**Wales Commercial Research Delivery funding (VPAG)**

**VPAG Workforce Fellowships Call 2025-2026**

**Guidance and application form**

1. **Overview**

Health and Care Research Wales is opening a VPAG fellowships call for costs incurred from the 1 July 2025 until 31 March 2026.

This call will ensure that the VPAG investment creates development opportunities for staff across professional groups with limited exposure to and experience of research. The aim is:

* To support research workforce development by increasing commercial research exposure for all professional groups (including medical, dental, nursing, midwifery, allied health professions, health care science, pharmacy) regardless of research experience
* Build future workforce capacity and skills in commercial research delivery though development of staff across professional groups
* To grow agility and responsiveness in commercial research delivery through the development of principal investigators (PIs)

Fellowship applications must demonstrate a focus on one of the following:

**Research interest fellowship - time to increase exposure to commercial research delivery and undertake training and development**

Examples of what this might include:

* Shadow commercial trial delivery in practice, attend a related workshop or conference, undertake Good Clinical Practice or informed consent training

Who might be interested:

* Those with an interest in research delivery, including commercial research, but who previously have not had time to explore this

**Research skills fellowship - time to build capacity and skills in commercial research delivery**

Examples of what this might include:

* Provide or access mentorship in research delivery, run workshops or research engagement events, support a service improvement directly related to increasing commercial research delivery

Who might be interested:

* For those with existing commercial research delivery experience

**PI development fellowship - time specifically dedicated for PI training, development and experience in commercial research delivery**

What this might include

* Receiving mentorship with a PI on a commercial study, attending PI specific training, shadowing in commercial research delivery settings beyond own workplace e.g. clinical research facility, primary care

Who might be interested:

* Associate PIs, experienced research delivery staff, all professions specialist and advanced practitioners, consultant staff with research delivery experience and skills

1. **Eligibility Criteria**

* The call is open to staff from all clinical specialties, all professional groups, all specialist services and the clinical research infrastructure within the NHS and Higher Education Institutions
* Reference to broad exposure to commercial research activity should be a feature of all applications

1. **Out of Scope**

Below are examples of out-of-scope requests (the list is not exhaustive):

* Requests related exclusively to the delivery of non-commercial research
* Requests for research idea development
* Requests which are already funded through an affiliated or parallel scheme

1. **How to apply and submission deadline**

This is a rolling funding call, and a decision will be made within four weeks of a submitted application. Applications must be submitted to [research-fundingsupport@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:research-fundingsupport@wales.nhs.uk) using the proforma below (section 7).

1. **Questions or Queries**

If you have any questions or queries regarding this funding call, please contact:

[jayne.goodwin@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:jayne.goodwin@wales.nhs.uk) National Head of Research Delivery NMAHPs

or

[lydia.vitolo@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:lydia.vitolo@wales.nhs.uk) Senior Industry Manager

1. **Declaration**

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| Applicants are required to adhere to:  Reference to broad exposure to commercial research activity should be a feature of all applications.  Applicants agree to be contacted at the end of the financial year (31 March 2026) to complete a questionnaire which will support the national team to measure the impact of this call. |

1. **Funding Requests Form**

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| **Host organisation:** |  |
| **Lead applicant:** |  |
| **Total amount of funding requested 2025/26** |  |

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| **Request:** | **Which fellowship objective this relates to (i.e. research interest, research skills or PI development):** | **Brief overview of planned activities & justification of the request:** | **WTE and Duration:** | **Cost in 25/26:** |
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