

Lectureship Awards

Guidance for Applicants

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Thank you for considering the Stroke Association for a Lectureship. This guide will help to support you in completing our online Stroke Association Lectureship Programme application forms. Please also read the accompanying Conditions of Award document.

If you have any questions, please email research@stroke.org.uk. We will respond as soon as possible.

1. Purpose of the awards

The Stroke Association Lectureship Programme aims to address succession and sustainability in the careers of stroke researchers. We aim to develop a collaborative multidisciplinary community in which to nurture and build upon the careers of early-stage researchers, encourage more driven and high-calibre researchers into the field of stroke research, and ultimately develop the research leaders of the future in stroke research, training and clinical excellence.

These awards will provide secure and stable long-term funding for researchers to establish themselves as independent researchers, whilst leading high-quality programmes of research. They also aim to leverage further funds to support PhDs, postdoctoral or other junior research and fellowship positions, as well as inspiring the next generation through a high-quality lecturing and training programme.

We anticipate driving a step change in stroke research, teaching and training in universities and hospitals to improve our knowledge of stroke treatment, rehabilitation and long-term care, as well as addressing research career succession in stroke and providing a platform for mentoring and training the next generation of stroke experts. We expect to bring the highest standards of research innovation into the heart of clinical and academic training and education. This will in turn serve to raise the profile of stroke research within the UK and lead to the improved service delivery and higher standards of care for stroke survivors.

These awards will support the establishment and embedding of research posts within universities for the duration of the award. After this period, the Universities will be required to commit to long term (tenured) funding of these posts, provided that adequate progress and success have been demonstrated by the candidate in this role to date.

We welcome applications from researchers with and without a clinical background, including applied researchers but not limited to implementation scientists, health economists, digital health and computer scientists.

Types of Lectureship award

We have different types of awards, and we encourage you to consider which is most appropriate for you:

- The Lectureship awards are appropriate for candidates without a clinical qualification who have postdoctoral research experience and are ready to establish themselves as an independent researcher and lead their own research programme and team.
- The Senior Lectureships are for candidates that have already established themselves as an independent researcher, have led a research team with evidence of developing others (capacity development) and are operating at Associate Professor/Senior Research Fellow level.
- Clinical Lectureships and Senior Clinical Lectureships are for candidates who are still working in clinical practice.

Please be aware that candidates who are registered clinical professionals and are doing any clinical work (including on a voluntary basis) are required to apply for a Clinical Lectureship.

If you are unsure which award to apply for, please contact research@stroke.org.uk.

2. Eligibility

Applicants must meet the following criteria for the Lectureship awards:

Host Institution:

- Your proposed research programme must be based in a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI).
- You may remain at your current institution or may apply with a new institution. In all cases your sponsoring institution must provide full support, endorsement and commitments.
- Your host institution must provide a statement of support detailing available support (e.g. administrative support, plans to recruit PhD students, number of PhD studentships guaranteed or open to competition each year and support or mentoring processes for grant writing)
- Your HEI must have either:
 - i. a clear strategy for stroke research (or an aspect aligned with the Stroke Association Research Strategy) or
 - ii. a future plan to build capacity in stroke research and a current strategic commitment in at least one closely aligned area.
- Your sponsoring institution should demonstrate at the application stage that support will continue beyond the Stroke Association award period, subject to satisfactory progress.

Academic Requirements:

- You must have obtained a PhD, professional doctorate or equivalent research doctorate.
- For clinical applicants, you must have obtained a PhD, professional doctorate or equivalent research doctorate, completed clinical training and hold current registration with the appropriate professional council.
- You must have a demonstrable track record of publishing in peer reviewed journals, securing grants as Principal Investigator and/or Co-investigator, and building collaborations.
- You should show experience in research team development, management, mentoring, training and capacity building. Assessment will be relative to the level of the award applied for, and there must be evidence of outstanding achievement, particularly in high-quality publications and grants, and evidence of successful supervision of research students and mentoring of other early career researchers.

Mentorship:

- You must include at least one named mentor and a support letter from the mentor in the application.
- You must also justify the appropriateness of your choice. (Mentoring is a widely used developmental tool that significantly enhances effectiveness, confidence and career advancement. Researchers with mentors often demonstrate greater clarity of purpose and productivity, have broader sector knowledge, and are better prepared to achieve their career aspirations).

Ambassadorial role:

- You must evidence previous or current support for the Stroke Association and outline how you will fulfil your role as an ambassador, promoting and supporting the work of the Stroke Association throughout your Lectureship, if your application for funding is successful.

Ethical Approval:

- You will need to obtain ethical approval, where applicable, before any research starts.

International Applicants:

- Your proposed research programme must be hosted by an eligible institution within the UK (e.g. a University, NHS Trust, Statutory Social Care Organisation, or Research Institution).
- You must have formal support from your Host Institution for the duration of the Lectureship.

Please note that the Stroke Association will not cover costs related to visa applications or the Immigration Health Surcharge.

For Lectureship Applicants:

- You will usually have between three and six years post-doctoral research experience, with some experience in teaching or lecturing, and in supervising PhD students during that time.
- You should have held a previous academic position in an area relevant to stroke.

For Senior Lectureship Applicants:

- You will usually have six to ten years post-doctoral research experience, with experience in teaching/lecturing, and supervising PhD students during that time.
- You should have held a previous academic position in an area relevant to stroke such as Senior Research Fellow or Associate Professor.

For Clinical Lectureship Applicants:

- You should have held a previous clinical and/or academic position relevant to stroke, usually with between three and six years post-doctoral research experience.

For Senior Clinical Lectureship Applicants:

- You should have previously held a clinical and/or academic position relevant to stroke and must have completed, or be close to completing, a Clinical Lectureship.
- You will usually have six to ten years post-doctoral research experience.
- Alternatively, you may apply if you have previously held a senior clinical position in an area of stroke care, as well as having held an academic position (e.g. Senior Research Fellow or Associate Professor).
- Applications are encouraged from individuals with the appropriate experience who are based in either an NHS Trust or an HEI.

Alignment with JLA Priorities:

We expect all research proposals to align with the priorities for stroke research, as set by the [2021 James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership for Stroke](#).

Applications in childhood stroke should fall under the priorities of the [Childhood Neurological Disabilities PSP Top 10](#). Any applications addressing one or more of these priorities must have a clear link to stroke prevention, treatment or care.

If you are unsure about your eligibility, please contact the Research Team (research@stroke.org.uk) for guidance.

3. Scope of Funding

For all awards:

- The maximum funding amount that you can apply for is £500,000 over a period of five years.
- You must deliver a programme of high-quality research, as outlined in your application, that will make a significant contribution to knowledge and/or clinical practice in field of stroke.
- Your research programme must include a strong patient/public involvement and demonstrate short- or long-term patient benefit.

For Lectureships and Senior Lectureships:

- The intention is that this Lectureship Programme constitutes your full-time academic role focused on research-related activities as outlined in the application, including conducting research, providing leadership, supervising and mentoring, training and conferences, grant-writing, peer review and participating in awards panels, as well as other activities that advance both your research programme and your development as a research leader.
- It is acknowledged that a proportion of your time may need to be spent on wider HEI-related responsibilities (e.g. teaching, Departmental or University-wide responsibilities), reflecting the intention for this role to transition to a permanent member of staff, and the funding contribution to your salary provided by the host institution.
- The Stroke Association will fund up to a maximum of 75% of the Lecturer's or Senior Lecturer's salary. The HEI will need to provide the remainder of the candidate's salary that is not requested from the Stroke Association.
- You will be expected to apply for further grant funding (Stroke Association or other sources) to cover additional research, training costs (e.g. salaries) and any related research costs. You may apply for further funds for your own salary, or to offset your own salary costs within this award.

For Clinical Lectureships and Senior Clinical Lectureships:

- Clinical Lectureships are for candidates who hold a clinical role. Applicants should have held a previous clinical and/or academic position in an area

relevant to stroke, with at least three years of research experience post-PhD.

- By taking up this Lectureship award you are committing to a full-time clinical academic role in which at least 50% of your role (0.5 FTE) is focused on research-related activities as outlined in the application, including conducting research, providing leadership, supervising and mentoring, training and conferences, grant-writing, peer review and participating in awards panels, as well as other activities that advance both your research programme and your development as a research leader.
- The Stroke Association will fund up to a maximum of 0.5 FTE of your full-time salary. The HEI and NHS/Clinical Employer will need to provide the remainder of the salary cost that is not requested from the Stroke Association.
- We encourage applications in which the HEI commits to contributing to funding to enable more time to be focused on research-related activities; however, this is not mandated.
- It is expected that the proportion of your full-time role spent working in your clinical role will be funded by your NHS/Clinical Employer.
- You will be required to apply for further grant funding (Stroke Association or other sources) to cover additional research, training costs (e.g. salaries) and any related research costs. You may apply for further funds for your own salary, or to offset your own salary costs within this award.
- You must include a letter of support from the NHS/ clinical employer with a commitment to contribute to the funding of your salary and a guarantee that you will be released from clinical duties for the time specified in your application to commit this time to research. This must include emergency and on-call hours if applicable and include assurances that emergency and on-call hours must not surpass this agreed amount during the Award period.

For Part-time applications (all awards)

- Applications will be considered from candidates who wish to work on a part-time basis. Justification would be needed that you have sufficient time for research-related activities.

4. Research involving animals

Programmes involving the use of laboratory animals are eligible. Please see the [Stroke Association's Position Statement on Research Involving Animals](#).

If you are planning to include animal research in your application, it is mandatory to:

- Discuss your proposed programme with the Stroke Association Research Team in advance of completion of your application form.
- Complete all the questions in the Research Involving Animals section of the online application form.

Where animal work is sub-contracted, these questions must be completed by the organisation conducting the animal studies.

Please note:

- We may need to refer your application to the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) for review.
- We will also ask peer reviewers, who will assess your application, if there is appropriate justification for the use and number of animals.

More information and guidance on the responsible and ethical use of animals in research is available from the [National Centre for Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research \(NC3R's\)](#), including an [online experimental design assistant](#) to guide researchers through the design of animal experiments. Applicants should also follow the [ARRIVE](#) guidelines to ensure comprehensive, transparent, and reproducible reporting of animal studies.

5. Guidance for completing the application form

Plain English Summary (Max 450 words):

The Plain English Summary is a vital part of your application. It will be read by people with lived experience of stroke, as well as reviewers who may not have specialist knowledge of your research area. This section should clearly explain your research in a way that is easy to understand, free from jargon, and meaningful to a non-expert audience.

- **Background and context:** briefly and clearly explain the context of your research, the area(s) that your proposal seeks to address and the benefits for people affected by stroke.
- **Aims and outcome:** briefly explain what your research aims to achieve and what outcomes you expect.
- **Programme plan:** briefly explain your chosen design and methods.
- **The impact and potential benefit:** briefly explain the measures/patient outcomes you will use and how these have been or will be selected.

You may find the following resources useful when preparing your summary:

- [NIHR Plain English Summaries](#) – guidance and examples of clear research summaries.
- [Plain English Campaign](#) – tips on avoiding jargon and writing clearly.
- [Hemingway Editor](#) – a free tool that helps simplify complex sentences and improve readability.

Scientific Abstract (max 250 words):

The scientific abstract should provide a clear and concise summary of your proposed research written for an expert scientific audience. Your abstract should briefly cover the background, aims, methods, and expected outcomes of the programme.

Proposed Research Programme

The proposed research programme statement on page 5 of the application form should not exceed 3,500 words. References should be provided as a separate PDF, limited to a maximum of one single sided A4 page, using Arial size 12 font and formatted in Havard style. Additionally, a Gantt chart should be included as a separate file upload.

What to include:

Your proposal must address the following elements:

1. Background (Max 1,000 words):
 - Outline the context of your research, including the current state of knowledge, gaps in evidence, and why this programme is important.
 - Demonstrate alignment with strategic priorities, showing how your proposed work supports the [Stroke Association's Research Strategy](#) and addresses priorities identified through the [James Lind Alliance Stroke Priority Setting Partnership](#).
2. Research Objectives/ Milestones (Max 1,000 words):
 - Please detail your proposed annual milestones which will be used to monitor progress of the award.
 - Hypotheses, aims and objectives for individual programmes - clearly stating your research question(s), hypotheses, and specific objectives.
 - Explain how these address unmet needs or advance understanding in stroke research.
3. Detailed research plan (Max 1,250 words):
 - Describe your methodology, including study design, data collection, and work packages. If recruiting participants, include:
 - Sample size calculation
 - Recruitment strategy

- Details of the site(s) where the research will occur.
 - Statistical expertise (which may be costed).
4. Research staff (Max 250 words)
- Plans to integrate PhDs and other research training posts into this work programme and their potential roles.

Research Design Guidance:

It is recommended that you use guidelines relevant to your study design e.g. CONSORT, STROBE, SQUIRE. Please see <http://www.equator-network.org/> to find a list of useful resources to help design your research.

Additional Programme Details

Impact & Dissemination Plans

The impact and dissemination section should explain how your research will make a meaningful difference for people affected by stroke and how you plan to share your findings. Your responses must be written in plain, jargon free language so they can be understood by reviewers without scientific expertise and reviewers with lived experience of stroke. Avoid technical terms wherever possible and spell out or explain any acronyms you use.

Future Impact of Your Research (Max 450 words)

Explain how your programme's findings could contribute to improvements in stroke care, policy, services, or understanding. This might include:

- The impact your study is expected to have during the Lectureship and beyond.
- The benefits for people affected by stroke.
- The steps and mechanisms required to move your findings towards real-world use.
- Any follow-on studies or evidence needed before practice can change.
- Likely timescales for impact.
- How this Lectureship will support your development as a future leader in stroke research.

Dissemination Plans

Sharing Results with Scientific and Clinical Audience (Max 300 words).

Explain how you intend to disseminate your findings to scientific and clinical audiences. This might include:

- Peer reviewed publications.
- Presentations at national or international conferences.
- Clinical, academic, or professional networks.

- Engagement with stroke research collaboratives or specialist groups.

Sharing Progress and Findings with People Affected by Stroke (Max 300 words).

Explain how these approaches will ensure the people who may benefit from your research can understand and engage with it. This could include:

- Plain English summaries hosted on relevant platforms.
- Updates or blogs through the Stroke Association or partner organisations.
- Public engagement events, webinars, or community talks.
- Co-produced materials developed with involvement contributors.
- Visual or accessible formats tailored for non-scientific audiences.

Intellectual Property (Max 500 words)

If applicable:

- Describe how Intellectual Property (IP) will be managed and any partnerships with digital enterprises. Programmes involving data or digital technology must adhere to the [Department of Health & Social Care Code of Conduct for data driven health and care technology](#)

This could include:

- Whether the proposal is likely to produce new IP.
- How the new IP will be managed.
- Whether there is existing IP associated with the proposal.

6. Proposed training and supervision programme

Training and Development

An important part of this award is that you are supported to complete a training and development programme. This should include research-specific training required for you to progress in your career and deliver your programme successfully.

Career development activities should support your progression as a leader in stroke research. In addition to your research objectives, you should outline your career development objectives. We want to fund individuals who are keen to support capacity-building in stroke research in addition to developing their own career. You may therefore wish to consider incorporating leadership training and activities that strengthen both you as an individual and the wider stroke research community, appropriate to your career stage.

[The Vitae Researcher Development Framework - Vitae](#) and [Research capabilities framework](#) offer useful guidance on planning development activities. However, it is not mandatory to use this exclusively and components should only be chosen where relevant to your career pathway.

For the Clinical Lectureships and Senior Clinical Lectureships plans must also include objectives aimed at strengthening links between clinical practice and research, supporting workforce development and evidence-based practice. This may include activities that promote integration of research into clinical settings to promote evidence-based service improvement.

7. Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)

We expect that you will have involved people affected by stroke in the planning and development stages of your funding application and will continue to do so should your application be successful. Your proposal should include a plan for patient and public involvement (PPI) with as much detail as possible so that the reviewers can accurately score your application.

PPI is where research is carried out 'with' or 'by' members of the public such as patients, people with lived experience, carers or advocates - rather than 'to', 'about' or 'for' them. These individuals work in partnership with researchers, shaping what research takes place, how it is carried out, and how the results are shared and applied in practice. You can find advice and support in the [NIHR Guide to Public Involvement in Funding Applications](#). We encourage applicants to consider the [UK Standards for Involvement](#).

PPI is important and possible in all research, from laboratories to communities, and research into health and social care. To support applicants carrying out lab-based research, we encourage the use of [Parkinson's UK Patient and Public Involvement in Lab-Based Research Toolkit](#), which provides practical guidance and case studies tailored to laboratory research.

PPI is an essential part of research and has been shown to improve its quality, impact, and outcome for patients. It is important to people affected by stroke as well as funders and Research Ethics Committees. Research that includes people with lived experience is more relevant, accepted, and better communicated. Excellent involvement is inclusive, values all contributions, and ensures people have a meaningful influence.

PPI is not the same as:

- Engagement: by engagement, we mean where research and people connect, breaking down barriers and sharing information, for example, through open days or sharing a blog on social media.
- Participation: where people take part in a study as participants, for example, completing a survey or being part of a clinical trial.

Plans for involvement should be meaningful and explain the anticipated impact on your work and research. Planning should be fully resourced and costed. There is no defined maximum budget for involvement provided there is clear justification. We would expect costs to be requested in all applications, and all costs must still fit within the overall budget for the award.

We have developed an Involvement Toolkit to support planning and delivery of your involvement work. You can access it [here](#). You can also request advice for involvement by contacting us at researchinvolvement@stroke.org.uk. Requests to involve people affected by stroke through our networks may be possible but are subject to demand and need at least six weeks' notice prior to the application deadline. You can find out more about how we can help you to involve people affected by stroke in your research [here](#).

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (Max 500 words)

Proposals must demonstrate careful consideration of how equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) principles will be embedded throughout the research. Please consider the following:

- Describe the practical steps you will take to ensure your research is inclusive.
- Describe the data or evidence you will collect to assess and demonstrate the success of your work.
- Describe any EDI expertise within your proposed team and/or steering/advisory group.
- Describe how sex and gender characteristics have been considered in the design of your proposed research. You may find the [MESSAGE project toolkit](#) helpful.

In responding to this section, we encourage you to go beyond organisational policies and instead explain how EDI considerations will be embedded within the proposed research and approach. You may include relevant and justified EDI-related costs within the budget. Where appropriate, this may include EDI training. If this is the case, please describe and clearly explain this in the proposed programme of training for research and development section of the application form.

8. Budget submission justification

You must provide a complete and accurate budget within the main budget table of the application form, detailing all funding that you are requesting from the Stroke Association.

We fund direct research costs, that are specifically incurred because of the proposed research. All costs must be fully justified, clearly linked to the research activities, and represent value for money. You should provide a detailed breakdown of all items, costed individually over the duration of the award.

- Costings should be calculated using the host institution's standard processes but must adhere to Stroke Association eligibility rules.
- Please account for inflation in the costings in the application form (including salary).
- Please ensure your calculations are correct before submission, as the award amount will reflect the figure requested and cannot be increased after the award is offered and accepted.
- If your programme benefits from additional financial support from other sources, clearly disclose the nature, amount and duration of this support in the justification text box beneath the budget table.
- We reserve the right to query, adjust, or decline costs that do not meet this guidance.

The following types of costs are eligible. Full details can be found in the research costs guidance in appendix 1.

- Staff costs
 - Salary of the applicant – amount requested from the Stroke Association: Basic salary plus employer on-costs (e.g. National Insurance and pension) in line with the host institution's policy.
 - Salary of staff employed on fixed term contracts to work specifically on the programme.
 - Specialist service staff proportionate to time commitment.
- Running research costs including
 - NHS-based clinical research costs in line with [AcoRD guidance](#).
 - Imaging costs
 - Consumables
 - Laboratory materials
- Equipment
 - Purchase and maintenance
 - Facility access charges

- Animal research costs
- Travel and Subsistence
- Training and Development
- Dissemination costs: Lecturers are expected to attend the UK Stroke Forum every year.
- Patient and Public Involvement (PPI): you should use [NIHR payment guidance](#) and [INVOLVE's involvement cost calculator](#) to help develop an appropriate PPI budget.
- Other direct costs

Breakdown of salary

Please breakdown your total proposed salary and the amounts and percentage of this which you wish to request from the Stroke Association, the HEI and, if appropriate the NHS/Clinical Employer.

Letters of support

The breakdown of the proportional salary payment should also be included in each of the support letters from the HEI and, if appropriate, the NHS/Clinical Employer to confirm and guarantee their commitment to this salary cost for the duration of the Lectureship Award.

Research costs

Funds that are not used for the salary can be used to apply for research costs. Candidates who have a higher proportion of their salary paid for by the HEI/NHS or clinical employer will find they are able to apply for more research costs in their overall award allocation.

Funds should be allocated by the award holder to cover travel costs to attend and present at Stroke Association events, attend conferences, workshops and networking events with students and fellows and actively engage and participate in the [UK Stroke Forum](#) each year as an Ambassador for the Stroke Association. It can also be used by the Lecturer for skills training in areas such as leadership and coaching. Plans for how this budget will be utilised should be justified in the budget section of the application.

Additional cost information

NHS Costs

You should use the [Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool \(SoECAT\)](#) to ensure costs are attributed correctly in line with the AcoRD framework, distinguishing between research costs (eligible for funding) and then NHS support costs and NHS treatment costs (not eligible for funding).

Where the study takes place within the NHS, you need to outline any eligible NHS based clinical research costs in the main budget table and then associated NHS costs (not funded by the Stroke Association) into the SoECAT form.

Research sponsors have a responsibility to make sure the study is appropriately costed and attributed in line with the Department of Health and Social Care [AcoRD guidance](#). Attribution support is available for investigators, study teams and their R&D offices through AcoRD specialists. Find out more via the [NIHR Research Delivery Networks \(RDN\)](#).

Please outline details of any interaction and advice you had from an RDN and or Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) in the design of the research application. If your programme involves the recruitment of participants, your application must include the Funder Export from the online SoECAT, obtainable via the [NIHR Central Portfolio Management System \(CPMS\)](#).

To create a SoECAT, you will need to register and activate an account. Guidance and support are available through:

- [CPMS user guide](#).
- [NIHR Online SoECAT Guidance](#)
- [Online SoECAT Guidance Module](#) (which includes video tutorials and linked resources (an NIHR Learn account is required to access and enrol onto the module).
- [Online SoECAT Top Tips](#)

Please note: Completion of the SoECAT may not be necessary when applying for funding to support overarching programmes with no specific research study protocol, infrastructure, Lectureships, anything where the grant is to be used for direct employment of a member of staff or purchase of an asset, and data or diagnostic reviews where recruitment data is not collected. In such cases, please provide supporting documentation explaining why a SoECAT was not submitted.

Research Sponsorship

You will need a research sponsor for any research programme activities funded by this award. You do not need a sponsor formally approved at the application stage; however, if your Lectureship is awarded you will need to have a research sponsor in place before the programme starts.

A research sponsor is typically the employer of the Chief Investigator, the educational institution (for example, for student-led research), or the care organisation where the research is taking place. You should discuss sponsorship early on with your institution's Research Office, who can advise who should take on

this role. For further detail on sponsor responsibilities, see the Health Research Authority's [guidance on Sponsor responsibilities](#).

Please email research@stroke.org.uk if you would like more guidance.

9. Resubmission policy

Applicants may resubmit a previously unsuccessful application to this call. Should you choose to resubmit, we ask that you consider the feedback previously provided by reviewers. You will need to briefly summarise this in your application (maximum 300 words). If you are unsure whether your application is eligible for resubmission, please contact the Research Team at research@stroke.org.uk.

10. How is your application is assessed?

Your application will be assessed by a panel made up of scientific experts and lived experience experts from the [Stroke Voices in Research](#) involvement network.

Your application will be assessed and scored based on the following criteria:

- The person – your background, career aspirations and attributes as a stroke research leader.
- The proposed training and development programme for you and your research team
- The environment of the host institution(s).
- The research programme that will be carried out during the Lectureship.

Your proposed research programme must be directly related to stroke. Details of the proposed research programme, patient and public involvement, future plans and aspirations for further research and funding will be assessed. The panel will also consider how the research could ultimately be translated into clinical practice and, therefore, provide benefit to people affected by stroke.

Review scores are used to rank applications and shortlist for interview with agreement from the Chair of the Panel. If your application is shortlisted, you will be invited to attend an interview.

The interview usually lasts for around 30 minutes. You will be interviewed by the panel to explore your career aspirations and experience, the research proposal, PPI, and the benefits of the Lectureship to yourself, research, and stroke care.

If you are successful, we will let you know via email. Upon accepting the award, we will ask you to provide an accurate start date. We prefer you to begin the award within six months of receiving our offer, but the start can be delayed if needed at our discretion.

If you are unsuccessful, we will email you and provide feedback.

11. Application checklist

- ☐ I have read the Guidance for Applicants and Terms and Conditions of the award.
- ☐ I have completed all sections of the online application form via Flexigrant (<https://strokeassociation.flexigrant.com>).
- ☐ I have provided a narrative CV for myself. Please use our template which can be found on our Lectureship funding webpage.
- ☐ I have provided a letter of support from my Host institution(s).
- ☐ I have provided a letter of support from my mentor(s).
- ☐ I have obtained online signatures via Flexigrant from my Head of Department, and Finance Officer.
- ☐ I have checked that all included costs are eligible, the totals are correct, and salary costs have been calculated and adjusted for inflation.
- ☐ I have completed the Schedule of Events Cost Attribution Tool (SoECAT) for NHS-based studies and have included the Funder Export, if applicable (<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/online-soecat-guidance>).
- ☐ I have uploaded a Gantt chart/timeline.

12. Deadlines for applications

Call opens: **11:00am, 27 April 2026**

Closing date for applications: **1:00pm, 13 July 2026**

Interview date: **9 December 2026**

Our Research Team will send out invitation letters for interview. Please hold the interview dates in your diary from now on until we confirm if you have been shortlisted. You will receive a letter confirming this approximately two weeks before the interview date. Interviews will be held online.

Awards will be made in **January 2027**.

Appendix 1: Research Cost Guidance

In general, we will fund costs that arise directly from the research, can be directly attributed to the research, and would not be incurred otherwise. All requested costs in an application for funding need to be fully justified and must be agreed by the Stroke Association in the context of the research proposal. This cost guidance is in line with the Association of Medical Research Charities recommendations.

Cost type	Costs the Stroke Association will meet	Costs the Stroke Association will not meet
People working on the grant	Salary, employer contributions (for National Insurance and pension costs) for staff employed to work specifically on the funded project. Stipend and fees for PhD students who either hold PhD Studentships or are project-dedicated (if eligible). Contributions to the salary costs, proportionate to time commitment, for specialist service staff (e.g. technicians, project managers, CTU staff) who have a role working on the project but may also work on multiple other projects and whose salaries are supported from core institutional funds. These costs are only allowed if there is an auditable record (i.e. timesheets) of the time spent working on the project.	The salary of: - Co-applicants who hold a permanent, open-ended or rolling contract with their salary met from core institutional funds. - Other staff (e.g. departmental technicians and administrators, professional services staff) who don't have a specific role on the project and whose time is shared across multiple projects and whose salaries are supported from core institutional funds. - Apprenticeship Levy costs - For staff working on the grant, the following costs will <u>not</u> be met: - Redundancy costs. - Recruitment expenses. - Global talent visa application fees, visa renewal and associated Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) costs. - Parental and sick leave - Visa and IHS fees for dependents.

Running costs	Eligible NHS-based clinical research costs, in line with DHSC AcoRD guidance. Clinical, epidemiological and qualitative research costs. Participation costs. Laboratory materials and consumables. Imaging costs. General office printing and postage costs directly associated with the project. Associated charges for shipping, delivery and freight.	Ineligible NHS-based clinical research costs, in line with DHSC AcoRD guidance.
Equipment	Purchase of project-dedicated: • New items of research equipment. • Upgrades to existing items of research equipment. • Research-specific specialised computing software and hardware (e.g. for bioinformatics). • Personal computing equipment if required for project purposes (maximum £1,000). Maintenance of equipment not funded on	Standard per-unit IT charges and generic office software costs. Maintenance of equipment items funded on the grant, for the remaining duration of the grant once any warranties have expired. Access charges that incorporate: • Estates and utilities. • Equipment and building depreciation. • Insurance.

	the grant but used on and essential for the project. Access charges that incorporate: • Materials and consumables. • Maintenance and service contracts. • Staff time costs for dedicated staff employed to operate the equipment or facility.	
Animal research costs	Project-specific animal purchase and transportation, maintenance and experimentation costs. Project-specific Home Office project licences and personal animal licences. Animal house facility usage charges that incorporate facility staff costs, materials and consumables, and maintenance and service contracts.	Animal house facility usage charges that incorporate: • Estates and utilities. • Cage, equipment & building depreciation. • Insurance, safety.
Travel and subsistence costs	Travel and subsistence costs for people working on the grant to undertake research specific 'project delivery' activity (e.g. visiting collaborators and facilities, meeting study participants, sample and data collection, conducting fieldwork). Travel and subsistence costs for people working on the grant to attend conferences and events for personal development or to disseminate findings.	First or business class travel (unless it is required as a reasonable adjustment). Attendance to conferences and events not related to the research project.

Training and Development	Project-specific training for people working on the grant. Careers-based training and development for people working on the grant.	General HR or IT training costs.
Dissemination	Conference attendance (including UK Stroke Forum registration fees) related to the research project. Open access and publication charges. Running workshops with clinicians or people affected by stroke.	Attendance to a conference and events not related to the research project.
Patient and Public Involvement	Travel expenses and honoraria for public involvement representatives. This may include contributor payments (refer to NIHR payment guidance), reimbursement of expenses such as travel, training or support, accessibility requirements (e.g. interpreters, accessible materials), independent facilitation, refreshments and materials. Applicants may use INVOLVE's involvement cost calculator to help develop an appropriate PPI budget.	
Other project-related costs	Data access fees, management and sharing (e.g. archiving, repository fees, data storage costs and data management services).	General estates costs (e.g. building and premises, utilities, cleaning waste and other disposal costs).

		General office furniture, stationery, printing and postage costs not associated with the project. Shared catering. Health and safety (e.g. radiation protection costs, first aid kits and signage). Clothing to meet standard health and safety measures. Indemnity and/or organisation insurance.
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