



Clinician and healthcare professional fellowship – training partnerships

This scheme aims to work in partnership with institutions that wish to increase the numbers of clinicians and healthcare professionals working in the field of dementia. Essentially, we wish to work with institutions that have high quality research ideas, to attract outstanding clinicians or practitioners to undertake dementia research.

We recognise that many practising clinicians or practitioners have difficulties finding time to apply directly for funding through our [clinician and healthcare professionals fellowship scheme](#) themselves. This training partnership scheme is designed to allow prospective supervisors to apply for the funding of multiple projects and appoint the fellows after the application is funded.

This scheme is a pilot for 2017 but if successful may become part of the Society's routine funding calls.

Outline of award

Institutions can apply for two or three fellowships for clinicians or healthcare professionals (e.g. nurses or other allied health professionals) to undertake study towards a higher degree (usually a PhD). Funding is available for three years full time or four years part time.

Funding available

Alzheimer's Society funding is intended to cover up to 50% of the total cost of each fellow and a maximum of £75k can be requested for each post. The remaining funding should be available from other sources.

Two or three fellowships can be applied for in any application.

Applications requesting three fellowships can apply for up to £225k.

Applications requesting two fellowships can apply for up to £150k.

Principles

These clinician and healthcare professionals training fellowships are for practising professionals working in dementia health and care services to undertake study towards a higher research degree (usually a PhD) and who wish to develop a dual career that combines research and practice. The definition of who is eligible under these schemes is the same as our guidance for [clinician and healthcare professional fellowship scheme](#).

Fellows are expected to maintain and develop their professional practice-based skills during the course of the fellowship, and up to 20% of their funded time can be spent in NHS sessions or equivalent.

Alzheimer's Society will have a role in the recruitment of fellows to the advertised posts. Posts should be advertised widely.

The individual fellowship projects do not have to be complementary, but there should be consideration to joint support and development of appointed fellows. We particularly welcome applications that align with existing training schemes, so that fellows benefit from training and mentoring opportunities

Eligibility

- We only accept applications for research projects that will take place at UK-based Universities, NHS sites or other recognised higher research institutions.
- Applications must be made by the prospective supervisor(s).
- The principal applicant will be the grant holder and should be based at the host institution.
- Applications **should not** name candidates at point of application.
- Individual applicants are encouraged to apply directly for an individual Clinician and healthcare professional fellowship award.
- Applications will be assessed on the richness and track record of the training environment and quality and relevance of the projects.
- Applications should describe the selection process for appointing outstanding candidates to projects if successfully funded. Alzheimer's Society is expected to be included in this selection process.
- Candidates appointed post-funding must meet the eligibility criteria described below.

Candidate eligibility for successfully funded applications (these are the same as for our current clinician and healthcare professionals training fellowship offer):

- Candidates must be eligible to work in the UK.
- The award is open to all professions working in dementia clinical and health services.
- Allied health professionals and nurses should have completed their professional training and hold registered membership of an appropriate body. AHPs and nurse applicants are expected to hold a Master's degree or equivalent post-grad research orientated qualification or experience.
- Professions with doctoral-level training should have completed the relevant qualification. For example, clinical psychologists should have completed a DClinPsy.
- Candidates should have completed appropriate College Membership exams before taking up the award.
- Candidates must demonstrate an interest in the proposed academic field (though previous full-time research experience is not necessary)
- Candidates must demonstrate potential as a doctoral researcher
- Candidates must demonstrate an understanding of how research can be used in practice
- Candidates should show willing to be an ambassador for Alzheimer's Society and for dementia research more generally

Appointed fellows will also be supported in their career development by a number of additional initiatives being developed and rolled out as part of the [Dementia Research Leaders programme](#).

Submitting an application and review process

Applications must be submitted through our online grants system which can be accessed here: <https://grants.alzheimers.org.uk>. Guidance on the online submission process can be found at the end of this document. Paper copies do not need to be sent.

The following guidance should be read in conjunction with the online application form.

All applications that fulfil the eligibility criteria will be scientifically peer reviewed and lay reviewed by Research Network volunteers. Applications will be shortlisted based on those reviews. Shortlisted fellowship applicants will be invited to interview and all applicants will be given the opportunity to respond to reviewer comments. Applications, reviews, and rebuttals will then be considered by our Grant Advisory Boards. Feedback is provided to all applicants.

Funding of fellows

Alzheimer's Society wants to attract outstanding candidates through this scheme.

We recognise that for some disciplines fellowships need to offer NHS equivalent salary to attract the best applicants and those not immediately out of training. Other professions will be able to attract outstanding candidates by providing a student stipend. Therefore, applicants can choose to offer either NHS equivalent salary or a stipend.

Where a stipend is offered, this should be in line with [Alzheimer's Society PhD stipend](#). Where a NHS equivalent salary is offered, this should be justified at a competitive rate.

General finance guidelines

Costs which may be claimed for:

- Any direct expense required to complete the project;
- Animal purchase and maintenance;
- Travel related to the project;

Costs which cannot be claimed:

- Indirect costs
- Publication charges (see Alzheimer's Society's open-access policy);
- Institutional overheads
- Retrospective funding for work already completed;
- 'Top-up' funds for current research projects;
- Overspending on current grants;
- Advertising/recruitment of staff;
- Stationery;
- Staff facilities;

- Financial services (e.g. accounting, auditing);
- Routine care for patients;
- Databases (unless specifically required for the research project).

Requested salary costs should be based on a recognised pay model or the host institution's local salary scale, including London weighting if appropriate. Annual increments must be included, which should be based on the host institution's own salary scale. You should not include inflation on salaries. Alzheimer's Society will pay nationally-agreed pay awards during the duration of the grant.

Case for support documents

As part of your online application you will be asked to upload a scientific and a lay case for support document. Guidance on what to include in these documents is below.

Scientific case for support

The scientific case for support document will be peer reviewed and considered by our Grant Advisory Boards. This document should contain **a two page introduction and two page outlines for each project** and use the headings below. The document should not use a font smaller than Arial 11pt. We recommend you titling this attachment 'Scientific case for support: project title' and including page numbers on your document.

All figures should be included within this document and cannot be attached separately. Applications that attach data and figures outside the case for support will be returned. You are allowed to attach a one page GANTT chart/project plan per project to the application, outside of the scientific case for support.

At the end of the case for support document, please provide references in full (including title, all authors, journal, year, volume and page numbers). This does not count towards page limit.

Headings for case for support document

For the two page introduction:

- Description of the types of profession(s) that the opportunities would be targeted to.
- Track record of recruiting and successfully supporting clinicians or healthcare professionals through research training degrees.
- Experience of supervision team, and training environment.
- Description of leveraged funding

For project outlines (maximum 2 pages per project):

- Aims of the project and significance of the research. For biomedical applications outline the hypotheses to be tested.
- Work which has led up to the project (include any preliminary or feasibility data).
- Detailed experimental design and methods to be used (include any power calculations and statistical methods).
- How will the results from this research be used?
- Involvement of people affected by dementia and other relevant stakeholders.
- Names of lead supervisors

Lay case for support

The lay case for support will be reviewed by Alzheimer's Society Research Network volunteers. It is the only part of the application that they will see therefore it is important that it is not only comprehensible to such readers but also comprehensive.

- The lay case for support must contain a **one page introduction** and **one page outlines of each project to be supported**. The document should use the headings below and does not require referencing. You may wish to address the bullet points under each heading.
- Do not use print smaller than Arial 12 point.
- We recommend you titling this attachment 'Lay case for support: project title'.
- The [Research Network](#) are lay readers, but are engaged and interested in both research and dementia.
- Presentation, spelling and grammar are important. You may wish to use pictures and diagrams if this improves comprehension and readability but these must be included within the page limit.
- Use plain, non-technical language. We strongly suggest you include a glossary for unavoidable scientific terminology and avoid using unexplained abbreviations or acronyms.

Headings for case for support document

For the one page introduction:

1. Why it is important to build capacity in this area, with this group of professionals
2. Describe the experience of supervision team, and training environment for the fellows.
3. Why the Society should invest in this project and how it offers value for money

For the project outlines (maximum 1 page per project):

1. Introduction of the research area and your project

- What is already known about the problem that the project will address
- How the results of the study could benefit the lives of people affected by dementia to day or in the future – be as specific as possible.
- How the project complements national/international research in the area.

2. Methods and techniques

- Describe the methods and techniques used in the proposal.
- If the project proposes to use people as participants, describe and justify the number of people to be recruited and how this will be achieved.

3. Dissemination and implementation

- Dissemination plans for the outcomes of the project.
- How the findings could be put into practice or developed after completion of the project.
- Outline any plans to involve people affected by dementia in the project.

Online submission process

