Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund

Faculty Fellowships

1. Purpose
The aim of the Faculty Fellowships is to help the College in the recruitment, career progression and retention of outstanding early-career researchers. These awards are not designed as bridging funding, but as a short-term fellowship to ensure early career researchers acquire the data and show the independence required to be competitive for future fellowship applications.

2. Funding
Faculty Fellowships will provide short-term, flexible funding for salary and total consumables (up to £15K per annum) for up to 18 months. The awards are funded through the Wellcome Trust Institutional Strategic Support Fund (ISSF). The amount of funding available from ISSF to support Faculty Fellowships is £170,000 for the year 2017/2018.

Departments are expected to make a 50% contribution to the award and as such all applications must be discussed with the appropriate Departmental Manager first and require sign-off from the Head of Department.

Early career researchers who have not yet submitted a Fellowship application, but for whom an award is in the pipeline because of the quality of the applicant, supervisor and project may apply for these Fellowships. The applicant should demonstrate concrete plans to prepare and submit a fellowship application in the near future.

The proposed work must be within the remit of the Wellcome Trust. Postdoctoral researchers from disciplines outside of biomedicine can apply for funding, provided the proposed area of research is within the Trust’s remit. There should be strong evidence of support from the host laboratory and/or supervisor. Multidisciplinary applications are also strongly encouraged.

3. What can the award be used for?
Faculty Fellowships must be used within the broad aims of assisting Imperial College in the recruitment, career progression and retention of new academic and research staff that are key to the implementation of the university’s strategic objectives in the area of biomedical science. These awards will cover only the direct costs of the research, including salary, consumables, equipment and access fees.

4. Who can apply?
Prospective candidates should note when making an application that:
- PhD thesis must be submitted before an application is made, however funding will not be provided until the PhD has been awarded.
- These awards are designed for basic science and non-medical clinical researchers.
- There should be strong evidence of support from the host laboratory and/or supervisor.
Candidates must not have submitted an independent fellowship application, but show clear plans to do so.

Multidisciplinary applications will be particularly welcomed that are related to each Faculty's major research areas or strategic research themes.

Projects should be within the remit of Wellcome Trust funding for applications will not be accepted for:

- Visiting postdoctoral fellows
- Extension support to write up a PhD
- Further funding to replace previous VIP funding

Awards will be made to outstanding Postdoctoral Fellows who have not yet applied for a full Fellowship award, but for whom such an award is in the pipeline with a very high chance of success because of the quality of the applicant, supervisor and project. In the event that the Fellowship is not awarded, then no commitment will be made by the Faculties or Departments to pick up the salary of the proposed candidate.

5. How to apply
Applications should comprise the following information:

1. A completed Faculty Fellowship application form detailing the case for this period of support and the strategic benefit to the College of making such an award.
2. Details of support required: salary for the period requested, and confirmation from Head of Department that they are willing to contribute 50% of the funds. Applications require sign-off from the Head of Department.
3. Two letters of support; one from the host/supervisor and one from the Head of Department/Division.
4. In the first instance, applicants should send costings information (completed on InfoEd) for the requested funding to Martin Waller (m.waller@imperial.ac.uk) in the Joint Research Office to ensure that the financial information is correct, and within the remit of this call. InfoEds should not have been formally submitted prior to submitting an application, but must have been agreed in outline by the appropriate department(s) (an e-mail signifying approval will suffice and should be attached to the InfoEd application). A confirmation email from Martin Waller and a copy of your InfoEd recovery page should be included in your application. 'Recovery' on InfoEd must have the 50% charge and 'Institution Contribution' the other 50%. All costs can be inflated.

How to submit your bridging support Faculty Fellowship application
Please convert items 1-4 above to PDF and where possible combine into a single document in that order. Please submit this by email to ISSF@imperial.ac.uk before 12.00 on 19 October 2017. Please note that you are required to contact your department to seek departmental approval for your application before 28th September 2017.

6. Evaluation and funding
Applications will be considered by the Faculty of Medicine Research Committee, and the Cross-College Research Proposals Review Group comprising representatives from each
Faculty. External referees’ opinions may be sought where appropriate. In most cases awarded funding will be available 4-6 weeks from the decision by the review group. Applications will be assessed based on the standing of the applicant, merit of proposed research, likelihood of success in future fellowship applications, and the quality of the sponsor/host laboratory.

7. Initiative evaluation
In order to inform future funding strategies the Wellcome Trust wishes to ensure that it is able to assess the success of this scheme. To this end all recipients of Faculty Fellowships will be expected to complete ad hoc surveys to capture information on their career ‘next steps’ when requested. Reports are typically requested in April-June each year.

8. Contacts
For further information please contact Dr Susie Gray (ISSF@imperial.ac.uk).

9. Open access publication costs
These do not need to be included in this Faculty Fellowship grant application. A separate grant has been provided by the Wellcome Trust to cover these costs. Once you receive your grant, please read the instructions at http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/library/digitallibrary/openaccess/wellcomegrant which explain how to make your work open access in accordance with Wellcome’s open access policy. (Any queries please email liboa@imperial.ac.uk)

10. Deadlines

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<tr>
<th>Faculty of Medicine Departmental Deadline</th>
<th>Final Deadline</th>
<th>Decision Expected</th>
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<tr>
<td>28 September 2017</td>
<td>19 October 2017 (12.00)</td>
<td>24 November 2017</td>
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Faculty Fellowship Frequently Asked Questions

If you have a question which is not listed below please contact Dr Susie Gray (ISSF@imperial.ac.uk)

What is the normal timescale and scope of the funding available?
Funding is available for between 6-18 months

Can I include consumables/research expenses?
Awards will cover research expenses of up to £15K per annum.

How and when do I find out if the application has been successful?
Decision dates are published in the table above; on this date you will receive an email notifying you of the outcome of your application. A formal letter confirming this outcome will then be sent to you.

Is there a preferred format for applications to be submitted?
Documents should be sent electronically as a PDF and it is helpful if these have a clear and specific filename i.e. your name.

Is this award suitable for a clinical scientist?
We offer separate opportunities for clinicians through the ISSF scheme.

Am I able to apply if I will be the named postdoc on an Investigator Award and not the PI?
Yes

Do I have to be currently funded by Wellcome Trust in order to apply?
No, as long as your work is within the remit of the Wellcome Trust your application can be considered.

Who applies for this award?
The post-doctoral researcher applies. However there does need to be strong evidence of support from the supervisor/host laboratory.