# Terms and conditions for the Fulbright Royal College of Surgeons of England Award

**Introduction**

**The Fulbright Royal College of Surgeons of England Award allows UK trainee RCS England members to pursue research into a number of surgical areas at any accredited US higher education institution** including:

* Development of new operative techniques;
* Improvements in patient care and recover;
* Causes of surgical conditions;
* Treatment and procedure.

This grant covers any appropriate three – six month project.

Grantees will not be permitted to practise clinically in the US; research projects must not involve direct contact with patients.

Applicants must be subscribing members of RCS England and remain in good standing order with their membership fees throughout the tenure of the award.

The applicant should be employed by a UK University or NHS Trust.

**Applicants will be asked to notify RCS England indicating their acceptance of the award and their start and completion date, within one month of receipt of the award pack.**

**Grant amount**

£2,275 per month, converted to dollars at the prevailing rate which is intended as a contribution towards any institutional fees and accommodation & maintenance costs while in the USA. This grant will be paid in instalments of US dollars throughout the grant period direct to the recipient, by the US-UK Fulbright Commission.

In addition, the Royal College of Surgeons of England will award a grant to cover the basic NHS salary costs of the awardee, up to the maximum of the resident doctor pay scale, for the duration of their scholarship period (up to a maximum of 6 months) in the United States. This is administered by means of salary recharge invoices issued quarterly in arrears by the employing NHS Trust.

**Applicants should check that this financial arrangement can be accommodated by their NHS employer before applying.**

**No further funds are available beyond the grants stated above, from either the Royal College of Surgeons of England or the US-UK Fulbright commission.**

**Eligibility**

Subscribing trainee members of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in a training post, or trainees who have passed the MCQ papers and will sit the final MRCS examination at this College, are eligible to apply.

Further eligibility criteria may apply, as indicated on the Fulbright Commission website <https://fulbright.org.uk/our-programmes/fulbright-scholarships-to-the-usa/uk-professional/>

**Period of Support**

The award is for a period of between three – six months, and the start date must be within 6 months of the date of award. Whenever possible, the award should be held during a leave of absence from a recognised basic or higher surgical training scheme, so that the applicant has a known position to which to return afterwards. Awards are not renewable.

**Financial Administration**

**Financial Provision**

**The successful applicant will need to remain employed by their NHS employer for the duration of the Fulbright scholarship.**

The Fellowship provides a salary for the grant holder, within the salary scales, by means of a fixed-term contract of employment arranged with the host centre. RCS England will honour any increments and pay awards made during the period of the Fellowship.

**Salaries**

Salaries are assessed in accordance with the standard practice of the host centre: they are normally within the NHS salary scale. They will not exceed the maximum of the resident doctor pay scale. For grant holders on NHS scales it should be assumed that NHS procedures regarding grading and assimilation will be followed, the scale points are merely being used to give annual incrementation on a date in line with the grant holder's previous appointment or the starting date of the award. London allowance is payable where applicable. The host centre should be responsible for sending invoices quarterly in arrears.

**The fellowship award does not include banding or the apprenticeship levy.**

**Claims for Reimbursement**

Claims for reimbursement of salary should be made quarterly in arrears and should be certificated by the finance officer (or other appropriate official) of the centre, and should be sent to the address indicated on the Funding confirmation letter. This should be submitted without delay after the end of the period covered by the claim.

**Alternative Funding**

Details of funding in connection with the project, from other external bodies **either prior to or subsequent to** the award must be stated in writing to the RCS England Research Committee not later than six weeks of its being known.

**Employment Status**

The applicant should be employed by a UK University or NHS Trust for the duration of the award period.

**Conditions for Application**

Applications and Fulbright-RCS England awards are made on the understanding that the host centre, the supervisor and the applicant agree to accept the terms and conditions relating to the scheme and any amendments issued during the course of the award.

**Contractual Status of Grant Recipients**

An award under these terms will normally be administered through a fixed-term contract of employment between the grant holder and their NHS employer, for the period of the award. The emoluments provided under the grant are chargeable to income tax under Schedule E (PAYE) and Class 1 National Insurance contributions will be payable in accordance with the *Social Security Act* 1973.

Where grant holders are to be admitted to the superannuation scheme appropriate to employees of the host centre, the full cost to the employer of superannuation provision will be reimbursed by RCS England. RCS England accepts no responsibility for claims under the *Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act* 1978 and/or any subsequent employment legislation, nor will it indemnify the host centre against claims for compensation or against other claims for which the centre may be liable as an employer.

**Diplomates day**

Each grant holder will be expected to attend one of the biannual RCS England Diplomates Day ceremonies to receive their Fulbright RCS England Award certificate – this is the only method of receiving the certificate.

**Holidays**

Grant holders must take holidays in accordance with the conditions of service of the host centre up to a maximum of six weeks during a complete year. The date and duration of any holiday proposed beyond this period should be reported to RCS England.

**Sick Leave**

Grant holders will be subject to the normal conditions of service of the host centre so far as sick leave is concerned, but the Research department should be notified if a grant holder is likely to be away through illness for more than a month.

**Parental Leave**

Grant holders will be subject to the normal conditions of service of the host centre for parental leave. RCS England should be notified in writing if parental leave is required, at which point further advice will be provided.

**Honorary Clinical Contracts**

Fellows who undertake, as part of their research programme, work concerned with the care of patients are reminded that they should be in possession of an honorary clinical contract from the appropriate health authority. Responsibility for seeking such a contract will lie with the head of the department in which the Fellow is working. Should any difficulties be encountered, RCS England should be informed.

**Medical Defence Cover**

It is the responsibility of each grant holder to ensure that they hold adequate cover with a professional defence organisation for any activities undertaken which are not covered by NHS indemnity arrangements or by an additional provision which may be made by the host centre. The cost of any such cover will not be met by RCS England.

**General Administration**

**Change of Project or Supervisor**

Any changes in a grant holder's training programme or supervisor from those originally approved by RCS England require RCS England’s prior consent.

**Final Report and Subsequent Post**

Grant holders are required to submit a report on a form which will be supplied at the end of the award.

**Publications**

The preliminary findings and results of a grant holder’s work may be published in the usual way at the discretion of the supervisor or head of department. RCS England **must** be acknowledged as the source of funds in any publication dealing with the work carried out during the tenure of a grant. Publications and papers should be forwarded to the Research Department.

**Presentations**

From time to time the grant holder may be requested to make presentations on behalf of RCS England at fund raising and open evenings. The grant holder should make a claim for expenses to the Research Department on the appropriate claim form.

**Commercial Exploitation**

RCS England is concerned to promote the transfer of research discoveries, ideas and techniques to industry and to those who deliver health care. Supervisors should therefore keep under continuous review the question of whether the work has potential industrial application, taking appropriate action in accordance with the protection and exploitation of research findings.

Supervisors are reminded that any form of ‘disclosure’ whether in journals or at learned society meetings, may prejudice subsequent filing of a patent application. If grant holder has a successful outcome to any patent application, based on RCS England funded work, RCS England wishes its contribution to be acknowledged.