

NIHR Imperial Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)

NIHR Imperial BRC Immunology Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowship Guidelines 2025

Applications by email to Quasirat Hasnat q.hasnat@imperial.ac.uk by **5pm 28th November 2025**

Applications are invited for Pre-Doctoral Research Fellowships, supported by the NIHR Imperial BRC Immunology Theme. Fellowships will provide up to 12-month salary support for excellent trainees, committed to pursuing an academic research career, where there is a clear path to ongoing academic training. The fellowships must commence in 2026.

1. Scope and Criteria

Proposals will be assessed against the following key criteria:

- The academic track record of the applicant
- Are the objectives clear?
- Is the project value for money?
- Is there a well-developed plan for next-stage career funding? *(Please note that as part of our assessment we will carefully consider if an applicant is likely to get external fellowship funding)*
- Strategic alignment of the proposed research, and/or career path, with BRC Immunology theme objectives

Additional criteria that will be considered:

- Co-funded proposals will be welcomed (e.g. matched-funding contributions).
- Track record of the proposed Fellow and supervisor in acknowledging the BRC in prior publications.
- Cross-BRC Theme and cross-Department/Faculty engagement is encouraged.

2. Fellowship Costings

- Salary costs should be calculated using WorkTribe. Departments should select internal Scheme and costings will need to have been agreed in outline by the relevant Department (an e-mail signifying this will suffice). The WorkTribe record should be attached to your application with the budget broken down in financial years (Apr-Mar). Carryover of budget across financial years is not automatic.
- BRC Fellowships will not normally be funded for more than 12 months, unless there is a strong strategic case and co-funding available.
- Up to £30,000 can be costed for non-staff costs.
- Applications can and should include all necessary PPIE costs.
- All other costs associated with the project must be covered by alternative funding sources and confirmation from the relevant department administrator is required with the application. Please note any projects taking place at ICHT or utilising ICHT patients, facilities and/or data must be costed by ICHT JRO.
- Projects involving animal work are ineligible for support.
- Equipment costs greater than £5,000 are ineligible.
- Awards will not support any estate costs, indirect costs or other staff time.
- Fellows must adhere to all BRC contractual terms and conditions.
- External collaboration and the use of external samples and datasets are permitted. However, all expenditure must be incurred within the Imperial BRC (College or ICHT).
- Written confirmation from the relevant department administrator is required for any proposed matched funding.

To note:

Any fellowships linked to clinical studies must demonstrate it has been accurately costed, approved by Trust JRO and appropriate funds are in place to support the full study. Please send your costing request to imperial.admin_trustresearchcontracts@nhs.net. ICHT JRO require a minimum of two weeks' notice to produce a costing.

The use of large or patient-related datasets in your project will require early discussion with the relevant NHS Trust(s), to determine:

- Feasibility of extracting/providing the clinical data you require, and the relevant clinical systems that will need to be linked
- The cost of clinical data
- Whether any external systems or software will need to be interfaced to existing NHS clinical systems
- Resources and associated costs required to deliver your project requirements
- Compliance with data protection and patient confidentiality frameworks

3. Eligibility

We welcome applications from any clinical background, but you should be at the pre-doctoral training stage. Fellows would normally be working as part of a research group within or closely aligned to the NIHR Imperial BRC Immunology Theme. The proposed Fellow would hold an employment contract with either Imperial College London or Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. There must be a clear plan to obtain follow-on funding to continue academic training. The BRC Immunology Theme Management Committee welcome applications to co-fund training in partnership with individual research groups or departments.

4. Application Review

Proposals should include:

- a covering letter,
- applicant CV,
- completed application form,
- letters of support from sponsors
- WorkTribe Costing
- Departmental Confirmations
- Evidence of any submitted fellowships (if applicable)

All to be submitted to q.hasnat@imperial.ac.uk

Applications will be assessed by the Immunology Theme Management Committee. Sections 4, 7 and 8 of the application will be reviewed by our Community Partners so must be written in lay language. Applications will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria outlined above. Applicants can expect to be notified by January 2026.

5. Reporting & Monitoring Requirements

A brief final report showing outputs and deliverables achieved with this funding will be expected within 1 month of project end date.

6. Acknowledgement of BRC Funding

All publications arising from BRC-funded work (either fully or in-part) must [acknowledge support](#) by the NIHR Imperial BRC. Failure to do so can result in funding being withdrawn.

7. Enquiries

Pre-submission enquiries are encouraged. General enquiries relating to the scope and objectives of this call should be directed to the Theme Leads Matthew Pickering matthew.pickering@imperial.ac.uk and/or Nichola Cooper n.cooper@imperial.ac.uk