**NIHR Research Professorships & Global Research Professorships**

N.B. Full details can only be known when the latest call is launched but the following is based on previous rounds of the competition. Full details can be found here: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/research-professorships.htm#one>

**Brief summary of scheme eligibility and assessment criteria**

These fixed 5-year awards allow outstanding academics to work at professorial-level based at a UK Higher Education Institution in partnership with an NHS organisation or LMIC organisation. There are two strands:

* NIHR Research Professorships - up to five awards per round
* NIHR Global Research Professorships - up to four awards per round

**Demand management cap**

(*If* the same as last time)

A maximum of **two** nominations will be permitted per HEI for the (non-global) NIHR Research Professorships. Where two nominees are put forward for consideration for the NIHR Research Professorship, at least one of these **must** be female;

As part of NIHR’s commitment to supporting and promoting equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), allowance is now being made for host institutions to nominate up to 3 individuals to the programme provided at least 1 applicant is from an ethnic minority group. This will be in addition to the requirement of ensuring that at least 1 applicant is female if more than 1 nomination is made as described above.

A maximum of **two** nomination will be permitted per HEI for the NIHR Global Research Professorships. Where two nominees are put forward for consideration for the NIHR Global Research Professorship, at least one of these **must** be female.

**Eligibility/what kind of candidates?**

Competitive candidates will demonstrate a steep career trajectory over the last 5-10 years (considering any relevant breaks in employment), on course to becoming an outstanding research leader. They will currently be at an early career stage having spent **no more than five years at their current level of seniority at the time of application** (whether as a Professor, Reader, Senior Lecturer/Fellow, Clinician Scientist, Group Leader or similar). Nominees at/close to the Professorial level should be qualified for a Professorship within the coming few years or recently have been appointed as a Professor (full Professor, not Associate or Assistant). They should not already be established leaders in their field, but be on an upward trajectory to become leaders after the period of the award.

Nominees should be working in the fields of experimental medicine, public health, health services research, social care research or methodological research. They should have a demonstrable record in effective translation of research into improved health, public health or adult social care. NIHR have previously received applications from some public health, social care and non-medically qualified healthcare professions; however, these numbers have been small and they would like to see them increase. These include, but are not restricted to: Health economists, medical statisticians, methodologists, epidemiologists, nurses, midwives, allied health professionals (speech & language therapists, occupational therapists etc.), dentists, health care scientists, social workers, social care staff, social scientists, non-medical public health practitioners, clinical psychologists, analytical chemists, anthropologists, pharmacists, research scientists, nutritionists, medical physicists, medical engineers, radiographers, bio-mechanical engineers, bio-statisticians and bio-informatics.

For those not directly involved in delivering clinical, public health or care services, you will need to demonstrate how you will link with clinical, public health or care practice colleagues in order to deliver your research for the benefit of patients, public health or adult social care users.

Nominees who were unsuccessful in previous rounds of the NIHR Research Professorships will be eligible to be re-nominated by the institutional partnership, if they meet the criteria. NIHR Senior Investigators are not eligible to apply.

Any global candidate must be undertaking research which aims to directly and primarily benefit patients and the public in countries on the OECD DAC list. NIHR Global Research Professorship nominees will be required to have existing strong collaborations or links with collaborators or partners in institutions in countries on the OECD DAC list and that the award should plan to strengthen these/support training and capacity development/mentorship in these partners.

**What’s available?**

* Average funding: £1.5-1.7M
* Professor’s salary for 5 years
* Support posts: typically available are: five year post-doc, 3-year post-doc, 3-year doctoral posts.
* Various travel, consumables, training costs, equipment, consumables.
* Prof’s salary to be recycled by the HEI in support of the professorship (plus any additional support provided that will directly benefit the applicant).
* NIHR Research Professors will be funded to continue to spend up to 2 sessions per week delivering service directly or, if the nominee is not a health, public health or care professional, an equivalent time collaborating with others to facilitate service delivery.

**Assessment Criteria**

Applications are assessed on the following criteria:

* Demonstration of the nominee’s current capabilities as a research leader;
* The outputs from and impact of research undertaken to date;
* The success of the nominee in securing funds for their research to date;
* Demonstration of a steep career trajectory to date over the last 5-10 years;
* The likelihood that the nominee will make a long-term contribution to research, capacity building and research leadership in their chosen field (and for Global candidates, in the OECD DAC list country or countries in which they are working)
* The projected impact of the NIHR Research Professorship on the nominee’s career and future research trajectory;
* The quality of the proposed research programme and the likelihood of it securing future external funding;
* The suitability of the proposed partnership between the HEI and partner organisation for the development of the Research Professor;
* The commitment of the proposed host institution to support the nominee in the short, medium and long term and commitment of the provider to empowering promotion of translation at a local level;
* The strategic significance and value of the nominee and their research to the host institution at a local and national level;
* The appropriateness of resources claimed and whether the total funding requested represents good value for the use of public/NIHR funds.

In addition, for Global candidates:

* Demonstration as to how and why a specific issue or discipline has been identified for research as an LMIC priority area and unmet need (which may include engagement with relevant stakeholders e.g. policy makers, practitioners, patients, service users, carers), and how the research programme and partnerships will address this;
* The fulfilment of ODA eligibility criteria:
	+ Will the research directly benefit a country or countries on the OECD DAC list of ODA eligible countries?
	+ Is the proposal directly and primarily relevant to the development challenges of this country/these countries?
	+ Could the proposal’s outcomes promote the health and welfare of a country or countries from the OECD DAC list of ODA eligible countries?
* Where researchers wish to work with middle-income countries on the OECD DAC list the application should demonstrate how the research will benefit the health and welfare of the poorest and/or most vulnerable groups of people in those countries and how their findings could have wider applicability to other low-income countries.
* A strong track record in global health, public health or social care, and evidence of relevant and substantive LMIC collaborations and partnerships to support the application. Evidence of input by collaborators to the content and design of the proposed research programme, and an outline of how they will be equitably engaged throughout implementation, analysis, reporting and dissemination.