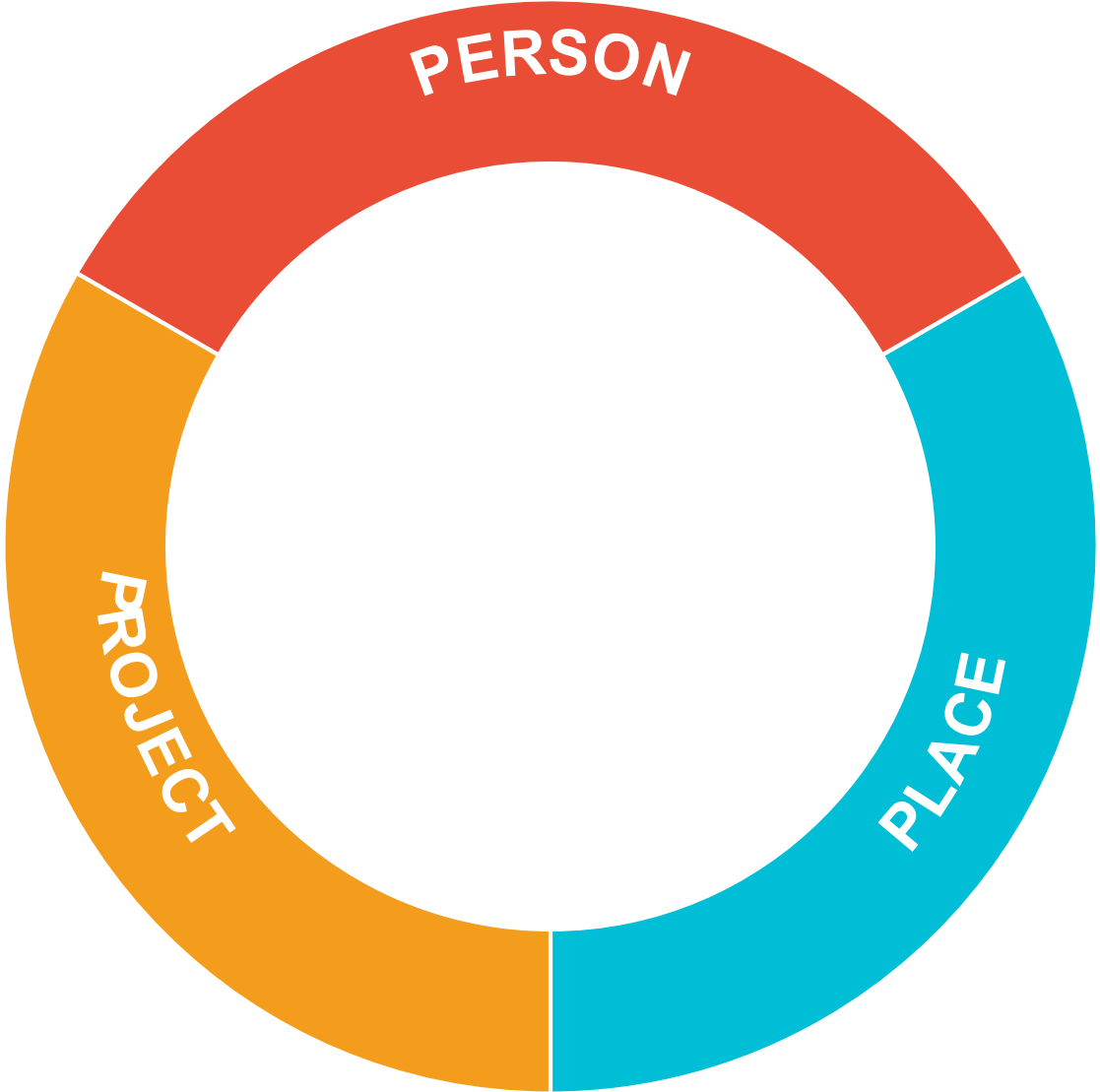
Aim

To enable research trained healthcare professionals to re-engage and develop their research interests through collaborative high-quality research partnerships with established leading biomedical and health researchers.

To provide protected time and funding for healthcare professionals to increase their research skills and experience.

To enable the cross-seeding of perspectives, ideas and connections needed to underpin future translational biomedical and health research.





Person

Doctors & Dentists & [HEE/NIHR ICA Programme Eligible Professions](#)

Includes, but is not exclusive to doctors, dentists, nurses, midwives, allied health professions, healthcare scientists, pharmacists, clinical psychologists, registered public health practitioners and others

“Research-trained but not research-active”

- PhD/MD, or equivalent postgraduate qualification
- No eligibility rules based on time post PhD/MD
- Less than one PA/0.5 day per week (pro-rata) in job plan/working week

Consultant level or equivalent

Individuals should be working at a senior level, holding specialized knowledge and will have demonstratable capacity for professional independence/leadership

Example questions

- “I have 2 PAs as part of the NRS awards in Scotland, can I apply?”

Proposals from applicants with more than one PA of research time are welcome, but they should ensure the added-value of the award is articulated for example to support them working in new environment or with new research partners.

- “I have an MSc, can I apply?”

Applicants must have a higher research degree (PhD, MD) or equivalent experience for example dedicated research time in which you are leading the research project and producing outputs.

- “I completed my PhD recently, can I apply?”

There are no eligibility rules based on time since applicants obtained their PhD/MD however if you haven't had a significant break in research activity we encourage you to investigate other existing schemes. For example the MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship or the NIHR Advanced Fellowship.

Example questions

- “I work for Care UK / Local Authority / Other. Can I apply?”

The scheme is open to those in the health sector working outside the NHS. We ask that your employer provides a letter of support stating that the applicant will be released for the proportion of time funded, including plans for the applicants time to be backfilled and a guarantee that you can return to your previous role without any loss of career progression at the end of the award.

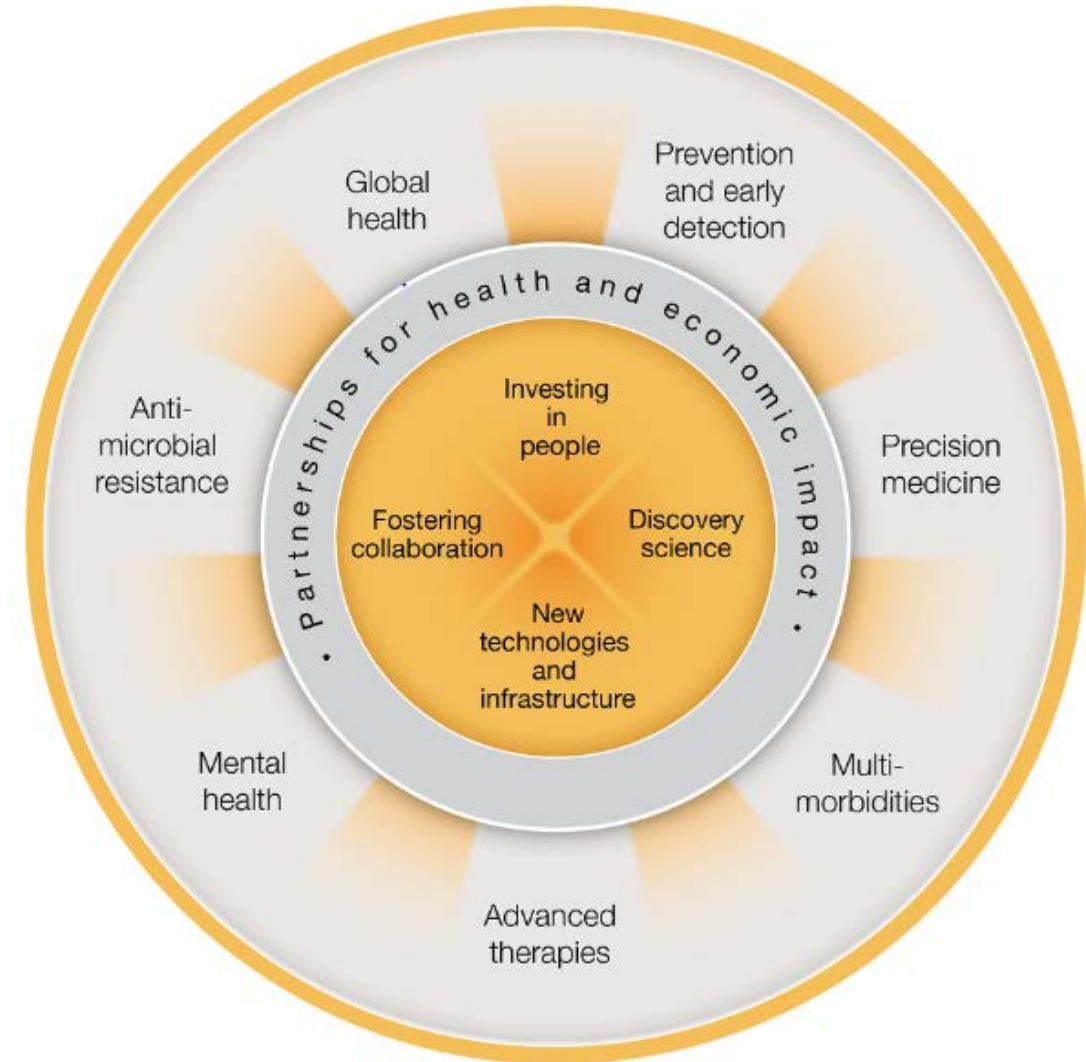
- “I applied to the pilot scheme but was unsuccessful. Can I apply for this round?”

Resubmissions from the pilot will be accepted in line with standard MRC Guidance (12 months since original submission, unless invited in writing to resubmit by the MRC). Please ensure the resubmission is marked as such in the Je-S form and a cover letter is provided which outlines changes from the original application. We encourage applicants looking to reapply to discuss the application with an MRC Programme Manager.

Project

- Across all areas of MRC and NIHR remit
- Basic discovery science, translational and applied health research
- Disease-specific mechanistic hypotheses
- Primary care, population health, public health, mental health, molecular pathology etc.
- Global health issues resulting in primary benefit to those living in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)
- Proposing interdisciplinary approaches

Tailored to the interests of and expertise of the applicant and research partner.



Example questions

- “Is my project within the remit?”

The remit for the CARP scheme covers ALL of MRC and NIHR remit. From basic science to translational research. If you are unsure that your project falls within MRC/NIHR remit please send a 1-page outline of the project to CARP@mrc.ukri.org

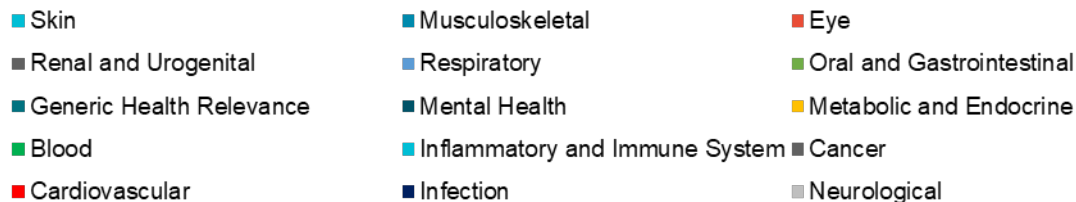
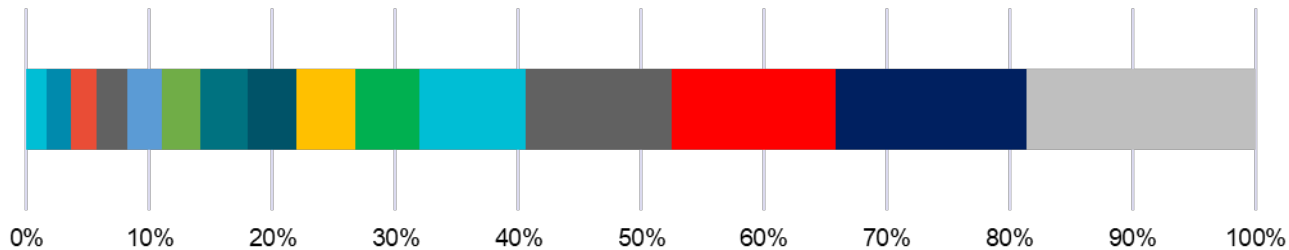
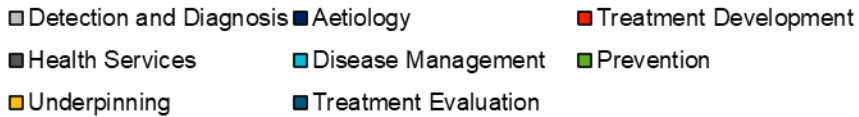
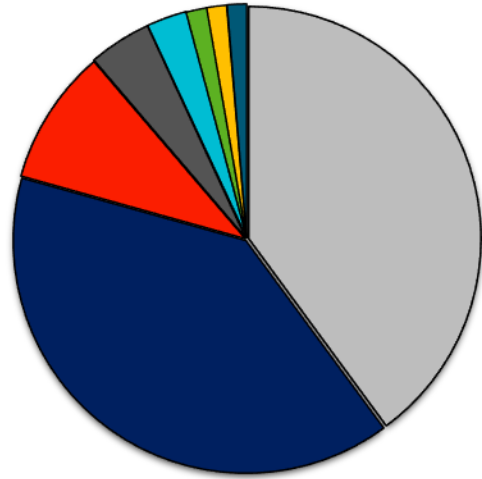
- “What sort of track record is expected from the research partner?”

The track-record of the research partner must be strong, and the research partner must have significant research funding for the duration of the partnership.

- “I want to run a clinical trial”

We do not envisage that proposals seeking to undertake pilot or feasibility studies to support possible future trials are likely to be competitive, especially as additional salaries cannot be costed and other routes to support pilot and clinical trials are available.

Pilot Portfolio



Consultant Haematologist

Exploring the application of single cell genomics for the diagnosis of Myelodysplastic syndromes.

Consultant Neurologist

MRI to study the build-up of iron in patients' brains, a factor which contributes to the development of Alzheimer's disease.

Consultant Diabetologist

Investigate the effectiveness of a novel artificial pancreas system in improving glucose control, while reducing the burden of diabetes management and cardiovascular risk within this population.

Public Health and Primary Care

Quantify the absolute risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection (AAD), stratified by age, gender and genetic risk factors using large population studies.

Consultant Hepatologist

Statistical modelling of a disease to derive clinical prediction models and inform the design and interpretation of 'omic experiments aimed at re-purposing of drugs and development of predictive biomarkers.



Place

- UK-wide
- The host research organisation (the research partners RO) must be an organisation eligible to hold research council funding
- HEI, NHS bodies with research capacity, Independent Research Organisations
- Must demonstrate appropriate support
- Applicants should hold a contract of employment or an honorary contract with the host RO

Example questions

- “Where can I do my project?”

RO’s across the UK. The host RO must be eligible to hold research council funding (e.g. UK HEIs, NHS bodies, Independent Research Organisations). The host RO will need to accept responsibility for administering the award and demonstrate appropriate support (e.g. access to facilities) to enable the applicant to undertake the project described.

- “Can my research partner be based at a different institution?”

It is possible to work at a host institution distinct from your trust/employer, but considerations such as how travel will be managed in order for the applicant to feasibly undertake the project should be considered.

- “I am going to be moving NHS trusts, what do I need to do?”

If you were to complete your CARP award with a different NHS trust from the one you were employed with at the time of application we would require a letter of support from your new NHS trust. Please highlight your change of NHS trust in the cover letter to assist the panel in understanding your situation. This is to ensure your time will be adequately protected if you were to take up an award.

Bone Toxicity following Pelvic Radiotherapy: understanding, predicting and preventing radiotherapy related insufficiency fractures

DPhil: 1996-1999 “I undertook my laboratory based DPhil in 1996, immediately after completion of my pre-clinical training and BA in Physiology at Oxford.”

Clinical Research Fellow: 2005-2008 “This 3 years of research was completely different to my time in the laboratory. I was in charge of developing protocols and running multi-centre, investigator led clinical trials in Acromegaly.”

CCT: 2012 “Since 2012 I have been an Endocrine consultant at the Christie; I was allocated 1PA for research from the Trust, although this was difficult to protect. My clinical role at the Christie is mainly focused on the long term effects of cancer treatment and metabolic bone disease”

“The Christie is very research active and I made some excellent collaborations with the oncologists to develop these themes, particularly around radiotherapy induced insufficiency fractures. This work was mainly completed in my spare time”

Bone Toxicity following Pelvic Radiotherapy: understanding, predicting and preventing radiotherapy related insufficiency fractures

I applied to the scheme because: “I have always wanted to pursue a clinical academic career and have thoroughly enjoyed all my research time to date. Despite working with excellent colleagues and being successful in research findings and publications, etc. I never seemed to be in the right place or the right time to properly step onto the clinical academic research ladder. At the time of applying to the CARP scheme I had the perfect conditions to make this a success, with a stable consultant post, very supportive colleagues and a project and research questions that had been bubbling for the last 5 years, but without the time/money to develop them.”

Words of wisdom: “I would say start thinking about the project early! – do not underestimate how much time this will take and how much input from others is needed.” “When considering your research partner be open-minded and look widely in your institution for the best fit.”

Next steps: “I would very much like to progress onto an Intermediate Research Fellowship and develop a research team in the field of Living With and Beyond Cancer, particularly focusing on radiotherapy related toxicity to bone and pituitary. The time, space and opportunities from the CARP scheme have already allowed me since October 2019 to explore local, national and international collaborations in this field.”

Key Dates

- **Call Launch:** 07 August
- **Deadline:** 29 October
- **Shortlisting:** March 2021
- **Outcome:** May 2021



Application

- **Je-S Form**
- **Case for Support**
 - Background
 - Project plan
 - Added value
- **Letters of Support**
 - Research partner
 - Head of Dept (RO)
 - Employer



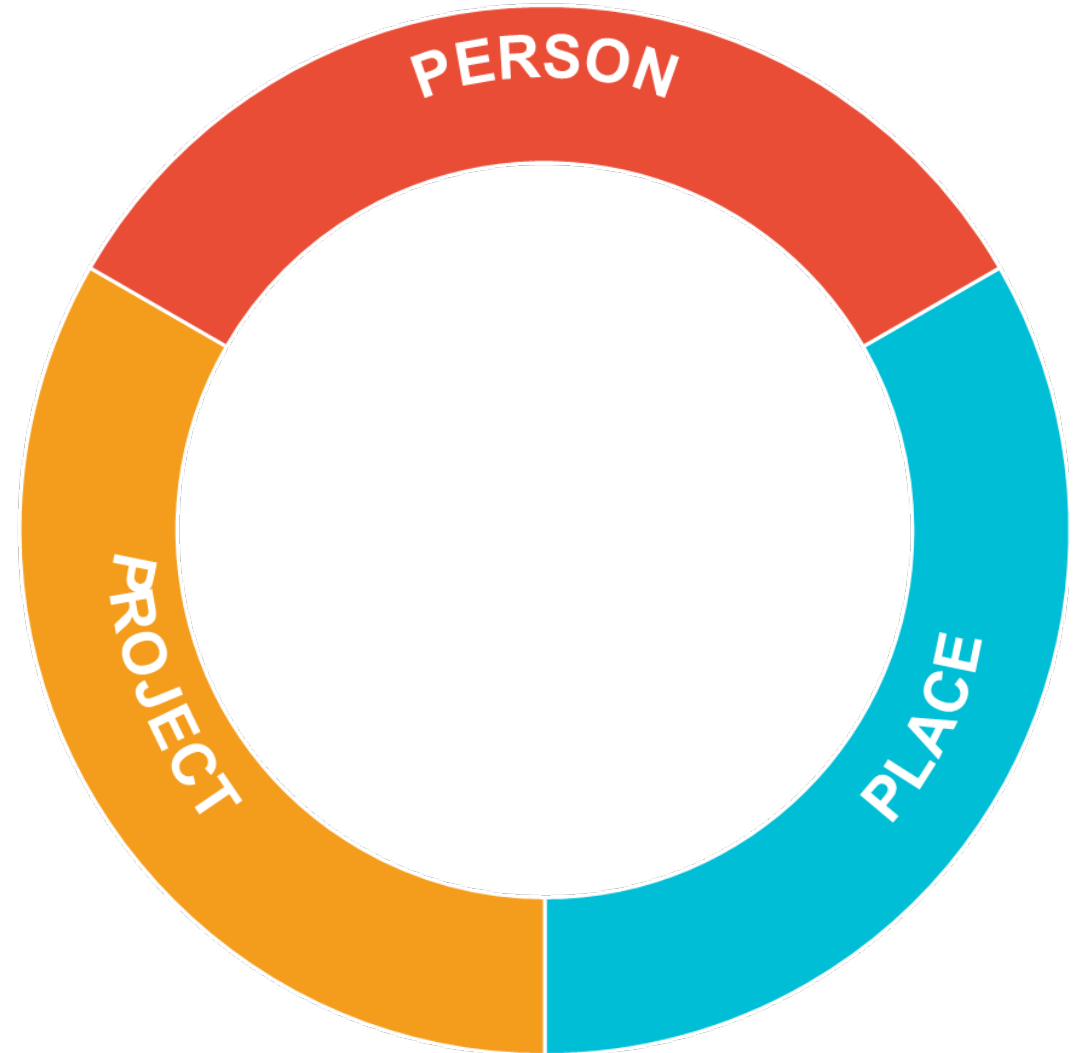
Costings

- All applications should be costed based on the full economic costs (FEC) necessary to deliver the research.
- If a grant is awarded, the MRC/NIHR will fund 80 per cent of the FEC and the Research Organisations agree to find the remaining balance
- The CARP award can be used for:
 - 20-50% of the applicant's basic salary to support protected research time
 - Costs to undertake the project (e.g. consumables and facility usage costs)
 - Estates and Indirect costs
- The CARP award cannot be used for:
 - **Salaries of research staff other than the applicant** (E.g. postdocs, research fellows, research assistants, research nurses, technicians, statisticians, technologists, methodologists etc)
 - Patent costs and other IP costs

Assessment

**Peer review
Shortlisting
Panel meeting**

- Evidence of research capabilities of the applicant
- Alignment of the project to the research strengths and interests of the applicant and research partner
- Project is a mutually beneficial collaboration
- Track record of the research partner - ability to offer a strong environment to host the applicant
- Strength of the institutional support provided (employer and host RO)
- Added-value – working in a new environment, new partners, places the applicant onto a research trajectory they were not currently on



Clinical Career Funding

Post-
doctoral

MRC CRTF: funds to undertake a PhD or for **post-doc** applicants to **reacquire** research skills following a break from research.

NIHR DSE: 1 year of funding for post-doctoral NIHR Academy Members to gain skills and experience for the next phase of their research career.

Transition to
Independence

MRC CSF: supports clinically qualified professionals to lead their own research plans.

NIHR Advanced Fellowship: funds post-doctoral individuals from a range of health and social care professions who haven't yet been awarded a chair.

MRC NIRG: similar career stage to CSF. Support up to 50% of individuals' time.

NIHR Clinical Lectureships: a 50/50 clinical academic role. Time and support to develop the specific skill sets required to become an independent researcher.

UKRI FLF: similar career stage to CSF. Across the UKRI remit.

HEE/NIHR ICA Clinical/Senior Lectureships: a 50/50 clinical academic role. Time and support to develop the specific skill sets required to become an independent researcher.



Medical
Research
Council

Fellows@mrc.ukri.org

Academy-awards@nihr.ac.uk

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

Your Questions

- Please don't worry if we don't get to your question. We will be saving the questions submitted and answering them all. The answers will be sent to you all after the webinar.
- Email: CARP@mrc.ukri.org
- Want to know more about the application process?
 - **07 Aug 2020** Launch – Call Guidance
 - **19 Aug 2020** Webinar - MRC.EventsandCommitteesTeam@mrc.ukri.org
- NIHR Research Design Service: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/support/research-design-service.htm>