

PCSM Research Hub

Health Research Projects

Application Guidelines

Guidelines for Applicants and Line Managers

The aim of this Imperial NIHR BRC scheme is to provide pump-priming funding for health research projects to staff who are nurses, midwives, allied health professionals, healthcare scientists (including social scientists), pharmacists, clinical psychologists or clinicians who are employed by UoC or NCIC. Successful applications will be funded at up to £50,000 for a maximum period of two years.

The focus of any research undertaken must be for the benefit of NHS patients. **The aim for these projects is to promote and facilitate research collaboration between the NHS and the University**; so where possible, there should be two co-applicants, one from UoC and another from the NHS Trust. Successful applications will be expected to produce clear outputs such as peer-reviewed research publications, research grant applications and awards and/or evidence of impact on NHS patients.

We encourage collaborative project applications with industry, other NHS or academic partners, charities or other research funders & local government.

Line managers are supporting these project applications, including appropriate protected research time, when they sign the form. **Both applicants should secure support from their line managers or service leads.**

If you have any questions about your eligibility or anything else about the scheme, please email pcsmresearchhub@cumbria.ac.uk.

Am I eligible to apply for a research project?

We understand that you may have complicated contractual arrangements, and we won't have covered all scenarios in what follows but, before beginning an application, please make sure you have read and understood the eligibility requirements below. Please [email us](#) describing your circumstances if we have not covered them here so we can assess your eligibility before you complete the application form.

- (i) You must hold an employment contract with the University of Cumbria or with NCIC NHS Trust.
- (ii) You must be resident and have a legal right to work in the UK.

Email applications and queries to pcsmresearchhub@cumbria.ac.uk.

Your Application form – available at PCSM website (cumbriamed.ac.uk/research/)

Please structure your response according to the list below. The committee is looking for you to demonstrate

that you can be succinct, specific and focused in your responses:-

- Your project application should address the following:-
 - background information on the project (a brief review of the area, the evidence base, any pilot data, or community involvement activity and any relevant publications)
 - research question, research site/s and any collaborators
 - measurable aims and objectives
 - design(s) of plan of investigation, including methods and approach to research inclusion
 - methods of analysis proposed
 - Gantt chart
 - Anticipated outcomes and impact on NHS
 - Key references only

Research Inclusion; Working with People and Communities

Research applicants should also describe:-

(1) how their research will address existing inequalities in health and social care. Research inclusion requires particular attention to the selection of participants, including those from under-served communities;

(2) how their research will be undertaken 'with' or 'by' diverse people and communities in active partnership with researchers (also known as Public and Patient Involvement and Engagement or Community Engagement and Involvement).

Please see NIHR guidance for inclusive research (e.g. <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/about-us/who-we-are/research-inclusion/funding-application-guidance>) and working with people and communities (e.g. <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/research-funding/application-support/working-with-people-and-communities>). More resources at <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/patient-experience-research-centre/ppi/ppi-resource-hub/>; <https://oxfordbrc.nihr.ac.uk/diversity-and-inclusion/>

Please describe your approach to research inclusion, and how you will manage, support and capture the impact of partnering with diverse people and communities in your **Research Plan**, within the overall word limits.

Application timeline:

- Applications open on **15th May 2025**
- Open sessions:
 - i) **'Speed dating' evening**
Monday 2nd June, 5.30 p.m.
2 The Abbey, Carlisle CA3 8TZ
(no parking at the venue; refreshments)
Please register with hugh.martin@cumbria.ac.uk (also pcsmresearchhub@cumbria.ac.uk)
by 5pm Friday, 30th May to meet potential collaborators and pitch ideas
 - ii) Online Q&A
Tuesday 17th June 6pm, [Teams](#)
- Applications close **15th July 2025**
- Interviews may be held in August to assist committee members* in decision making
- Notification of funding outcome by 16th August 2025
- All projects must start by **January 1st 2026 at the latest.**

(*Committee membership: PCSM research hub co-directors, PCSM Dean, Director, Imperial NIHR BRC, community representatives)

Together with this completed form, you may also attach: an academic CV (maximum 2 pp)

Once submitted, you will be unable to amend any part of your application. Good luck and we look forward to receiving your application.