

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

AACR-CANCER RESEARCH UK
TRANSATLANTIC FELLOWSHIPS



American Association
for Cancer Research*



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Questions about eligibility/suitability:

Do I have to be a citizen of the U.S./U.K. to apply?

No, citizenship is not an eligibility criterion for this scheme. However, you need to meet the eligibility/suitability criteria as outlined in the application guidelines.

I have a PhD from the U.S. I am currently doing research in the U.K., and I am actively looking for a postdoctoral fellow position in the U.S. Am I eligible to apply for this Fellowship?

As your PhD has been obtained in the U.S., that would be considered your home country. You should spend the majority of the fellowship in the visiting country, which in this case, would be the U.K.

I have a PhD from the U.K. I am currently doing research in the U.S., and I am actively looking for a postdoctoral fellow position in the U.K. Am I eligible to apply for this Fellowship?

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I am currently a graduate student and I expect to have my degree conferred by the start of the grant term. Am I eligible to apply for this Fellowship?

Yes, predoctoral students in the final year of their PhD studies are invited to apply. Applicants must have their degree conferred (have completed their PhD viva) by the start of the grant term. Grants can start between February 1, 2020 and April 1, 2020.

General Questions about the scheme's remit:

What experience will I gain from this Fellowship?

These fellowships will allow you to attain experience early on in your scientific career (directly after your PhD) in developing your own research internationally, establishing your research niche, and building your own network, while still being supported by leading scientists in the field (Research Sponsors). These fellowships provide fellows with more independence than regular postdoctoral fellowships, as it is expected that the fellows articulate the research question, drive the project, and decide which research groups are the most suitable for the successful completion of the project. It is advised that the Research Sponsors and Independent Academic Careers Adviser provide the applicant with help and advice on e.g. grantsmanship.

The following graph illustrates an example of this Fellowship:

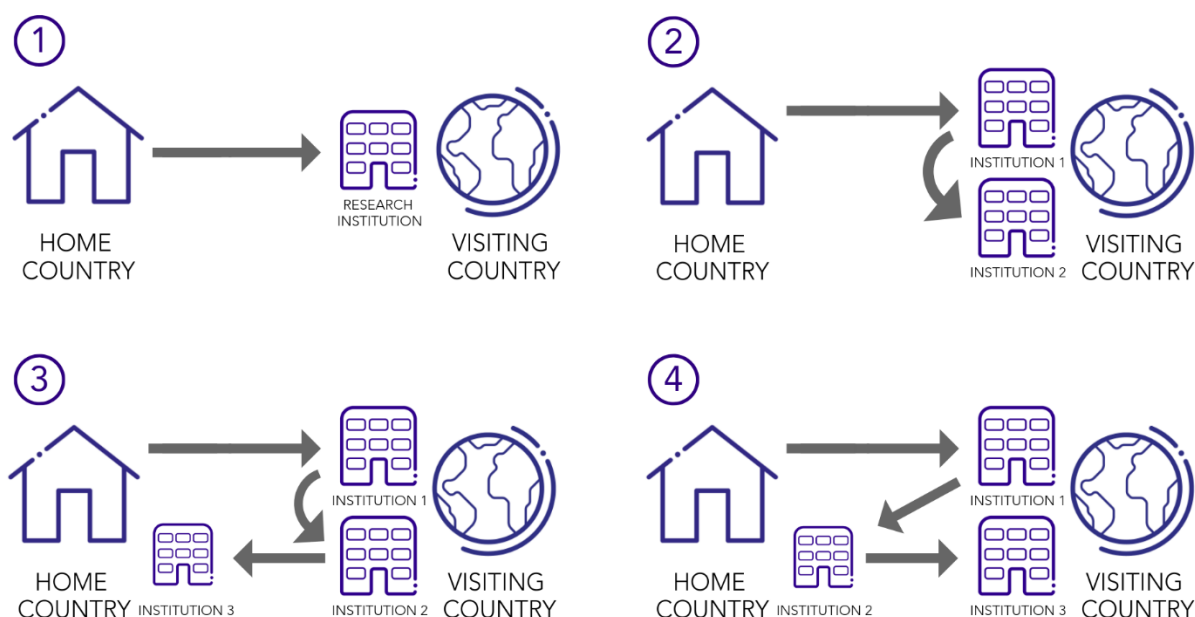


Figure 1: Four examples of how the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships may be held (these fellowships could be held with different arrangements to the ones shown in this illustration). 1) In **Example 1** the fellow would spend the 4 years of their fellowship in a single Research Host Institution in the Visiting Country. 2) **Example 2** represents a fellow spending the 4 years of their fellowship in the Visiting Country, splitting their time between 2 Research Host Institutions. 3) In **Example 3** the fellow conducts their research in two different Research Host Institutions in the Visiting Country and finishes the fellowship term with a short research visit in the Home Country. 4) **Example 4** illustrates a fellow starting their fellowship in the Visiting Country, returning for a short period of time to the Home Country and going back to the Visiting Country for a final research visit at a different Research Host Institution.

I recently finished my PhD in the U.K., and have recently started a postdoctoral position in the U.K. My current postdoctoral supervisor has suggested a project for me to work on in the U.S. and apply for this scheme and has introduced me to some of their collaborators in the U.S. where I can do the project. Is this scheme the right fit for me?

Ideally, you should be the driving force behind the inception and development of the research project. If you can demonstrate your scientific independence and maturity, as well as your contribution to the design of the project, this scheme might be a good fit. Additionally, the statement justifying the choice of Research Hosts will be evaluated by the Scientific Review Committee, to ensure that you will be able to develop your own independence.

I have come up with an independent project and I am currently exploring if this project could be hosted by different potential research sponsors both in the U.K. and the U.S. Is this something the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships would fund?

Yes, these are the sort of applications we aim to receive, from applicants that have the scientific maturity and independence to articulate their own research questions, while still receiving mentorship and finding appropriate Research Hosts.

Questions about Administering Institutions, Research Sponsors and Research Host Institutions:

I finished my PhD in the U.S. and just started my postdoctoral research in the U.K. Do I have to find another lab in the U.K. in order to apply for this Fellowship?

That shouldn't be necessary, provided you have been in the U.K. laboratory less than 6 months at the moment of application. You may want to incorporate additional Research visits/Research Hosts to your project, to ensure that you are exposed to different research environments.

You will also need to demonstrate your independence and scientific maturity; that is, that you are not just conducting the project as determined by your supervisor, but rather that your scientific insights have been instrumental in developing the project.

I finished my PhD in the U.K. and just started my postdoctoral research in the U.S. Do I have to find another lab in the U. S. in order to apply for this Fellowship?

That shouldn't be necessary, provided you have been in the U.S. laboratory less than 6 months at the moment of application. You may want to incorporate additional Research visits/Research Hosts to your project, to ensure that you are exposed to different research environments.

You will also need to demonstrate your independence and scientific maturity; that is, that you are not just conducting the project as determined by your supervisor, but rather that your scientific insights have been instrumental in developing the project.

If I have more than 6 months of postdoctoral experience, will I have more chance of being successful in terms of my AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowship application?

This scheme is aimed at recently graduated PhDs. If you have more postdoctoral experience, this scheme might not be the right fit. Applicants will be evaluated commensurate with their experience, within the outlined suitability/eligibility criteria (recent PhD graduate, or limited postdoctoral experience).

I am about to finish my PhD in the U.K. and intend to go to 2 laboratories in the U.S. during the four years of the fellowship. Can I use my current host organization, where I am conducting my PhD, as Administering Organization?

Yes, that is perfectly allowable.

I am about to finish my PhD in the U.K. and intend to go to 2 laboratories in the U.S. for the first 3 years of the fellowship, and then return to my PhD supervisor's research group for the last year of the fellowship. Can I use my current host organization, where I am conducting my PhD, as Administering Organization for the fellowship, as well as Research Host Organization during the last year?

Yes, you potentially can. If you intend to plan a research visit as part of this fellowship at your PhD supervisor's research group, you will need to clearly justify how this will aid you attain scientific independence from your supervisor and how it will be beneficial for the project.

I am conducting my PhD at organization "X" in the UK. I intend to spend 3 years at a U.S. Research Host Organization ("Y"), and a final year at Organization "Z" in the U.K. Can I use Organization "Z" as both the Administering Organization for the whole fellowship and the Research Host Organization for one of my research visits?

Yes, you can use organization "Z" as both the Administering Organization, and the Research Host.

Can AACR/CRUK assist me in identifying laboratories in the U.S./U.K. to conduct the Transatlantic Fellowship?

Host laboratories should be world class. While we cannot directly advise on the identification of the hosting laboratories for each of the project and research disciplines, we suggest that the chosen Research Hosts are regarded as experts in the field, and recognized by the wider scientific community.

In the U.K., CRUK supports Centers and Institutes, which are at the heart of our strategy to beat cancer sooner. It is a network of 14 translational research centres and 4 Institutes delivering world-leading research that accelerates the transition of lab-based discovery to the clinic for the benefit of people affected by cancer. You can find more information about each of the locations [here](#).

In the U.S., please contact AACR's Scientific Review and Grants Administration department via email at grants@aacr.org should you require guidance on selecting an appropriate research institution.

Questions about the process:

What is the application process?

There is a three-step application process:

1. You will need to submit a letter of intent, which will be reviewed and shortlisted by the Committee

2. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full application, which will be reviewed and shortlisted by the Committee

3. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an on-site interview with the Committee at the AACR headquarters in Philadelphia, PA, US

The following graph explains the timeframe of the application process:



Figure 2: Overview of the Application Process

How long should I expect to spend in the U.S./U.K. over the course of the fellowship?

If you are an applicant coming from the U.S. (Home Country), we expect you to spend most of the fellowship in the U.K. (Visiting Country), and vice-versa as one of the objectives of this fellowship is to allow the fellow to develop their own (international) research network.

What is the maximum number of research visits that I can undertake?

You must plan your research visits according to your research plan, so that you maximize your exposure to new scientific environments and use/learn the different technologies and expertise present on each of these while ensuring that the project is successfully completed.

If selected, can AACR/CRUK assist me with the visa process?

For applicants visiting the U.S. from the U.K., we would expect the Research Host Organizations to facilitate the process of requesting a visa in the U.S.

For applicants visiting the U.K. from the U.S., CRUK can help applicants get an Exceptional Promise Tier 1 visa. Please find more information [here](#).

Who should I contact if I have a question that is not listed here?

Please contact AACR about eligibility/suitability at grants@aacr.org.

Please contact ProposalCENTRAL for inquiries about the application forms at: 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), +1-703-964-5840 (Direct Dial International), or by e-mail to pcsupport@altum.com.