# Terms and conditions for the Honorary Research Fellowship Scheme

**Introduction**

Members of the College who are applying for an RCS England One Year Surgical Research Fellowship who successfully secure alternative funding to support their first significant research project may be eligible to be awarded an RCS England Honorary Research Fellowship.  Applications for an Honorary research fellowship are subject to the same review process as a funded fellowship application, with peer reviewers and the panel for Viva Day not being aware of the applicant’s alternative funding. Successful applicants will need to seek approval from their funding provider.

Applicants may research any aspect of surgery or surgical care including basic science, diagnosis, treatment, surgical technology, or audit or issues related to DEI in surgery or healthcare provision in particular surgical research that will assist in work to address healthcare inequalities.  The main criteria for those interested in applying are to delineate important research questions, with an appropriate study design, which can be completed within the year of the fellowship.  The research can also be self-contained or part of a wider research programme.  The supervisor plays a key role in helping with the writing and structure of the application, as well as offering support during the research year.

Applicants should ideally be registered for a higher degree and want to complete a dedicated year of research in support of their first significant research project.  A successfully awarded fellow will be eligible to attend the two day research methods course, attend the Diplomates ceremony, and take advantage of any other opportunities available to an RCS England Research Fellow that may arise.

**Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in July each year and 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.**

**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. SAS Surgeon members of the College are also eligible to apply, but maximum salary point cannot exceed ST6-8, Nodal point 5 on the resident doctor pay scale.

**RCS England membership status**

Membership subscription must remain up to date from application through to at least the end of the fellowship period

Membership subscription will need to remain up to date in order for the fellow to be considered for any other benefits, prizes or opportunities that may arise for an RCS England research fellow beyond the fellowship term.

**Period of Support**

Fellowships will normally be held for one year, with the start date being within 6 months of the date of award. Whenever possible, the Fellowship year should be held during a year’s 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. Fellowships are not renewable.

**Employment Status**

**Conditions for Application**

Applications and Research Fellowship awards are made on the understanding that the host centre, the supervisor and the applicant agree to accept the regulations and conditions relating to the scheme and any amendments issued during the course of the award. The Honorary Research Fellow must seek approval from the funder who is providing financial support for their research, before applying for an Honorary fellowship.

**Clinical Trials**

RCS England is keen to engage more proactively in surgical trials and during the year, the Research Fellow may be asked to participate, for example, by recruiting patients to such trials.

**Diplomates day**

Each Research Fellow will be expected to attend one of the biannual RCS England Diplomates Day ceremonies to receive their Research Fellowship certificate – this is the only method of receiving the certificate.

**Research Methods Course**

Each Research Fellow will be expected to attend the two day research methods course run, and paid for, by RCS England.

**Sick Leave**

Fellows 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 Fellow is likely to be away through illness for more than a month.

**Parental Leave**

Fellows 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.

**Less than full time (LTFT) Contracts**

Trainees who are working in approved LTFT posts are welcomed, noting

* Their time working should be wholly focused on research – we cannot support a candidate wanting to undertake a split between research and clinical activity.
* The fellowship must be completed within two years.

**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 Fellow to ensure that s/he holds 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**

The fellowship is awarded only for the project detailed in the application form and identified on the award letter.

**Change of Circumstance**

RCS England must be notified of any changes in a Fellow's training programme, project or supervisor (or wider circumstances) from those originally approved at which point further advice will be provided.

**Interim, and Final Report and Subsequent Post**

Fellows are required to submit a report on a form which will be supplied at six months and one year of their period of research on the work undertaken and to inform RCS England of the appointment they propose to undertake on the conclusion of the award.

**Publications**

The preliminary findings and results of a Fellow's work may be published in the usual way at the discretion of the supervisor or head of department. Publications and papers should be forwarded to the Research Department.

**Presentations**

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

**Commercial Exploitation**

The Royal College of Surgeons of England is concerned to promote the transfer of research discoveries, ideas and techniques to industry and to those who deliver health care. Research fellows and 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.