

Remit, timelines and processes

Q1. Are the Fellowships restricted to specific areas of research?

A1. The focus of your Fellowship application can be in any field or area of research which, in short or long term, may one day improve the quality of life of people with pancreatic cancer. Please ensure that your proposal meets the other eligibility criteria by reading the Guidance for Applicants document on our [website](#).

Q2. What is the earliest possible start date? What if there are delays due to staff recruitment or other issues? Can I change the start date later?

A2. Projects should have a start date no earlier than July 2022, to allow time for project set up, for example recruitment of staff and getting approvals in place. Projects should be underway within 6 months of the receiving the award letter for the project.

Q3. How much funding will be awarded under each Career Foundation Fellowship?

A3. Pancreatic Cancer UK will fund a maximum of £200,000 for Career Foundation Fellowships lasting up to 2 years.

Q4. If I am successful in receiving funding, can I apply for extensions to the project?

A4: Career Foundation Fellowships should have a duration of up to 2 years. No-cost extensions for funded awards will not be guaranteed. If they are deemed necessary they will be strictly limited. Costed extensions due to incomplete work will not be considered in the vast majority of circumstances. Please refer to the Terms & Conditions for this scheme on our [website](#) for further details.

Please also note that Career Foundation Fellows who have successfully met their aims and objectives outlined in the initial proposal will be allowed to apply for continuation funding of up to a maximum of 1 year and £100,000. These applications will be objectively peer-reviewed and previous reports will be used in review. Continuation funding cannot be written in to applications at this stage, nor should it be relied upon for the delivery of the Fellowship aims. Continuation funding is something that can only be discussed with the Research Team towards the end of the award.

Q5. How will my application be assessed?

A5. Applications for the 2021-22 Career Foundation Fellowships will undergo Pancreatic Cancer UK's normal review process, which complies with the Association of Medical Research Charities' best practice guidelines. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview before final recommendations for funding are made. Details of the review process and funding criteria are outlined in the 'Guidance for Applicants' that accompanies this funding round, which can be found on Pancreatic Cancer UK's [website](#).

Q6. Why does it take so long to hear the final outcome of the grant round?

A6. Pancreatic Cancer UK's Board of Trustees makes the final funding decision based on the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board. We aim to let applicants know the final outcome as soon as we can after the Board of Trustees meeting which will take place in March

2022. Please find further details of the review process in the 'Guidance for Applicants' document on our [website](#).

Eligibility

Q7. I do not have ethical approval for my application. Can I still apply?

A7. Yes. You can still apply if you do not have ethical approval. However, if successful we would expect you to have ethical approval before your grant starts and provide copies of documents to evidence this.

Q8. Are there any restrictions on the number of years post PhD to be eligible for the Career Foundation Fellowship?

A8. There are no limits on this. We are opening two Fellowships Awards for post-doctoral researchers covering two different levels of experience- the Career Foundation Fellowships (opening Sept 2021) and the Career Progression Fellowships (opening Spring 2022). These are intentionally flexible grants. The Charity and Scientific Advisory Board recognize that researchers are different in their research focus, experience level, career stage and as such their personal and professional development needs. Therefore, these awards are for applicants to define themselves (within some broad eligibility criteria), however, applicants will also have to clearly and convincingly justify why the budget, duration and award type chosen enables them to realise their career goals in pancreatic cancer research. You can find out more about the eligibility criteria for both types of Fellowship on our [website](#).

Q9. Can I apply for the Career Foundation Fellowships if I am a clinician?

A9. Yes, the Fellowships are open to both clinicians and non-clinicians. The focus of the work can be in any field or area of research which, in short or long term, may one day improve the quality of life of people with pancreatic cancer. Please ensure that your proposal meets the other eligibility criteria by reading the Guidance for Applicants document on our [website](#).

Q10. Can I apply for the Career Foundation Fellowships if I am a Group Leader or PI?

A10. No. The Career Foundation Fellowships are designed to provide early career post-doctoral researchers the opportunity to develop the skills and build experience taking the first step towards becoming an independent investigator. Applicants with short-term, PI start-up awards from Host Institutes intended to support promising post-docs in application for career development award/fellowships should consider application for Career Progression Fellowships.

Q11. What is the difference between the Career Foundation Fellowships and the Career Progression Fellowships?

A11. The Career Foundation Fellowships are open to post-doctoral researchers with limited experience in pancreatic cancer and looking to take the first step towards becoming an independent investigator. The Career Progression Fellowships are open to researchers who are further along in their career with significant postdoctoral research experience and have made important contributions to pancreatic cancer research. Full eligibility criteria can be found on our [website](#).

Q12. Can Career Foundation Fellows apply for Career Progression Fellowships?

A12. Yes, Career Foundation Fellows will be eligible to apply for Career Progression Fellowships.

Q13. Can I apply if I am still a PhD student?

A13. Yes - final year PhD students may apply but must have undertaken and passed their viva before the Fellowship start date. A letter of support from the candidate's PhD Supervisor should be submitted with the application to provide reassurance that the viva will take place within the stipulated timeframe.

Completing the application form

Q13. Do I have to use a certain referencing style?

A13. We ask that references are included in full, e.g. with full authors and without 'et al'. This information is important for reviewers for both conflicts of interest and the review itself. Applicants can choose a specific system though we encourage consistency throughout.

Q14. Why are we being asked to write a lay summary?

A14. Applications to the 2021-22 Career Foundation Fellowships will be reviewed and scored by external lay reviewers and Pancreatic Cancer UK's Scientific Advisory Board which includes lay representatives who have personal experience of pancreatic cancer.

The lay reviewer's role is not to comment on the science of the application but to ensure that the research proposed is of relevance and importance to people with pancreatic cancer. The lay summary therefore needs to contain enough information for the lay reviewers to assess the relevance and importance and should also be written in such a way that a non-scientist can understand the project plans – this may be the only section of the form to which a lay reviewer will refer.

The lay summary is also used by Pancreatic Cancer UK on its website and may be used for marketing purposes. Applicants should therefore ensure that confidential information is not included in this section.

It is vitally important that your lay summary passes the 'so what?' test, and demonstrates through a lay description of a pathway to impact why the research would be important to people with pancreatic cancer.

You can get help with writing your lay summary from Pancreatic Cancer UK's Research Involvement Network. This Network is a group of people affected by pancreatic cancer who are willing to help with the design and delivery of research. To access the Network, visit our [website](#). Requests need to be sent to the Pancreatic Cancer UK Research Team by 30th September 2021.

Q15. Do my Supervisor and Collaborators need to sign off the grant before/after I submit it?

A15. Your Supervisor and any Collaborators will need to provide a signed letter of support confirming their cooperation in the research. This should outline their reasons for supporting the proposal and explain their role in the project (which should correlate with the detailed proposal).

Q16. To whom should we address any letters of collaboration/support?

A16. Any letters of collaboration/support should be addressed to the Director of Support, Research and Influencing at Pancreatic Cancer UK, (Anna Jewell). These should be included as an appendix on the application.

Q17. Do you need CVs for each participant?

A17. We expect CVs to be provided for the lead applicant and Supervisor. CVs should be included in the appendices using the template provided. Any publications included on the CV must include the full author list as per our referencing style detailed in Q13. In order to reduce burden on reviewers, please limit CVs to one A4 page wherever possible.

Q18. My research involves the use of animals; what information do you need?

A18. Applicants using animals within their research should provide a full justification within the research proposal and state whether the model that they are using has been genetically modified. Applicants are required to provide the power calculations that were used to determine the appropriate sample size. If statistical calculations have not been used to determine the appropriate number of animals to be used, applicants should explain why not and provide the alternative basis for calculation. Additionally, applicants must demonstrate that they are implementing the replacement, refinement and reduction of animals in research concordant with guidance from the NC3Rs.

Q19. My project might include costs that are considered patient care, NHS Treatment or NHS Support costs. Can I clarify this after my application has been submitted?

A19. No. You must liaise with the relevant departments at your institution and/or NHS Trust to confirm whether they will fund the relevant NHS costs before the application deadline. All applicants should contact their NHS Trust and NIHR CLRN before applying to ensure that these costs will be met. A letter of support indicating as such should be uploaded with your application as an appendix. If you have any questions about the eligibility of costs, please contact Pancreatic Cancer UK's [Research Team](#) before applying, so that we can discuss your circumstances and advise accordingly.