



## **CSO – NHS Researcher Development Fellowship**

### **Summary**

The CSO NHS Researcher Development Fellowship is an introductory funded scheme for NHS employees currently working as a Nurse, Midwife, allied health professional, pharmacist, healthcare scientist or others in a clinical role to explore research as part of their existing NHS role.

The fellowship can be used in a versatile way either providing a realistic introduction to research by participating in a research study while receiving mentorship and support regarding the next steps, or for candidates who already have some research experience and wish to develop additional skills or receive mentorship to develop a competitive PhD fellowship application.

The fellowship scheme also provides an opportunity for currently active and experienced NHS researchers to engage as mentors and support health professionals in this role to develop and experience research.

### **Funding**

The scheme will fund 13 days of time which can be used flexibly within a 1-year period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

### **Associate PI Scheme**

Candidates who have already participated and completed in the existing NIHR [Associate PI Scheme](#) (API) are most welcome to apply for this funded research experience.

In addition, mentors who are already involved/been involved in the API scheme are also encouraged to be involved and support interested fellows in the CSO NHS Researcher Development Fellowship scheme.

Please note that if you are already currently active in the API scheme you will not be eligible to apply for the CSO NHS Researcher Development Fellowship scheme. The API scheme ensures those applying are not currently involved in any other research programmes during their time on the API scheme.

Anyone alternatively interested in exploring the API scheme, please contact [dawn.williamson@nrs.org.uk](mailto:dawn.williamson@nrs.org.uk) who can provide more detailed information on the studies currently active in Scotland and recruiting for Associate PIs.

Please note the CSO NHS Research fellowship differs from the API scheme available to Scottish researchers by offering a funded placement to undertake research and a flexible approach to research experience over and above working on a research study.

### **Support to Identify a Mentor**

Fellows are required to identify a mentor prior to application. Support to identify a partnership can be provided through the NHS Research Scotland Network and Speciality groups.

[Networks and Specialty Group | NHS Research Scotland | NHS Research Scotland](#)

You can reach out to the clinical lead/managers in your area of interest. In addition, you can contact [dawn.williamson@nrs.org.uk](mailto:dawn.williamson@nrs.org.uk) for further support.

Allied Health Professionals can also contact the Council for Allied Health Professions Research Scotland (CAHPR Scotland) for help [cahprscotland@gmail.com](mailto:cahprscotland@gmail.com)

For potential mentors this is an exciting opportunity to nurture research within a clinical workforce and potentially obtain support on existing research developments within your area. If you are interested in being a mentor within this scheme, please contact [csofellowships@gov.scot](mailto:csofellowships@gov.scot) stating what type of expertise you have to support a fellow, and the specialty area of your work and health board location.

### **Expected Outcomes**

There are a range of outcomes that could arise from this award:

- Supporting a study team in a currently active research study - (e.g. recruitment, consenting, data collection, data analysis, report writing etc.)
- Participation in systematic reviewing processes (e.g. database searching, screening, data extraction etc.
- Networking activities (e.g. conference attendance for presenting a poster/abstract etc either as first or co-author etc)
- Named author on publication associated with the research project (this may come at a later stage after the end of the funded award)
- Signing up for NIHR Associate PI Scheme
- Evidence that PhD application submitted

### **Application Requirements**

#### **Fellowship Provides**

The fellowship will pay for 13 days of time which can be used flexibly however is agreed between the service, mentor and fellow in the 1-year period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

#### **Target Group**

Nurses, midwives, allied health professional, pharmacists, health care scientists, paramedics and others employed in a clinical role. The employer needs to be an NHS Territorial Board, NHS Waiting times centre or Scottish Ambulance Service.

## **Criteria for Application**

- In a substantive NHS post
- Has found a suitable mentor that can provide a research experience and or support for developing a further proposal.
- Support from immediate line manager to be released for study leave.

## **How to Apply**

Candidates should submit an application using the new [CSO Grants Management System](#). You will need to make an account to apply.

The application form needs to be completed in conjunction with your mentor and signed by your line manager to show you have local support to complete the fellowship. Instructions on how to do this are available on the application form.

If you have any questions around the application process or application form, then please contact [csofellowships@gov.scot](mailto:csofellowships@gov.scot).

The deadline for applications is **Midday on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.