# Wellcome Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF)

## Early Career Research Fellowship Scheme (non-clinical/clinical)

### Background

The University of Leeds Wellcome ISSF has been supplemented by a further £250K for an additional year to support biomedical and related research, which has been matched by an equal investment by the University. A major component of this funding will support early career researchers in order to enable them to realise their potential and position themselves for competitive external Fellowship applications.

**Note: This will be the last round of applications – successful candidates must ideally take up the Fellowship in January 2022, and the tenure of the Fellowship must be completed by January 10th 2023.**

### Eligibility

**Candidates must fall within one of the following categories**

1. Candidates in the last stages of PhD work
2. Candidates who have had one or two post-doctoral positions
3. Clinical Lecturer candidates wishing to undertake full time research to develop an application for a Clinician Scientist award.
4. Clinical candidates in ST1-ST3 who wish to undertake research to obtain a competitive PhD fellowship to be held at the University of Leeds and who can demonstrate their commitment to an academic career.

Applications are invited from any Faculty but **must** fall within [the Wellcome remit](https://wellcome.ac.uk/what-we-do).

Applicants should complete the appended application form and submit their application by **12 noon on Monday November 15th 2021**. The ISSF Steering Group Committee will then triage applications and invite shortlisted candidates for interview between 1-4 pm on either Thursday 16th or Friday 17th December. **Please ensure that you will be available to attend for interview on these dates.**  The interview will consist of a 5 minute presentation by the candidate followed by questions from the panel, which will be a subset of the Steering Group Committee. It is likely that these interviews will be held remotely via Zoom.

### Application guidelines

Before you apply:-

* You will need to identify a sponsor at the University of Leeds who should provide a short supporting statement and sign to confirm their willingness to act as sponsor.
* You will also need a statement from the Head of School in the location that you will be working.
* Please ensure you discuss the budget with the Research Office in your intended host Faculty so as to obtain accurate costings. A signature from your Faculty Research Office is required.
* ***For clinical applicants***: If the ISSF funds are to support a period of Out of Programme Research (OOPR), an OOPR agreement **must** be approved by the Deanery. Note that if you are an NIHR-funded ACF or CL and undertake OOPR, it will not be possible to return to your ACF/CL post. Your plans MUST be approved by your academic supervisor, the Deanery and NHS service before ISSF funding can commence.

**NB: It is important to get these supporting statements and signatures before your application is due in. Last minute requests for supporting statements often result in missed deadlines.**

**Applicants should complete the appended application form to include:**

* Basic biographical details (education, employment, current position with funding and dates).
* A short description of your research (including a lay summary), and career plans.
* Details and full justification for the requested budget. Applicants are expected to discuss the budget with the Research Office in the intended Faculty to obtain accurate costings.
* The date upon which you would wish to take up the ISSF Fellowship and the intended location.
* Your plans and dates for external Fellowship application(s).
* Your publications to date (please provide title, full author list and journal), including publications in press or submitted (but not in preparation).
* Any other academic achievements (such as grants, prizes, conference presentations etc).
* If a clinical applicant how you will incorporate the out of programme research into your clinical training.

The completed application form **should not exceed 3 pages.** Any forms exceeding this will **not** be considered.

### Frequently asked questions:

**How much are the awards?**

Each award will be up to a maximum of £60,000, but full justification of costs will be needed.

**What costs does the award cover?**

The award will cover both salary costs and a contribution towards research costs, aligned to the needs of the work. Please note that Wellcome rules stipulate these awards can only cover direct costs (eg salary, consumables, travel).

**What is the expected duration of the fellowship and when could I start?**

These awards will run for a maximum of 12 months and must be completed by the end of the ISSF scheme (January 10th 2023). If awarded an appropriate timescale will be agreed and any funds remaining unspent at the end will be withheld. You would ideally start in January 2022 but if your planned fellowship is shorter than 12 months you could start at a later date.

**I don’t currently work in Leeds, can I still apply for a fellowship?**

We invite applications from external candidates who are intending to move to Leeds, but you will need a supporting statement from a sponsor and the Head of School in the Faculty that you wish to work in.

**Will applications based on remote working be considered?**

In light of the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, we will give full consideration to applications where candidates can demonstrate that remote working can allow them to achieve their intended outcomes. In these cases candidates will not be required to be physically located at the University of Leeds.

**How will my application be assessed?**

Funding decisions will be made with reference to the following criteria:

* The applicant’s academic track record;
* Quality of the research question and proposed work plan;
* How the research fits with the University of Leeds’ Biomedical, Medical Humanities or Social Sciences research strengths;
* Is the applicant likely to be competitive in securing an external Fellowship within the ISSF funding period?
* Is there a clear plan for external Fellowship applications and the development of independence?
* Performance at interview.

**For informal enquiries or advice about your eligibility for the scheme, please contact the following:**

Professor Mark Harris ([m.harris@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.harris@leeds.ac.uk))

Rebecca Pollitt, Research Support Secretary ([fbsris@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:fbsris@leeds.ac.uk))

**The completed form should be emailed to** [fbsris@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:fbsris@leeds.ac.uk)

## Wellcome ISSF Early Career Research Fellowship application form\*

| **Name:** |
| --- |
| **Contact Details (tel./e-mail):** |
| **Faculty/School:** |
| **Education (degree titles and dates):** |
| **Previous employment if applicable:** |
| **Current position, salary/stipend and funding with dates:** |
| **Fellowship project title:** |
| **Research plans (max. 500 words):** |
| **Lay summary (max. 100 words):** |
| **Budget requested with accurate breakdown of costs and justification (max. 200 words):** |
| **Faculty Research Office name and signature to approve cost breakdown:** |
| **Intended timescale for the ISSF fellowship, and plans for external Fellowship applications, including indicative timelines and titles of proposals:** |
| **Intended location and sponsor for the ISSF Fellowship and justification for these choices (max. 100 words):** |
| **Publications (to include title, all authors and journal):** |
| **Other academic achievements:** |
| **University of Leeds sponsor**  **Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):**  **Supporting statement (max. 100 words):**  **Signature:** |
| **Head of School**  **Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):**  **Supporting statement (max. 100 words):**  **Signature:** |
| ***(For clinical applicants only)***  **Describe how you will incorporate the out of programme research into your clinical training? (max. 100 words)** |
| ***(For clinical applicants only)***  **Clinical Training programme director**  **Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):**  **Supporting statement (max. 100 words)**  **Signature:** |
| ***(For clinical applicants only)***  **Integrated Academic Training programme director/deputy.**  **Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):**  **Supporting statement (max. 100 words)**  **Signature:** |
| **Applicant’s signature:** |

*\* expand or delete boxes as necessary but do not exceed 3 pages total*