



WTCGHR Research Placement Scheme – Concept Note

Objective

To operate a placement scheme between WTCGHR partner institutions and other established research locations, in order to develop high quality individuals in to competitive Wellcome Trust fellowship applicants.

Concept

The Wellcome Trust Liverpool Glasgow Centre for Global Health Research (WTCGHR) intends to offer financial support for a placement scheme. The aim is to support high quality individuals to conduct placements at selected research locations, so as to build their experience & skills, in order to increase their competitiveness when applying for Wellcome Trust fellowships through the Centre.

The scheme will be available, similarly to the Flexible Funding Pot, throughout the period of the Centre's current core grant, whilst funds remain available.

Nature of placements to be supported

Placements supported by WTCGHR will typically be short term arrangements of no longer than 3-6 months. The individual will participate in a pre-arranged series of activities, typically within an ongoing research project, and will be closely supervised by an academic supervisor(s) – most likely who will already be known to the Centre.

A stipend to cover reasonable expenses not limited to travel & accommodation, subsistence, travel/health insurance for the duration of the placement and a limited per-diem, will be provided.

Placements can only be supported where the intended location has strong supervisory and administrative support in place. WTCGHR **must** be satisfied of this before a placement application can be considered.

Promotion and targeting

Whilst talented UK/EU candidates can be supported; the scheme will primarily target promising candidates from Low to Middle Income Countries (L-MIC), most likely identified by WTCGHR academic colleagues in the course of their own activities.

The placement scheme will be promoted through the Centre's Board and Steering Group membership, and will also be an option for development of candidates identified the WTCGHR Assessment Pipeline.

Application Process

Applicants should be associated with an academic supervisor in the host organisation before an application is submitted. This can occur either through the Centre's assessment pipeline, whereby a WTCGHR academic colleague will make the necessary introduction, or through a pre-existing research relationship.

Applicants must be in a position to satisfy the criteria set by the Centre and the Wellcome Trust for a competitive fellowship application at the end of the placement. It must also be the intention of the applicant to submit a fellowship through the Centre after the placement period has ended, and that this fellowship be based at the location of the placement.

Any Immigration & visa issues will need to be investigated by the applicant, prior to submitting application; WTCGHR can assist with administrative paperwork where necessary.

Applicants & host organisation supervisors must complete an application form, to include the following information:

1. A brief outline of the research activity and/or training that the applicant will pursue
2. Brief summary of costs expected to be incurred (WTCGHR will assist with producing a budget for the period of the placement in advance of an application)
3. A short supporting statement completed by the host academic supervisor, including their expectations for the applicant's progression to a fellowship application.
4. Confirmation of host organisation HR policies for short term placements
5. Confirmation of any immigration/visa issues that may affect the placement
6. Applicant CV

The WTCGHR Steering Group will review applications received at planned bi-monthly meetings, or on an incidental basis if the applicant is deemed to require a more urgent response.

Applicants may be interviewed by WTCGHR academic staff during the application process.

Evaluation:

The Steering Group will review applications using criteria such as:

- Overall quality of applicant (basic eligibility for WT Fellowship at end of placement, assessment of CV, quality of interview)
- Nature of planned activities that the applicant will undertake, and relevance to the Centre (match with research interests, likelihood for success at WT fellowship application)
- Quality of academic supervision
- Quality of HR & operational support for the applicant at the host organisation
- Justification of proposed costs and value for money
- Potential for positive weighting of applications from LMI-C countries.

On completion of the placement the individual and academic supervisors will complete a short written report outlining outputs, and milestones to a fellowship application.

The Centre will retain summary information on all applications to the scheme.