**NIHR ARC-GM Pre-application Support Award 2025 – Academic Career Development**

**Overview**

The ARC-GM Pre-application Support Fund has been set up to offer additional support to those who wish to prepare a future application for [NIHR Career Development Funding](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/research-career-funding-programmes).

We therefore welcome proposals from senior staff who wish to nominate eligible candidates actively seeking to develop their career in applied research.

The Pre-application Support Award principally comprises:

* Up to 50% backfill funding for the candidate until 31st March 2026 to support protected time – the maximum award for any candidate is £25,000;
* Academic supervision support;
* Access to NIHR Academy and other training opportunities;
* £2,500 training budget;
* £2,000 Public and Community Involvement and Engagement budget;
* Bespoke support (e.g. assistance with conducting a literature review; career planning).

**Eligibility**

* Pre-application Support Awards are available to candidates who have a minimum of an undergraduate degree (or equivalent) who are employed by an organisation providing health or care services, or a Higher Education Institution, in Greater Manchester.
* Candidates must be able to demonstrate that they are actively pursuing a specific career development opportunity in the field of applied health and care research.
* Candidates may be from any of the following professional backgrounds:
  + Social care, including social work;
  + Public health professionals;
  + Regulated Healthcare Professionals (Nurses, Midwives, Allied Health Professionals, Pharmacists and Healthcare Scientists) **except** medics and dentists;
  + Methodologists;
  + Professionals based in Local Authority settings.

Questions relating to eligibility should be directed to Dr Ross Atkinson in the first instance ([ross.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ross.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk)).

**Nominations**

Nominations should be submitted by a senior member of staff within the candidate’s organisation who has the authority to formally nominate them for the award (the Proposer). Nominations using the form in this document should be submitted by email to [arc-gm@nihr.ac.uk](mailto:arc-gm@nihr.ac.uk).

**Key Dates**

* Nominations should be submitted by **5pm on** **Monday 28th April 2025**.
* Outcome of awards will be made available by **Monday 19th May 2025**.

**Selection Process**

Nominations will be reviewed by the ARC-GM Academic Career Development Lead, the Head of ARC-GM and one other independent reviewer. Awards will be made on the basis of several key criteria:

* Candidate eligibility;
* Candidate’s trajectory towards pursuing a career in academic research;
* Candidates plans regarding the use of the Award;
* Candidate’s plans regarding submission of an application for NIHR Career Development Funding;
* Any contextual factors that may be relevant (e.g. career breaks due to parental leave, or periods of illness, reduced time spent undertaking research due to a disability or caring responsibilities, reduced opportunities to career support e.g. mentorship, and limited opportunities to undertake prior research and training).

All awards will be made on merit.

**Nomination form**

This form should be completed by the Proposer, in collaboration with the Candidate wishing to receive the Pre-application Support Award Funding. **The form should be submitted by email to** [**arc-gm@nihr.ac.uk**](mailto:arc-gm@nihr.ac.uk) **no later than 5pm on Monday 28th April 2025.**

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| **Question** | **Response** |
| Name of Proposer |  |
| Job title of Proposer |  |
| Email address of Proposer |  |
| Professional relationship to the candidate |  |
| Name of candidate |  |
| Job title of candidate |  |
| Professional background of candidate |  |
| Email address of candidate |  |
| Has the candidate previously held an NIHR training award?  If yes, please state which award (e.g. National or ARC Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Internship). |  |
| To which NIHR Academic Career Development Award is the candidate intending to apply? For more information on the programmes available, see [here](https://www.nihr.ac.uk/career-development/nihr-academy). |  |
| What is the deadline of the programme to which the candidate is seeking to apply? |  |
| Please describe any academic supervision arrangements the candidate already has in place. Please include supervisor names where applicable. |  |
| Is there any additional evidence of progress made towards developing an application to NIHR Academic Career Development Award? This could be in the form of the candidate’s CV which demonstrates recent research training activity.  If the candidate provides a CV, please submit this as a separate document, but use this space to highlight any particular aspects.  Guidance on preparing a CV, including the CV NIHR template, if needed, can be found [here](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/planning-and-improving-research/best-practice/investigators-cv/). |  |
| What specific areas of support will the candidate require throughout the duration of the award? |  |
| Please use this space to add any additional contextual information about the candidate that the reviewers should be aware of. |  |
| Please state the amount of funding being requested and provide a brief explanation of costs (i.e. amount of time commitment; base salary; on-costs). |  |
| Please provide a name and contact email of the relevant member of staff in the Finance Department of the candidate’s employing organisation. |  |
| Please use this space to confirm that you have the authority to act as the Proposer and that you have had agreement from any other senior staff whose permission to release the staff member from practice may be required.  Where possible, please indicate the name and contact email of additional staff whose approval may be required. |  |