Starter Grant for Clinical Lecturers FAQs

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions regarding all stages of the Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers scheme. More information is provided in the Application Guidance notes, which are available from the Starter Grants webpage, when the scheme is open for applications.

If you have any other questions about the scheme or would like to discuss your individual circumstances or project, please contact the Office via clinicallecturers@acmedsci.ac.uk. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact the Office at the earliest opportunity, especially if they have any questions concerning their eligibility for the scheme.

Sections

Eligibility:

1.1. Who is eligible for the scheme?

The grants are intended as start-up funding and as such are not intended for applicants who have already obtained substantial funding through, for example, Clinician Scientist Fellowships, New Investigator Awards or large project grants.

All eligible applicants must:
1. Have a PhD or MD.

2. Hold a medical, dental or veterinary undergraduate degree and be registered with the General Medical Council, General Dental Council or Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

3. Hold a clinical contract.

If you are a clinician in human or dental medicine, you must also:
1. Be a research-active Clinical Lecturer

2. Hold an NTN or NTN(A)

3. Be within higher specialty training.

4. Have undertaken a substantial period of research equivalent to a PhD or research MD, if you have qualified abroad with an MD.

5. Note the following eligibility criteria relating to the timing of your CCT:

*   If your CCT date will fall during the course of your proposed project, at least half of the project must take place prior to the estimated CCT date. In this case, applicants must have secured protected research time throughout the proposed project (including the part taking place post-CCT).

*   If your Clinical Lectureship post has been extended beyond your CCT and/or the majority of the proposed project might fall post CCT, then please contact the Office to discuss your eligibility.

*   Clinical Lectureships in Primary Care are awarded post-CCT and we welcome applications from this group. However, for all other specialties, candidates are not eligible to apply if they have already attained their CCT.

Senior Clinical Lecturers and Clinical Psychologists are not eligible for this scheme.

If you are a clinician in veterinary medicine, you must be either:
1. A research-active Veterinary Specialist in Training (Resident/Senior Clinical Training Scholar) within an approved Specialist Training Programme with secured and protected research time throughout the proposed project.

Or:

2. A research-active Veterinary Clinician or Veterinary Pathologist with Veterinary Specialist Board qualification or eligibility and within the 3 year (probationary) period of your first University appointment and with secured and protected research time throughout the proposed project. If your position is that of a Senior Lecturer but are still within the three year probationary period then you are still eligible for this scheme.

1.2. I have not yet been awarded my PhD, am I eligible for the current /next round of the scheme?

In order to be eligible you must have done the following:
- **by the application deadline date:** have submitted your thesis, completed your viva and be in a position to provide written confirmation that only minor corrections are required, if any.
- **by the Panel date:** have either been awarded your PhD or be in a position to provide written confirmation from your awarding institution that you have fulfilled all the criteria – including the submission and approval of any corrections - for the award of your PhD. The graduation ceremony can be pending.

1.3. I have not yet started my current position (human & dental medicine: Clinical Lectureship, veterinary medicine: relevant post as per the eligibility criteria), am I eligible for the current /next round of the scheme?

You must be in post by the date the Panel meets to consider your application. The Panel meetings occur in December and June each year. If necessary, please contact the Office to discuss your individual circumstances and confirm the date of the Panel.

1.4. I am due to achieve CCT during the course of the award, am I eligible?

You may be eligible for a Starter Grant provided that you meet the following criteria:
- Firstly, your CCT date must not fall any earlier than halfway through your proposed project – please remember that the shortest permissible project duration is 12 months.
- Secondly, you must have protected research time for the entire duration of the proposed project. You will be required to detail the plans that will be put in place to ensure that you are afforded sufficient research time post-CCT to complete your project. Your academic supervisor must be in a position to offer such reassurances. More information is provided in the Application Guidance notes, which are available from the Starter Grants webpage, when the scheme is open for applications.
- Thirdly, if you have had your Clinical Lectureship extended beyond your CCT and/or the majority of the proposed project might fall post CCT, please contact the office to discuss your eligibility (clinicallecturers@acmedsci.ac.uk).

The table below indicates the earliest eligible CCT dates for upcoming rounds of the scheme. A sliding scale operates if your CCT date falls in between the earliest eligible dates for a 1 or 2 year project. The earliest eligible CCT date relative to the application deadline is equal to the the sum of (a) half the proposed research project, and (b) the 4 months between the application deadline and the earliest possible award start date. For example, for a 14 month project, the earliest eligible CCT date would be 11 months (7 + 4 months) after the application deadline.

| Round | Application deadline | Earliest eligible CCT date | |
		1 year project	2 year project
20	01 Sept 2018	01 July 2019	01 Jan 2020
21	11 March 2019	11 Jan 2020	11 July 2020
22	01 Sept 2019 (TBC)	01 July 2020 (TBC)	01 Jan 2021 (TBC)

1.5. I have unsuccessfully applied for a Starter Grant through this scheme previously, can I apply again?

Unsuccessful applicants are allowed one re-application to the scheme. If this is your second application, you will have received feedback from your initial application and will have the opportunity to explain how your proposal differs from your previous one. For more information, please refer to the Application Guidance notes, which are available when a round is open for applications.

If you have already had two unsuccessful applications, it is not possible to re-apply to the scheme with a different project.

Application submission and format:

2.1. How do I apply for a grant?

To apply for a Starter Grant, you will need to submit an online application through the [Academy's Flexi-Grant](#).

2.2. Who else needs to approve my application before I am able to submit?
In order to submit your application, you need to have four declarations confirming the validity of the application. The required signatories are your Head of Department, Clinical Supervisor, Academic Supervisor and Finance Officer. You will not be able to submit your application without their approvals.

You will be able to invite them through [Academy's Flexi-Grant](#), however we strongly recommend you contact them yourself before inviting them through the system.

2.3 Do I need to send a hardcopy in the post, in addition to the online copy?

No, please do not send us a hard copy, as we do not accept these.

2.4. Do I need to submit anything other than the application form?

No, unless you have not yet been awarded your PhD. In that case, you will need to have had your viva and send us an electronic copy of a letter confirming that only minor corrections, if any, are required to your thesis.

2.5. Will you confirm that you have received my application?

You will receive an automatic confirmation of your submission through the online system. We will endeavour to also get in touch with you soon after your submission, especially if we want to clarify any issues about your application. You will then hear back from us about the outcome of your application within six months of the submission deadline.

2.6. What can /cannot be included in the budget?

The focus of this scheme is to support new and directly incurred research costs such as consumables, access charges, and equipment. Modest allocation for equipment may be considered by the Panel, but large amounts will raise questions from the Panel and should be well justified in the narrative.

The grant cannot cover your personal salary costs or provide funding for research assistant, PhD student or postdoctoral staff salaries. However, funds can be used to contribute towards access to necessary technical support that is available through your institution. For more information, please

refer to the Application Guidance notes, which are available when a round is open for applications or contact the Office via clinicallecturers@acmedsci.ac.uk to discuss your specific circumstances.

Selection process:

3.1. What does the selection process involve?

Once the application deadline passes,

(1) applications are checked by the Office for eligibility – you may be contacted by the Office soon after the application deadline to discuss certain aspects of your application that might be unclear;
(2) applications are peer-reviewed (by Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and other experts in your field); and
(3) applications and reviews are considered by a Panel comprising Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences (Please see the Academy website for the Panel membership).

There is no interview.

3.2. Who sits on the Selection Panel?

The Panel membership is listed under the 'Selection Panel' tab on the Starter Grants webpage. Applicants should not approach Panel members to discuss their application; if you have any questions, please contact the Office via clinicallecturers@acmedsci.ac.uk.

3.3. When will I be informed of the outcome of my application?

You will receive notification of the outcome of your application within one month of the Panel.

3.4. Will I be informed if my application is unsuccessful?

Yes – all applicants are informed of the outcome of their application and receive anonymised feedback from reviewers and the Panel.

Post award:

4.1. How soon after the funding decision is made will I be able to start?

If successful, the soonest you can start your award is approximately one month after the decision has been communicated to you. The length of time will depend on how quickly you return the necessary forms to the Office. Your project start date must occur within six months of the award letter. Award letters are normally issued up to one month after the Panel meeting.

4.2. Is it possible for me to make changes to my project after the award?

Starter Grants must be used for the purpose for which they have been awarded. However, we understand that sometimes changes to your experimental plan, supervisory arrangements, etc are unavoidable. For this reason, you may apply for amendments to your research project such as changes in/to your host institution, supervisory arrangements, budget, or aims and objectives. Please contact the Office, via clinicallecturers@acmedsci.ac.uk, to discuss any potential amendments in advance of the change; applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis. You will be able to apply for such amendments through the Academy's Flexi-Grant.

4.3. My grant is due to expire before I have completed my project and there are funds remaining, can it be extended?

It is possible to apply for a no-cost, time-only extension to a Starter Grant award. These applications are considered on a case-by-case basis for circumstances including, but not limited to: part-time working, sick leave and parental leave in addition to delays in accessing materials, equipments, samples or obtaining ethical approval. Please contact the Office, via clinicallecturers@acmedsci.ac.uk, at least one month before the original end date of your grant to discuss your request. You will be able to apply for such requests through the Academy's Flexi-Grant.

4.4. When and how must I report on my Starter Grant award?

Starter Grant holders are required to report their research outputs annually by 31 March via Researchfish and submit a Final Expenditure Report via the Academy's Flexi-Grant within three months following the end of their award. We ask award holders to continue to report to us for up to three years after the end of their award, so that we can capture longer-term outputs.