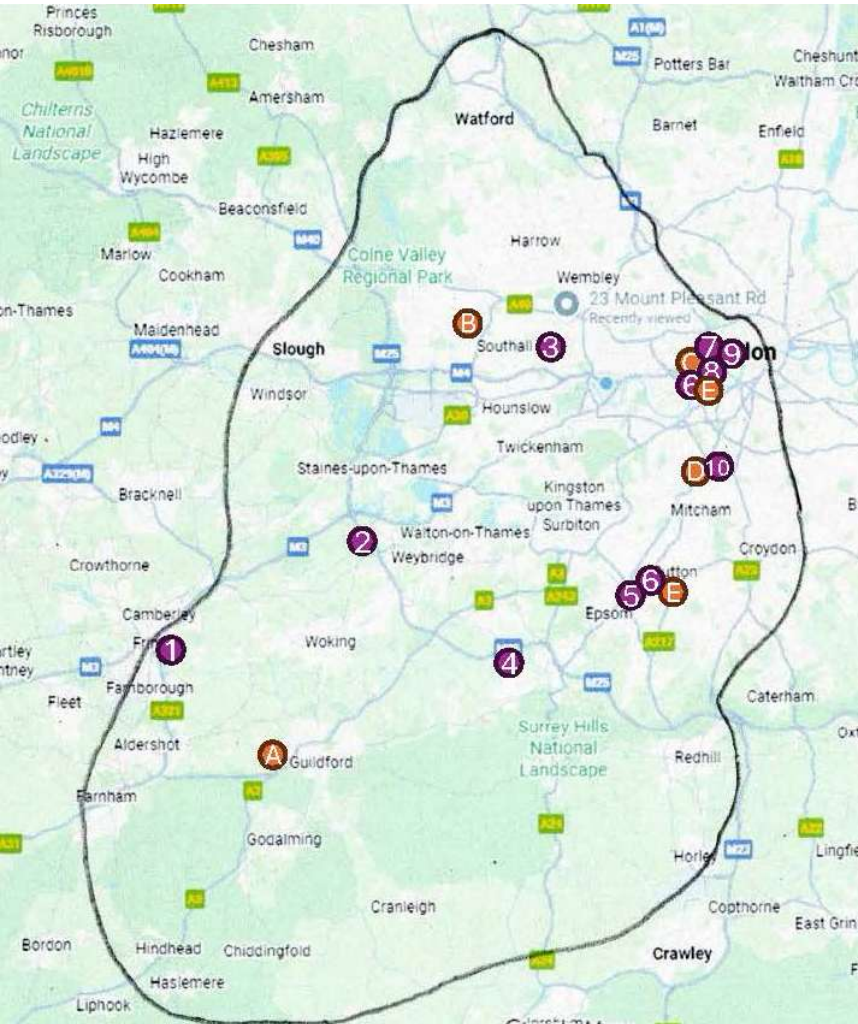


South-West London Medical Research Council Regional Account for Clinical Researchers (SWL MRC RACR)

RACR purpose

- To support clinical careers in the UK, via specialist regional accounts
- Address gaps in support for clinical researchers
- Designed to strengthen the clinical research workforce, including doctors & registered health and care professionals
- 10 RACRs have been established across the UK

SWL MRC RACR ecosystem



Academic partners



IMPERIAL

ICR The Institute of
Cancer Research



NHS partners

NHS
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Imperial College
NHS Trust

NHS
St George's, Epsom
and St Helier
University Hospitals and Health Group

NHS
Central and
North West London
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Royal Surrey
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Surrey and Borders
Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

The ROYAL MARSDEN

NHS
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

NHS
Frimley Health
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
West London
NHS Trust

South-West London MRC Regional Account for Clinical Researchers

SWL MRC-RACR Applicant Webinar

Anna Lidgate | Head of CATO Programmes, Imperial College London

What is on Offer?

FUNDING & TIME

- Short-term award: up to 12 months in the first instance
- Up to 50% FTE protected research time
- Salary support up to 50% of total salary, covered by the award
- Awardees remain employed by their current employer (University or NHS Trust)
- Does not include research consumable or indirect costs

What is on Offer?

SUPPORT & DEVELOPMENT

- Mentoring and career development opportunities
- Access to support and events throughout the award
- Engagement with a consortium-wide network of senior researchers

What is on Offer?

RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

- Access to world-leading research environments across the SWL partnership
- Research must be conducted within a partner institution
- Research areas must fall within the MRC remit (human health and disease, discovery science, diagnostics, therapeutics, interdisciplinary and preventive research)

Key output: generate preliminary data, strengthen research skills and facilitate progression towards research independence and future externally funded awards.

Who Can Apply? Eligibility

WHO CAN APPLY

- Clinicians - doctors and registered regulated health and care professionals - aspiring to progress their research careers in the South-West London region.
- Must be actively engaged in clinical practice.
- Must be employed by one of the SWL MRC-RACR partner institutions (a university or an NHS Trust).

Eligibility

POST-PhD/MD (res)

- PhD or MD (res) awarded by the time of application within the last 3 years (extendable to 5 years with mitigating circumstances).
- Seeking protected research time to continue developing your research programme.
- Applications from current NIHR Clinical Lecturers will only be considered if applicants can clearly justify why they require this award having already had 4 years CL funding.

Eligibility

WHAT ASSESSORS ARE LOOKING FOR

- Strong commitment to research
- Scientific quality and innovation
- Career development potential
- Strength of the training and mentorship plan
- Alignment with longer-term career goals
- Support from the host academic department and NHS division
- A credible plan for future external research funding

Eligibility

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

- The programme particularly welcomes applications from individuals currently under-represented in clinical academic careers.
- Non-traditional career trajectories, career breaks, caring responsibilities and flexible working arrangements are all recognised and encouraged.

The Hosting Arrangement: University

HOST UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

- Agrees and supports the research project and proposal
- Head of Department and Research Manager/Director of Operations must sign off the application (Section 1b)
- Confirms space is available for the awardee
- Salary costs are usually calculated through the hosting university department (e.g. via Worktribe)
- Salary for the research proportion is covered by the SWL MRC-RACR award and managed through the substantive employer, with a recharge to recover costs

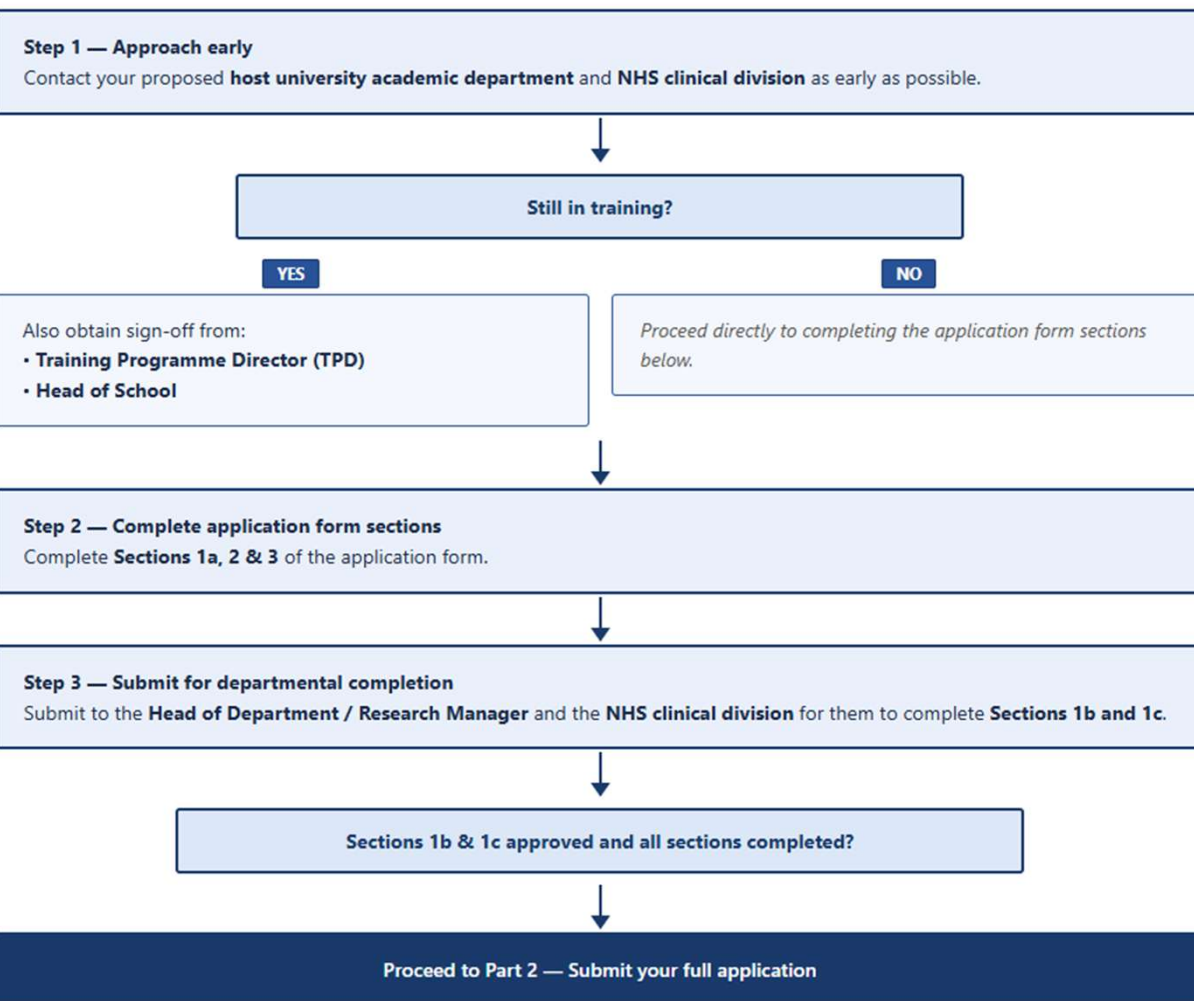
The Hosting Arrangement: NHS Trust

HOST NHS CLINICAL DIVISION

- Must support and sign off the application
- Director of Clinical Department/Division and Divisional Business Manager must sign Section 1c of the application form
- Pays the salary for the clinical proportion of the role (minimum 50% of total salary)
- On-call costs, if applicable, are covered by the clinical component and must be agreed with the clinical division
- Guarantees that, if currently substantively employed by the Trust, the awardee can re-enter full-time clinical work at the end of the award without loss of career progression
- Responsible for agreeing clinical responsibilities and confirming these in the application

How to Apply

Part 1 Gain Support & Sign-Off



Medical
Research
Council

How to Apply

Part 2 Submit Your Full Application

Submit via Qualtrics by 1 November 2026

Once all sections are approved and completed, submit the following:

- ✓ Completed **SWL MRC-RACR Application Form**
- ✓ **Curriculum Vitae** (maximum 3 pages)

Application submitted — What happens next?

What Happens Next Key Dates & Milestones

JANUARY 2027

Shortlisted candidates invited to interview *(date to be confirmed)*

JANUARY 2027

Informal offers made to successful candidates

FEBRUARY 2027

Award letters issued by **CATO**

SUMMER 2027

Anticipated start date

All dates are indicative and subject to change. Candidates will be notified of confirmed dates in due course.



Medical
Research
Council

Further Information and Contact

CONTACT US

For informal enquiries and questions about the application form:

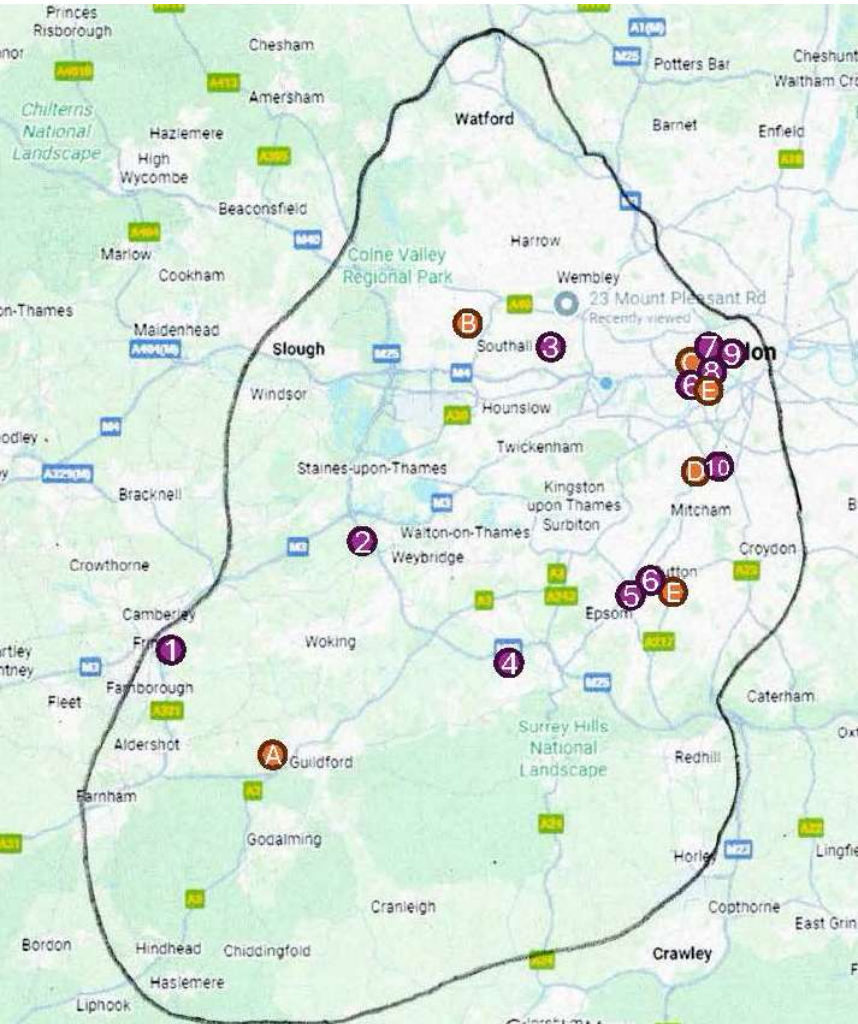
- CATO team: cato@imperial.ac.uk

Further information and application documents:

imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/clinical-academic-training-office/other-initiatives/swl-mrc-racr/



SWL MRC RACR ecosystem



Academic partners



IMPERIAL

ICR The Institute of
Cancer Research



NHS partners

NHS
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Imperial College
NHS Trust

NHS
St George's, Epsom
and St Helier
University Hospitals and Health Group

NHS
Central and
North West London
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Royal Surrey
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Surrey and Borders
Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital
NHS Foundation Trust

The ROYAL MARSDEN

NHS
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare
NHS Trust

NHS
Frimley Health
NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
West London
NHS Trust