

## **THE JEAN SHANKS FOUNDATION & PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (JSPS) CLINICAL PHD FELLOWSHIP SCHEME**

### **GUIDANCE TO APPLICANTS**

This is a national scheme designed to increase the research skills, ability and interest of those working in CELLULAR PATHOLOGY, with a view in the long term, to expanding the capacity in academic pathology by increasing the number of suitably trained young pathologists.

There are two elements to the Clinical PhD Fellowship: formal training in research methods and the execution of an original piece of research, leading to a PhD.

Awards will be for a maximum of three years on a full time or part time basis, and will cover the appropriate salary, university higher degree fees and bench costs (up to £15,000 per annum).

Applications will be judged by a peer review process which will focus on the personal qualities and motivation of the candidate, the relevance and quality of the research training programme, the originality and quality of the proposed research project, the strength of the supervision arrangements, the research infrastructure, as well as the benefits to the individual, to the Pathological Society and to the Jean Shanks Foundation. This peer review process will involve members of the Pathological Society Research Subcommittee, nominees of the Jean Shanks Foundation and invited reviews from selected external reviewers (coordinated by the Chair of the Pathological Society Research Subcommittee).

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The Fellowships are open to all trainees in pathology/histopathology in Great Britain and Ireland. Applicants must hold appropriate basic registerable medical, veterinary or dental qualifications and be a member of a defined pathology training programme (usually this will mean possession of a National Training Number). As this is a clinical PhD research training fellowship, applicants should not already have a research doctorate (PhD, MD or similar). Applicants should demonstrate that they have the potential to become Principal Investigators and that they view research as a key component of their future career development.

Applications for funding to other grant-awarding bodies does not of itself prejudice the application for a Jean Shanks Foundation & Pathological Society Clinical PhD Fellowship; however any other potential sources must be clearly identified in the application.

The application form should be completed with reference to this guidance to applicants. Applications which do not comply with the guidance will not be accepted.

### **Application**

#### **Personal Details**

Please complete ensuring that the address given is the one where mail and e-mail is most likely to reach you.

#### **Summary of Proposed Clinical PhD Fellowship**

This section should summarise information provided elsewhere in the form. Additionally 1 primary and up to 5 secondary keywords must be provided.

#### **Details of Present Appointment / Employer's Agreement**

Secondment to the Clinical PhD Fellowship will normally need to be negotiated between the

candidate and employer or pathology Training Programme. Regardless of the nature of the service commitment retained during the period of the Fellowship, it may well be desirable for the Fellow to retain a base in the employing organisation. Applicants should discuss whether they will continue to have access to facilities (eg office space and equipment, secretarial support, post, phone, IT and fax services) within the employing organisation.

### **Curriculum Vitae / Biographical Sketch**

This section should briefly list academic and professional qualifications and employment history. Any gaps in education/employment should be explained.

### **Higher Degree Fees**

The award will cover appropriate fees for registration for a University PhD higher degree. The details of these must be provided..

### **Research Proposal**

All applicants must specify a substantial piece of research to be undertaken as part of their Clinical PhD Fellowship. It is expected that this research will be original, relevant to pathology, and methodologically sound. The outline project proposal that forms part of the application must address these issues. This should be detailed using the following headings and in no more than **four** pages using Arial Font size 12: Purpose, Background, Aims, Plan of Investigation, Outline of Methodology & Timescale with milestones, Justification, Previous work of applicant & supervisor, Key References.

The idea for the research may come from the applicant himself/herself, or may be suggested by the supervisor.

The proposed project should be methodologically sound and achievable within the duration of the Fellowship. Attention will be given to the suitability of the supervisor and the host department for the prosecution of the research proposal.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to apply for Ethical Committee approval where this is appropriate. Applicants are advised that this can be a lengthy process. Approval need not necessarily have been obtained at the time of application for the Fellowship but **must** be obtained before the research can begin.

### **Supervision**

It is the responsibility of the applicant to identify an appropriate lead supervisor: generally this should be an individual with knowledge of the topic to be researched and experience in research conduct and supervision. As applicants are not expected to be experienced in writing research proposals, the supervisor should be actively involved in the development of the research proposal and in identifying research training needs.

Generally, supervision should be provided within an academic department or other organisation with experience of, and a track record in, research in the field of interest of the applicant. Details of the supervisor's past supervisory experience should be provided, including higher degrees supervised to completion.

All application forms must be counter-signed by the nominated supervisor(s), indicating acceptance of the role and obligations.

### **Value of the Fellowship**

The applicant should detail the value of the fellowship to themselves, to their host institution and to

Pathology in general. In detailing value to themselves, applicants should briefly describe their career aspirations and how a Fellowship will enhance their career plan.

### **Liabilities & Commercial Benefits of the Fellowship**

The host institution will be expected to cover all insurance for any liabilities of the work relating to the Fellowship, such that no claim could be made against either the Pathological Society or the Jean Shanks Foundation. Any commercial benefits that derive from any discovery made during the Fellowship are to be shared between the host institution, the Pathological Society and the Jean Shanks Foundation.

### **Finance A. Salary Costs**

Awards will be for a minimum of two and a maximum of three years and can be full or part-time, depending on the individual's circumstances. The application should detail anticipated gross salary (ie before deductions), including annual increments within the salary band, but making no assumptions for inflationary increases. In addition, appropriate superannuation and NI contribution costs will be paid and the above elements should be listed separately on the form as set out. Full Economic Costing is not payable on these awards. Retrospective application (where the individual has already commenced his/her study) or partial applications (where part funding has been found from other sources) will not be considered.

### **B. Fees**

Fees for a university PhD higher degree will be covered.

### **C. Bench Costs**

Appropriate bench costs to support the proposed research will be provided, up to a maximum of £15,000 per annum. A brief indication should be given as to how this money will be spent.

### **D. NHS Support Costs**

Since costs may be created for the NHS, approval must be sought where necessary from R&D Lead Officers. The Fellowship will not cover NHS support costs.

### **Timelines**

Applications should be uploaded to the Pathological Society's grant applications website. The deadline for applications is strictly 12 noon on 1 October each year. Applications received after that time on that date will not be considered, so please obtain the relevant signatures in good time.

Applications will initially be screened to see whether they meet the mandatory requirements:

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All applications criteria:

Appropriate professional background

Appropriate professional/academic qualifications

Training component specified

Research project component specified

Support of employer enlisted

Supervisor identified  
Supervising department identified

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Assessment criteria:

Personal qualities of individual

Supervision arrangements  
Research training programme  
Quality of research project  
Benefits to individual and to Pathology

All valid applications will be sent out for peer review and will then be considered by a review panel who will take account of reviewers comments. Candidates may be requested to provide further information at this stage, including any pilot data to support the application. This peer review process will be coordinated by the Chair of the Pathological Society Research Subcommittee and the process will involve members of the Pathological Society Research Subcommittee, nominees of the Jean Shanks Foundation as well as external reviewers.

All applicants, whether successful or unsuccessful, will be notified of the outcome by letter (usually sent via email). Feedback to unsuccessful candidates will be given on request, by e-mail, if and only if the volume of applications is manageable.

Fellowships may be taken up at any time in the twelve months following receipt of the award. A proposed start date should be given on the Application Form.

Any substantial change to the Fellowship arrangements must be agreed in advance with the Pathological Society who will administer the financial arrangements of the Fellowship. The Fellowship will be jointly funded (50:50) by the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the Jean Shanks Foundation.

This scheme replaces the previous (pre-2018) Jean Shanks and Pathological Society Research Training Fellowship (for Clinical PhD or MD) scheme.