

PLEASE READ THE WHOLE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE APPLYING

1. INTRODUCTION

The Newcastle Wellcome Trust Translational Partnership (WTTP) aims to increase Newcastle University's translational activity by providing researchers with mentorship, support and expertise to advance the translation of observations in the laboratory, clinic, or community into interventions that improve the health of individuals. The Partnership focuses on supporting researchers in the early stages of translational research to overcome initial barriers.

The Translational Explorer Scheme is a discovery programme that allows researchers to take time away from conducting research to explore the validity of a translational idea or to develop skills through secondments or placements that enable the translation of research. Aimed at early career researchers, the scheme offers the opportunity to work alongside the WTTP Translator in Residence and have access to training designed to develop the researcher skills and knowledge in translational research.

2. ELIGIBILITY, SCOPE AND FUNDING LIMITS

Eligibility: Applications are open to early career researchers (e.g. PDRAs, Research Assistants, Technicians) in collaboration with their supervisor.

Scope: The translational research idea must be within the Wellcome Trust remit of research of improving human health and is expected to be at an early stage in the translation pathway.

Examples of eligible activity include, but are not limited to:

- Conducting market research, intellectual property reviews, exploring regulatory pathways, or initial Patient and Public Involvement/ Engagement.
- Skills development via secondments, placements, people exchanges, or specialist training

Whilst the scheme welcomes collaboration with industry where appropriate, applications should not seek to undertake research prescribed by/on behalf of a company.

Value: Up to £10,000. Funding can be used for salary support and/or to cover the costs of travel, subsistence and accommodation for secondments and placements.

Duration: Projects are expected to last up to 3 months full time but can be taken on a part time basis.

FINISH DATE: PROJECTS MUST FINISH BY 31ST DECEMBER 2022.

(Please note that due to the Wellcome Funding (WTTP) ending 31st March 2023, successful projects must be completed by 31st December 2022 with all invoicing submitted by 31st January 2023).

Please note: Although this scheme may commence as a project comes to an end, this funding is **not to be used as bridging funding** for individuals between projects. Notification to the current funder of a PDRA will likely be required, to confirm that existing contracts can be extended or amended.

Interested applicants are recommended to discuss their application with Dr Dale Athey, Senior Translator in Residence and Dr Susan Howard, Senior Research Funding Development Manager (Early Translational Research) prior to submitting, by emailing WTTranslationalPartnership@newcastle.ac.uk to arrange a suitable time.

3. APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Pre-award stage

There is a one-stage application process. Applicants should complete the application form and submit it to WTTranslationalPartnership@newcastle.ac.uk by **4pm, 7th April 2022**.

Costs: If the application contains salary costs, applicants are encouraged to contact the relevant Costings teams for indicative salary costs. Please note, a University Project Initiation Form is not required at this stage.

Where a project will involve NHS Patient, Staff or premises, applicants are required to contact the Joint Research Office Funding Development Team prior to the submission of the application. Applications will not be considered until such time as the JRO team has been involved.

For salary costs, please contact:

FMS Schools: FMS-ESU.Research support@newcastle.ac.uk

Population Health Sciences Institute: NUPHSI.Researchsupport@newcastle.ac.uk

Translational and Clinical Research Institute: NUTCRI.Researchsupport@newcastle.ac.uk

Biosciences Institute: NUBI.Researchsupport@newcastle.ac.uk

Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering: WTTranslationalPartnership@newcastle.ac.uk for advice

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences: WTTranslationalPartnership@newcastle.ac.uk for advice

Post-award stage

Projects that are recommended for funding will be notified within 4 weeks of the deadline. Applicants will then be asked to complete the standard University Project Initiation Form and have the proposal fully costed by their relevant Research Officer, prior to receiving formal notification of the award. **Where a project will involve NHS Patient, Staff or premises, applicants are required to contact the Joint Research Office Funding Development Team prior to the submission of the application.** Applications will not be considered until such time as the JRO team has been involved.

4. POST-AWARD MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW

Following confirmation of a project's funding award, a project set-up meeting will be arranged to review the project plan for the Translational Explorer, agree milestones and discuss training needs. The meeting will be attended by the investigative team, the Translator in Residence, Translational Funding Development Manager and the BDM, and others as deemed necessary. Regular meetings with the Translator in Residence are expected throughout the duration of the project.

All ethical and financial approvals required must be in place before funded projects can start.

5. EVALUATION/REPORTING

All awardees must provide information at specific points during the project and for several years after its completion (as required by Wellcome Trust). Reporting requirements include:

- A progress report during the project as required.
- A project completion report.
- Annual updates on outputs, follow-on funding applications (submitted/awarded), publications, patents (applications/published), impact activities, industrial collaborations, and spin-out companies that are directly related to the project. (*N.B This information is required by the Wellcome Trust to be included in the award's annual report as well as for renewal of funding application*).
- Written case studies (as requested internally and/or by the Wellcome Trust).

If awardees do not contribute to the reporting requirements, they will not be eligible to apply for WTTP Funding in future award years.

6. ENQUIRIES

If you have any questions about the scheme, please direct these in the first instance to Susan Howard, Senior Research Funding Development Manager (Early Translational Research), on WTTranslationalPartnership@newcastle.ac.uk.