ACT CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS IN CHILD HEALTH

ABOUT ADDENBROOKES CHARITABLE TRUST

Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT) is an independent registered charity and raises funds to support Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CUH). By connecting givers and causes and funding projects and facilities that are beyond the boundaries of the NHS, ACT hopes to achieve the highest possible standards and outcomes for patients and their families through improved clinical care, research and education. The Cambridge Clinical Research Fellowship programme is one of the ways by which ACT supports CUH.

ABOUT THE SCHEME

Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (ACT), in collaboration with the University Department of Paediatrics, is offering one-year clinical research fellow posts in child health research. As Cambridge is moving closer to having a dedicated Children's Hospital and Research Institute, the purpose of these posts is to promote individuals with an interest in child health research.

We are looking for aspiring clinician scientists from any specialty, not only paediatrics, whose research interest is broadly relevant to children. This may include, but is not confined to, non-paediatric medicine and surgery, radiology, haematology, lab specialties, psychiatry, obstetrics, etc. We are looking for individuals who can demonstrate academic talent (e.g. excellent performance as a student; successful completion of "on the side" projects). It is expected that applicants use this time to gain research experience and generate pilot data to enhance applications to external funders leading to a 3 or 4-year programme of research and PhD qualification.

Through this specific scheme ACT aims to build capacity in paediatric research.

ELIGIBILITY (persons and proposed project)

- Clinical Training Fellowships in Child Health are for trainee doctors in paediatrics who are post FY2.
- Post-doctoral clinical research fellowships are for trainees in paediatrics who have completed a PhD.
- There is no requirement for medical fellowship candidates to have existing connections with CUH.

TIMEFRAME FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS AND REVIEW

- The deadline for receipt of preliminary applications (see below) is **20th November 2026.**
- Candidates will be notified in **early December 2026** whether they will be invited to progress to the next stage and submit a full application.
- The deadline for receipt of full application is **21st December 2026**.
- Following full application, candidates may be invited to attend an interview on **20th January 2027** to discuss their application and answer questions.

- Applications will be considered by the Fellowship Review Panel (a sub-group of CUH's Research Advisory Committee.
- Applicants will be advised by letter of the outcome in **June 2027**.
- The expected start date for successful fellowships is **July 2027 onwards**.
- Applicants should take this timeframe into account when planning the start date of their proposed research.

APPLICATIONS

- The application process consists of three stages: preliminary application, full application and interview.
- The preliminary application consists of general applicant information, a copy of a current C.V and a covering letter explaining the reasons for applying and how the fellowship may further career paths. The C.V should be no longer than two pages (10 font size minimum). The cover letter should be no longer than 300 words and include a description of any previous research experience and research publications. These can be uploaded to the ACT funding portal as PDF documents.
- Applications from candidates without an identified potential supervisor and/or project are welcome since, at the preliminary stage, the Fellowship Review Panel can advise and assist in placing the candidate with an appropriate supervisor and in a research field of interest to the candidate.
- Supervisors should hold a substantive or honorary contract with Cambridge University Hospitals. The proposed research should be undertaken within an NHS Department or within the University of Cambridge.
- The full application requires more detailed information regarding the project you intend to carry out and the costings. This will only need to be completed if the applicant is asked to progress to the next stage.
- If invited to interview, applicants are expected to give a short presentation, followed by questions from the panel.
- Before the application is formally submitted, it should be reviewed and endorsed by the Academic Lead for the Directorate / Department in which the research will be undertaken. This should include confirmation of the candidate fellow and supervisor's eligibility and endorsement of the budget.
- Salary costs should be requested at full gross cost (please include all NI and superannuation as provided by the medical staffing or finance team of the expected or current employer). If an incremental salary increase is expected during the fellowship period, please include this within the salary costings.
- Any additional salary costs not included in the application will not subsequently be funded.

Review and selection criteria

ACT is committed to efficient, fair and expert peer review and relies on CUH's Research Advisory Committee (RAC). The objective of the Cambridge Clinical Research Fellowship programme is to provide support for up to one year at the entry point of the training pathway, during which time it is anticipated fellows will apply for nationally competitive fellowships with a view to completing a higher degree. It is anticipated that substantive pilot data and/or developmental work will be generated during the fellowship which will be used to strengthen

external applications. These principles define the selection criteria (given below) that the Fellowship Review Panel may use to review and identify meritorious proposals:

- The personal qualities of the candidate including knowledge of clinical academic training and future aspirations;
- How the candidate will use the fellowship as a springboard towards their training and professional development as a clinical academic;
- The environment in which the research will be conducted and the training that will be provided;
- The nature of the proposed research project including the capacity to generate substantive pilot data or provide valuable experience in a specialist field;
- The likelihood of success i.e. meeting the objectives of the scheme culminating in submission of a competitive application to national fellowship schemes.

Notification

The Fellowship Review Panel forward their recommendations CUH's Research Advisory Committee (RAC) which in turn makes recommendations to ACT's Charitable Expenditure Committee and Trustees. Applicants will be advised by letter of the outcome. In general, a decision is made within four months of receipt of the completed full application. Applicants should take this into account when planning the start date of their proposed research.

Grantee's obligations

Successful applicants are expected to comply with ACT's Grant Agreement including submission of progress reports for review by CUH's RAC.

Applying via ACTs funding portal

Applications should be made via ACT's funding portal: SmartSimple | Addenbrooke's Charitable Trust (smartsimpleuk.com)

- Applicants will need to register and create a password.
- Once logged in to the site, select *Funding Opportunities*, which will display the funding options available.
- Select the ***Cambridge Clinical Research Fellowships in Child Health*** option and click on *Apply now*.
- Please make sure to save draft applications straight away.
- Complete the questions as requested - mandatory questions must be completed before moving on - and attach documents where appropriate.
- Draft applications can be saved for as long as needed, before submission of the application.
- Once an application is submitted an email confirmation will be sent.
- The application status can be tracked via the portal and email notifications regarding any additional information requests, approval, or decline will be sent from this email address: noreply@smartsimple.com.