

AACR-CANCER RESEARCH UK TRANSATLANTIC FELLOWSHIPS

2019 LETTER OF INTENT GUIDELINES



American Association
for Cancer Research*



CANCER
RESEARCH
UK

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Purpose of these guidelines

These guidelines explain the aim of the Letter of Intent stage for the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships. All applicants need to submit a Letter of Intent and if successful, they will be invited to submit a full application.

1.2. About the partners: AACR and CRUK



**CANCER
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Cancer Research UK (CRUK) is the largest independent funder of cancer research in Europe, and the world's leading charity dedicated to cancer research. Today, 2 in 4 people survive their cancer for at least 10 years; Cancer Research UK's ambition is to accelerate progress so that by 2034, 3 in 4 people will survive their cancer for at least 10 years. We fund high-calibre, innovative research that we believe has the potential to provide the greatest benefit to the public and cancer patients.

Our diverse portfolio spans a breadth of research areas, from fundamental discovery research to understand the biology and causes of cancer, through translational research to bring the latest discoveries to the benefit of patients, to drug discovery to identify potential new treatments, clinical research to deliver the best treatments for patients, and population-level research covering epidemiology, prevention and early detection of cancer. For further information about Cancer Research UK's work or to find out how to support the charity, please call 0300 123 1022 or visit www.cancerresearchuk.org.



American Association
for Cancer Research®

FINDING CURES TOGETHER®

Founded in 1907, the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR) is the world's first and largest professional organization dedicated to advancing cancer research and its mission to

prevent and cure cancer. AACR has over 42,000 members in 120 countries and territories around the world; over 30 percent of members live outside the United States and Canada. Twenty percent (20%) of AACR's international members are located in countries with emerging economies. The AACR offers seven categories of membership to support each aspect of our members' professional development and enhancement in cancer research. In support of the professional development of early-career investigators, no annual dues are required for Associate membership. The AACR marshals the full spectrum of expertise of the cancer community to accelerate progress in the prevention, biology, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer by annually convening more than 30 conferences and educational workshops, the largest of which is the AACR Annual Meeting with more than 22,500 attendees. In addition, the AACR publishes eight prestigious, peer-reviewed scientific journals and a magazine for cancer survivors, patients, and their caregivers. The AACR funds meritorious research directly as well as in cooperation with numerous cancer organizations. As the Scientific Partner of Stand Up To Cancer, the AACR provides expert peer review, grants administration, and scientific oversight of team science and individual investigator grants in cancer research that have the potential for near-term patient benefit. The AACR actively communicates with legislators and other policymakers about the value of cancer research and related biomedical science in saving lives from cancer. For more information about the AACR, visit www.AACR.org.

1.3. About the award

The AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowship is a four-year postdoctoral fellowship programme to support promising early stage postdoctoral researchers to pursue their projects both in the U.K. and the U.S. It represents a joint effort from AACR and CRUK to support exceptional investigators interested in beginning their independent postdoctoral research careers. Funds provided through this mechanism will allow fellows to embark on research projects conducted at the best research environments in either the U.K. or the U.S. and will present a unique opportunity to forge international collaborations that will help these early career investigators to establish their independent research careers.

Fellowship recipients are encouraged to use this funding to leverage their career advancement and are welcome to take the funding with them to multiple institutions, as is necessary to accelerate their entry into an independent research career.

1.4. What is funded

AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships provide funding for 4 years (non-renewable).

U.S. to U.K. Successful applicants will receive \$400,000 in total.

U.K. to U.S. Successful applicants will receive £300,000 in total.

The award money can be used to fund:

- The salary and benefits (oncost, pension, insurance, etc.) of the fellow. It is expected that fellows will receive a salary commensurate with their experience and achievements.
- Non-personnel expenses, such as:
 - research/laboratory supplies
 - other research expenses
 - travel in economy airfare class ticket i.e. travel to/from their Research Host Institutions, as per scientific needs, travel to AACR annual meetings. Costs associated with personal travel are not permitted.
 - publication charges for manuscripts that pertain directly to the funded project (**please note only applicable for U.S. to U.K. fellows**)
- Funds cannot be used to cover Overheads or Indirect Costs.

Additional benefits include attendance to AACR Annual Meeting during the 4 years of the fellowship, attendance to grants reception and dinner at AACR Annual Meeting 2020 and invitations to conference and networking events organized by CRUK. Please check Section 6.1 for further information.

1.5. Glossary of terms

Letters of Intent: Letters of Intent have also been called “preliminary applications”, “expressions of interest”, “pre-applications”, “concept papers” or “letters of inquiry”, by other funders. An AACR Letter of Intent is an application tool designed to identify applicants and projects with the greatest scientific potential and alignment with the Program Guidelines without requiring applicants to first submit a full application. No budget will be required at this stage, although the applicant should have discussed their intentions with all parties involved. A Letter of Intent is not written as *correspondence* to the Scientific Review Committee, but instead follows a prescribed template which gathers information summarizing the proposed research project and career development plan.

Home Country: This is the country where the fellow is currently conducting or recently completed their PhD (either the U.K. or the U.S.). Alternatively, if the applicant does not have a PhD from the U.S. or the U.K., it is the country where they have been conducting research for at least 6 months **at the moment of application**. This is the country where the **Administering Institution** will be based. They will be expected to spend the majority of the fellowship in the visiting country.

Visiting Country: This is the country where the fellow is expected to spend the majority of the fellowship. If the applicant is a U.K. doctoral graduate, the visiting country would be the U.S. and vice-versa. If the applicant does not have a PhD from the U.S. or the U.K. but is currently based in either of those, it would be the country they will be visiting, that needs to be different from the one they are currently in.

Administering Institutions: This will be the institution in the **home country** of the applicant (either the U.S. or the U.K.), that will be managing the financial aspects of the award for the duration of the fellowship. Applicants may or may not undertake any **research visit** in these institutions. See examples in the [FAQ Appendix](#) at the end of this document, or [here](#).

Research Host Institutions: These will be the institutions where the applicant will be undertaking research. The principal investigator with whom the applicants will be working will be the “**Research Sponsor**” and will be based at the **Research Host institutions**. Applicants may also undertake “**Research Visits**” in their **home country** (either the U.K. or U.S.), although it is expected that the applicant spends the majority of the fellowship in the **visiting country**. See examples in the [FAQ Appendix](#) at the end of this document, or [here](#). The **Research Host Institutions** are expected to be world-class research institutions both in the U.K. and in the U.S. The applicant will decide on the duration and frequency of the **research visits** and number of **Research Host Institutions**, as per the research project needs.

Research Sponsor(s): These will be the principal investigator(s) with whom the fellow will be undertaking research work, based at the **Research Host Institution**. The Research Sponsor is expected to be a recognized figure in the cancer field. At the Letter of Intent stage, no letters of support will be requested from Research Sponsor(s), although it is expected that the applicant has discussed their intentions and willingness to undertake a research project with their **Research Sponsor(s)** and the Sponsor has agreed to host them.

Research Visit: This is the time applicants spend at each of the **Research Host institutions**. This can range from a single research stay for 4 years at a single **Research Host Institution** in the **visiting country**, or several shorter **research visits** at different **Research Host Institutions**, that may be both in the U.K. and the U.S. The majority of the research visits should be undertaken in the **visiting country**. See examples in the [FAQ Appendix](#) at the end of this document, or [here](#).

Independent Academic Career Adviser: A senior independent researcher who can advise the fellow about career development, and future research directions, independently of their line-management structure, and ideally based at a different institution. The Independent Academic Career Adviser is someone who takes a special interest in helping the fellow to develop into a successful professional. In the research context, this includes any support for the fellow to develop their research profile and activities. The Independent Academic Career Adviser should not be the fellow’s supervisor, line manager, nor any of the Research Sponsors the applicant is going to work with during the fellowship, but someone independent (i.e. a former or current collaborator, etc).

2. SCHEME GUIDELINES

2.1. Remit of the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships

What is suitable for the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships?

Applications for an AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowship may be focused on any (or more than one) of the research areas stated below, as long as the research proposal is cancer-relevant, and clearly articulates the cancer-related question(s) the applicant is focusing on. This includes: **basic biological research, preclinical studies, imaging, radiotherapy research, engineering & physical sciences applied to cancer, population research, early detection research and drug discovery.** Please see the [Appendix 1](#) for more detailed information about eligible scientific areas.

CRUK is particularly interested in proposals coming from any area of our funding remit. We encourage applicants addressing cancers of unmet need (e.g.. brain, lung, oesophageal and pancreatic cancer) and early detection to apply for this funding scheme. In addition to conducting high-quality research, applicants are expected to dedicate time over the course of the grant term developing their scientific independence and expanding their research horizons to enable their maturation into a leader in the field (e.g. developing new skills or working with individuals across disciplines or in a new research environments). Likewise, applicants should consider their long-term goals and describe the skills and competencies they will need to achieve those goals. Applicants will need to meet the range of skills and experience as outlined in the *‘Develop Independence’* career stage in [CRUK’s Fellowships Competency Framework](#).

What is not suitable for the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships?

Clinical research (e.g. clinical trials, clinical research and development) will not be funded through this funding scheme.

2.2. Eligibility/Suitability

The Applicant

In order to apply for an AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowship, applicants should be scientists or clinician-scientists who:

- Have recently been awarded a doctoral degree (PhD, MD, MD/PhD) in a related field either in the U.S. or the U.K.; or,
- Are in the final year of their doctoral studies. Applicants must have their degree conferred (have completed their PhD viva) by the start of the grant term. Grant terms can start between February 1, 2020 and April 1, 2020; or,
- Have recently graduated in either the U.S. or U.K. and have already started a postdoctoral position in the visiting country within 6-months of the opening of the scheme (i.e. a recent U.S. doctoral graduate who has already started a postdoctoral position in the U.K. within 6-months of the opening of the scheme and will be intending to be hosted in the U.K., or vice-versa.)

If an applicant does not have a PhD from the U.S. or the U.K.: they should have been in the home country (either the U.K. or U.S.) for at least 6 months at the moment of application and be willing to spend the majority of the fellowship in the visiting country (that is, not remain in the country they are currently residing in). Applicants should also be committed to pursue their scientific career in either the U.K. or in the U.S. following completion of the fellowship.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate that they meet the range of skills and experience as outlined in the ‘*Develop Independence*’ career stage in CRUK’s [Fellowships Competency Framework](#).

Applicants can’t apply for an AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowship if:

- They hold the rank of instructor, adjunct professor, assistant professor, research assistant professor, the equivalent or higher. Qualified researchers are invited to apply for an AACR Career Development Award in the U.S. or review [CRUK’s Competency Framework](#) for Fellowships to find the suitable scheme in the U.K.
- They have previously held another multi-year postdoctoral fellowship e.g., EMBO Long Term fellowships, Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Awards (NRSAs) for Individual Postdoctoral Fellows (F32), etc. Applicants with previous postdoctoral experience are expected to apply for grants or more senior fellowships as stated above.
- **U.S. to U.K. Applicants should not be employees or subcontractors of a U.S. government entity or for-profit private industry.** Postdoctoral fellows conducting research in a U.S. government laboratory e.g., NIH, CDC, FDA, etc., are not eligible unless they choose a non-U.S. government institution as Administering Institution.

Other considerations:

- Applicants should be AACR members. Annual dues are not required for early-career researchers interested in Associate membership. Nonmembers interested in this grant opportunity must submit a satisfactory application for AACR membership, and be members in good standing, by the Letter of Intent deadline. Nonmembers can apply for membership using the [Official Application for Membership](#) submitted to the AACR with the required documents or apply [online](#). Suspended Members can renew their membership through their [myAACR](#) account. Lapsed members should contact the Membership Department at membership@aacr.org for assistance and with any questions.
- Applicants should not submit more than one Letter of Intent for the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships but may concurrently apply for other AACR or CRUK grants. However, applicants are expected to accept and hold only one grant at a time.

All applicants with questions about eligibility must contact AACR’s Scientific Review and Grants Administration Department (AACR’s SRGA) at grants@aacr.org before submitting a Letter of Intent.

See examples in the FAQ Appendix at the end of this document, or [here](#).

The Host Institution(s)

- **Administering Institution:**

For U.K. to U.S. Applicants: Any University or non-for-profit research institutions based in the U.K. They will be receiving the Grant Award Letter and funds from CRUK and should abide by [CRUK’s terms and conditions](#).

For U.S. to U.K. Applicants: Any University or non-for-profit research institutions, with the exception of U.S. government entity (e.g., NIH, CDC, FDA, etc.). They will be receiving the Grant Award Letter and funds from AACR and should abide by AACR’s [terms and conditions](#).

- **Research Host Institution:**

For U.K. to U.S. Applicants: May be any University or non-for-profit research institutions, with the exception of U.S. government entity e.g., NIH, CDC, FDA, etc. in the U.S. (country where they are expected to spend the majority of the fellowship). Fellows may also undertake research visits to any University or non-for-profit research institutions in the U.K. The Host Institution is also expected to abide by [AACR's terms and conditions](#).

If a U.K. applicant would like to undertake a research visit at a U.S. government entity such as the National Cancer Institute, please contact AACR's SRGA (grants@aacr.org). Alternative arrangements can be found to accommodate this research visit, provided the U.S. government entity does not receive funds, and hosts the applicant as a visiting researcher.

For U.S. to U.K. Applicants: May be any University or non-for-profit research institutions in the U.K. (where they are expected to spend the majority of the fellowship). Fellows may also undertake research visits to any University or non-for-profit research institutions in the U.S. The Host Institution is also expected to abide by [CRUK's terms and conditions](#).

Potential hosts in the U.K. can be found for example [here](#), which lists CRUK's research Centres and core-funded research Institutes.

At the Letter of Intent stage, applicants will need to identify a location that will administer their award (Administering Institution), as well as Research Sponsors/Research Host Institutions in the visiting country (or in the home country, if so they wish).

If applicants are successful, we expect them to hold the status of a **postdoctoral researcher/fellow** at the Research Host Institutions. The relevant approval authority on the Administering Institutions will need to submit a page of signatures to confirm that they are going to administer the award. Additionally, at the **full application stage** applicants will need to provide one support letter from each of the Research Sponsors to confirm their willingness to host them and provide them with research space.

3. THE APPLICATION PROCESS

3.1. Process overview

The AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships application process involves three steps (Figure 1):

1. **Letter of Intent:** Interested applicants submit Letters of Intent (Preliminary Application);
2. **Full Application:** Letters of Intent are evaluated by the Scientific Review Committee; the most meritorious Letters of Intent will be invited to submit a full application by the Scientific Review Committee; and,
3. **Interview:** Submitted full applications will undergo another round of peer-review by the Committee, and the most meritorious applications will be invited to an on-site interview held at AACR headquarters in Philadelphia, PA, US at the beginning of December 2019.



Figure 1: Overview of the Application Process

3.2. About the Committee

The AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships Scientific Review Committee will peer-review the Letters of Intent and invited full applications. It is comprised of researchers and physician-scientists based in the U.K. and in the U.S., respected for their own accomplishments in cancer research. The President of the AACR in collaboration with the AACR CEO and Cancer Research UK will appoint the members of the Scientific Review Committee.

3.3. Assessment criteria

The Committee will consider the following criteria when reviewing Letters of Intent. Please refer to the “*Develop independence*” career stage on [CRUK’s Fellowships Competency Framework](#).

- ✓ **Quality and originality of the proposed work** with potential for impact in the field
 - Is the proposed project of high scientific quality? Does it have a strong scientific rationale? Does it have value in advancing the fundamental understanding of cancer or improving how cancer is diagnosed and/or treated?
- ✓ **Quality and track record of candidate** demonstrated by key achievements, research outputs, recognition in the field and future research ambitions supported by relevant enabling skills e.g. personal leadership, communication/engagement skills (*appropriate for the level of experience*)
 - What training and experience does the applicant have to ensure successful execution of the proposed project? Is their academic track record and research experience of sufficient high quality?
- ✓ **Suitability of proposed research environment** demonstrated by appropriate access to infrastructure/facilities/samples, specific expertise and support
 - Are the selected Research Sponsors appropriate for the project? Are the suggested

- timings of the Research Visits reasonable and will the suggested timings allow for successful completion of the project?
- Are the environments of the Research Host Institutions appropriate for the proposed research? Are there appropriate and sufficient institutional commitments to foster the applicant's training to become a productive cancer researcher in this field?
- ✓ **Potential for independence** demonstrated by e.g. own research niche, network, appropriate mentorship, leveraged funding (*appropriate for the level of experience*)
 - Does the applicant have the potential to develop as an independent and productive cancer researcher?
- ✓ **Relevance of project to cancer research** and CRUK's and AACR's research strategies

Additionally, Cancer Research UK is a DORA (San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment) signatory. As such, we are aligned with DORA principles through our commitment to assess the quality and impact of scientific research through means other than journal impact factors. This means that Cancer Research UK and our reviewers will:

- Consider the value and impact of all research outputs in addition to research publications (e.g. preprints, training delivered, contribution to consortia, patents, key datasets, software, novel assays and reagents etc.).
- Recognise that the content of a scientific paper and its influence in the field holds more significance than publication metrics or where it was published.

3.4. ProposalCENTRAL

Applicants will need to submit their application online using AACR's proposalCENTRAL website at <https://proposalcentral.com>.

Both U.K. to U.S. and U.S. to U.K. applicants will need to complete their Letters of Intent using the system mentioned above. AACR will share with CRUK the Letters of Intent as well as other personal data that may be contained in the application. CRUK may share and use this data as set out in its Terms and Conditions of Application (available [here](#)).

3.5. Letter of Intent overview

The Letter of Intent for the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships is limited to:

- 2 pages for the Letter of Intent Narrative (Title, background, aims and research plan)
- 2 pages for References
- 3 pages for the Skills and Experience form
- 1 page per Research Sponsor/Institution for the Justification of choice of Research Sponsor(s) and Research Host Institution(s)

The suggested structure of the Letter of Intent is:

I. LETTER OF INTENT NARRATIVE	Limited to two pages.
	BACKGROUND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise applicant's current and other's published work relating to the research proposal.

	<p>AIMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly describe the hypothesis for the proposed programme; Briefly describe the scientific need for the proposed work – why is it necessary to test this hypothesis? Describe the significance of the results you plan to obtain. In particular, the relevance of the expected results to cancer. <p>RESEARCH PLAN</p> <p>We suggest the applicants to divide their research plan into objectives. For each objective state:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research question; Experimental methods, techniques and analyses that will be used to test the applicant's hypothesis. Refer to the applicant's own published work where they've used these methods before. If the applicant doesn't have a particular (technical) skill but this is essential for the project, please indicate how they are proposing to obtain this skills/expertise, or where this expertise is available e.g. collaborators; Any available unpublished research findings, preprints, as well as datasets, software and protocols supporting the research proposal. Please include these in the text, not as an appendix; any datasets and preprints should be in a citable format e.g. including a Digital Object Identifier; Briefly describe what the major achievements of the research will be, if the fellowship is successful.
<p>II. REFERENCES</p>	<p>Limited to two pages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AACR reference style follows that of the Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals. Note that the <i>Uniform Requirements</i> specify that, for articles with more than six authors, the names of the first six authors must be listed, followed by "et al." For articles with six or fewer authors, all authors must be listed.
<p>III. SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE FORM</p>	<p>Limited to three pages (excluding clinical experience and career breaks sections).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants are expected to describe the competencies they need to demonstrate as outlined in the 'Develop Independence' career stage of CRUK's Fellowships Competency Framework, along a brief career development plan.

IV. JUSTIFICATION OF CHOICE OF RESEARCH SPONSOR(S) AND RESEARCH HOST INSTITUTION(S)	<p>Limited to one page per research sponsor/institution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please justify your choice of Research Sponsors and Research Host Institutions, outlining why the proposed host or hosts (sponsor(s) and institution(s)) are a good match for the research project and how they will enable you to pursue your research interests and support your career development. Please provide an estimation of the time you plan to spend at each of the Research Host Institutions (if known). • Additionally, applicants are requested to provide a short bio of each of the Research Sponsors, outlining their level of experience on the research topic proposed and their achievements.
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The Letter of Intent must be accompanied by:

- **Scientific abstract**, limited to 3,000 characters including spaces, which provides a clear, concise, and comprehensive overview of the proposed cancer research project
- **Applicant's curriculum vitae**, limited to 2 pages, excluding research outputs
- **Letter(s) of Reference from the applicant's PhD Supervisor/Mentor** and/or current postdoctoral supervisor (only if the applicant has already started a postdoctoral position).
- **Letter(s) of Reference from the applicant's Independent Academic Career Adviser.**

3.6 Letters of reference

Each applicant must have a letter of reference from their doctoral supervisor and their Independent Academic Career Adviser accompanying the online Letter of Intent. If the applicant has already started a postdoctoral position, an additional support letter from the supervisor can be added. If the PhD Supervisor/Mentor and Independent Academic Career Adviser are not an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR, an additional letter of reference from an endorser who is an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR must accompany the Letter of Intent.

4. TOBACCO INDUSTRY FUNDING AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST STATEMENT

AACR:

A Fellow whose named research sponsor or research host institution is funded by the tobacco industry for any research project is not eligible for any AACR grant. A Grantee or their named research sponsor or research host institution who accepts funding from the tobacco industry for any research project during the term of an AACR grant must inform the AACR of such funding, whereupon the AACR grant will be immediately terminated.

Tobacco industry funding is defined for purposes of AACR grant applicants and recipients as money provided or used for all or any of the costs of any research project, including personnel, consumables, equipment, buildings, travel, meetings and conferences, and operating costs for laboratories and offices. It is not defined as money provided or used for meetings or conferences that do not relate to any particular research projects.

Tobacco industry funding includes: funds from a company that is engaged in or has affiliates engaged in the manufacture of tobacco produced for human use; funds in the name of a tobacco brand, whether or not the brand name is used solely for tobacco products; funds from a body set up by the tobacco industry or by one or more companies engaged in the manufacture of tobacco products.

The following do not constitute tobacco industry funding for the purposes of this policy:

- Legacies from tobacco industry investments (unless the names of a tobacco company or cigarette brand are associated with them)
- Funding from a trust or foundation established with assets related to the tobacco industry but no longer having any connection with the tobacco industry even though it may bear a name that (for historical reasons) is associated with the tobacco industry

CRUK:

Please refer to [this link](#) to see Cancer Research UK Code of Practice on Tobacco Industry Funding to Universities.

5. ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

U.K. to U.S. Applicants:

For fellows funded by CRUK (i.e. those going from the U.K. to the U.S.), please note that it is a condition of CRUK funding that any research involving animals be conducted consistently with UK standards, even when that work is carried out outside the UK. The relevant standards are set out in the NC3Rs guidance note '[Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#)'. At the Letter of Intent stage, applicants should please flag any intention to use animal models to the office via email (grants@aacr.org). Further information will be required at the full application stage.

6. LETTER OF INTENT INSTRUCTIONS

6.1 Letter of Intent relevant deadlines

Applications should be submitted by **Thursday, July 25, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.** U.S. Eastern Time

APPLICANTS NOTIFIED OF DECISION STATUS OF LETTER OF INTENT

September 2019

FULL APPLICATION DEADLINE *(for those invited to apply based on the Letter of Intent)*

Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time

APPLICANTS NOTIFIED OF DECISION STATUS OF FULL APPLICATION

November 2019

FINALISTS INTERVIEW DATE *(for those invited to an on-site interview based on the full application)*

December 2019 at AACR headquarters in Philadelphia, PA, US

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

January 2020

GRANTS RECEPTION AND DINNER AT AACR ANNUAL MEETING 2020 AND ADDITIONAL TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

April 28, 2020 – Grant recipients must attend the Grants Reception and Dinner to formally accept their grant. Grant funds may be used to support the grantees' attendance at this Annual Meeting. AACR will waive grantees' registration fee to attend this meeting.

Fellows visiting the U.K. will be invited to conference and networking events organized by CRUK, with their registration, travel, accommodation and expenses being covered by CRUK.

Fellows will be expected to attend AACR Annual Meeting during the 4 years of the fellowship. AACR will kindly waive the registration fee to the AACR Annual Meeting for all Fellows funded through the Fellowship Scheme for each year of the Award.

START OF GRANT TERM

February 1, 2020*

**February 1 is the preferred start date. However, exceptions may be made to begin the grant terms on March 1 or April 1, if necessary*

6.2 Letter of Intent procedures

AACR requires applicants to complete an online Letter of Intent submission by **1:00 p.m.** U.S. Eastern Time on **Thursday, July 25, 2019**, using the proposalCENTRAL website at <https://proposalcentral.com>.

Both U.K. to U.S. and U.S. to U.K. applicants will need to complete their Letter of Intent using the system mentioned above.

In order to submit a complete Letter of Intent, applicants need to enter information directly into the online submission platform as well as upload a number of documents. The following instructions provide details about information that needs to be entered and the materials that need to be

uploaded. The section numbering corresponds with the section number of the Letter of Intent Instructions and the online proposalCENTRAL Letter of Intent.

Information to be Entered Directly into proposalCENTRAL	Letter of Intent Format Section	proposalCENTRAL Section
Project Title and Acknowledge of Reading the Terms and Conditions	1. Title Page	1) Title Page
Proposal Access Rights (Optional)	3. Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal	3) Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal
Applicant Information	4. Applicant	4) Applicant
U.K. or U.S. Administering Host Institution and Contact Information	5. Institution & Contacts	5) Institution & Contacts
Scientific Abstract	7. Scientific Abstract	7) Scientific Abstract

Templates	Letter of Intent Format Section	proposalCENTRAL Section
Letter of Intent Template (this includes the Letter of Intent Narrative, References, Skills and Experience Form and Justification of Research Sponsor(s) and Research Host Institution(s))	8.A. Letter of Intent Documents	8) Letter of Intent Documents

Additional Materials to be Uploaded	Letter of Intent Format Section	proposalCENTRAL Section
Applicant's Curriculum Vitae	8.B. Letter of Intent Documents	8) Letter of Intent Documents
Letter(s) of Reference (uploaded by PhD Supervisor/Mentor, Independent Academic Career Adviser, the postdoctoral Supervisor (if applicable), and Endorser (if necessary))	6. Letters of Reference	6) Letters of Reference

Required Signatures	Letter of Intent Format Section	proposalCENTRAL Section
Application Signature Page	8.C. Letter of Intent Documents	11) Signature Page(s)

6.3 Getting started in proposalCENTRAL

If you are a new user of proposalCENTRAL, click the orange “CREATE ONE NOW!” button and complete the registration process. After logging in, complete your Professional Profile (green tab) before starting the Letter of Intent.

If you are already registered with proposalCENTRAL, access the site and log in with your Username and Password. If you have forgotten your login information, click on the “Forgot Your Username/Password?” link.

To start a Letter of Intent, select the “Grant Opportunities” tab (gray tab). A list of grant opportunities will be displayed. The list of applications can be filtered for just this organization by clicking “Filter by Grant Maker” at the top and selecting “American Association for Cancer Research” in the drop down menu. Find the “**AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships**” and click the blue “Apply Now” button (in the “Apply” column).

If you have any difficulties registering, logging in, or creating your Letter of Intent, contact proposalCENTRAL Customer Support at: 800-875-2562 (Toll-free U.S. and Canada), +1-703-964-5840 (Direct Dial International), or by email at pcsupport@altum.com. See the proposalCENTRAL [FAQ](#), for additional information.

6.4 Letter of Intent format

The following information is required to submit a complete Letter of Intent. Numbers correspond to the sections found on the left side of the proposalCENTRAL website (Please see tables on page 15).

1. **TITLE PAGE.** Enter the title of the research project. The title is limited to no more than 75 characters (including spaces). Do not use abbreviations. A project title must be entered and saved before additional sections may be accessed.

Terms and Conditions of the Grant. In order to ensure that the applicant is informed of the terms and conditions of the grant should they be selected as a recipient, applicant must acknowledge that they have read the terms and conditions by typing in their name and date in the box provided.

AACR terms and conditions for the U.S. to U.K. applicants: The [terms and conditions](#) of this grant may be modified or amended by AACR prior to execution of the Grant Agreement. In addition, the grant recipient’s administering institution may request revisions to the sections VII.F.; XII.; XIII.F.; and XIV.A. of the Grant Agreement prior to execution. Only in special circumstances will revisions be considered to sections other than those noted above.

CRUK terms and conditions for the U.K. to U.S. applicants: U.K. Administering Hosts will be receiving the Grant Award Letter and funds from CRUK and should abide by [CRUK’s terms and conditions](#). CRUK’s terms and conditions will not be negotiable.

Applicants must type in their name and the date to indicate that they have reviewed the document. These signatures transmitted by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as original signatures.

2. **DOWNLOAD TEMPLATES & INSTRUCTIONS.** The Letter of Intent Guidelines and the Letter of Intent template can be downloaded from this page. Applicants are required to use the Letter of Intent template.

See Section 8 of the Letter of Intent Format for how to complete and upload the template. This Letter of Intent also requires additional attachments for which templates are not provided (applicant's curriculum vitae and letters of reference).

3. **ENABLE OTHER USERS TO ACCESS THIS PROPOSAL.** Optional. This section allows you to give other users access to your grant application.
4. **APPLICANT.** Applicant information has been brought forward from the Professional Profile. If you would like to update your profile, please click the "Edit Professional Profile" button in the center of the screen and make the desired edits. Applicants must provide relevant information with a red star, including e-mail address, phone number, and mailing address.

AACR and Cancer Research UK are committed to being inclusive funders and to ensuring the researchers we attract, support, and retain are not only outstanding, but as diverse as possible. This information helps us analyse and monitor who applies for our funding and who we are supporting, to help inform our future grantmaking. You have the option to select "Not Provided" in your answers. Completing this form fully will enable us to have more data to analyse. The Lead Applicant should complete the information in this section, but it won't be included in the application PDF that is provided to the Committee. Diversity information will not form any part of the decision-making processes and will not be used for any other purpose other than analysis of our funding activities. Answers are treated confidentially and will be stored securely.

5. **INSTITUTION & CONTACTS.** Enter information regarding the administering institution, signing official, PhD Supervisor/Mentor, Independent Academic Career Adviser, current postdoctoral Supervisor (if applicable), and endorser (if necessary). **If your Administering Host Institution is not listed, please ask your research office to register an institutional account in the system.**
6. **LETTERS OF REFERENCE.** Enter the e-mail address of the PhD Supervisor/Mentor, the Independent Academic Career Adviser, and current postdoctoral Supervisor (if applicable) submitting a letter of reference. Enter the e-mail address again to confirm and click "Add". If their e-mail addresses are in the proposalCENTRAL system, you will be prompted to "Send E-mail" to the PhD Supervisor/Mentor or the Independent Academic Career Adviser. **The e-mail will contain instructions and a link to upload the letter of reference directly to the Letter of Intent.** If their e-mail addresses are not in the proposalCENTRAL system, you will be prompted for their first and last names before being prompted to "Send E-mail".

If the PhD Supervisor/Mentor or the Independent Academic Career Adviser are not an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR, repeat the steps above to send a letter of reference request to an endorser who is an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR. If they are an AACR member, an additional letter of reference from an endorser will not be accepted.

If the applicant has more than one PhD Supervisor/Mentor, they must provide a co-signed letter providing the mentorship details described in the e-mail instructions as they pertain to each member of the mentorship team. Co-signed letters must be uploaded by only one member of the mentorship team, the primary PhD Supervisor/Mentor. Only the primary mentor is required to sign the Signature Page. If a co-signed letter of reference is used, and a member of the mentorship team is an active, emeritus, or honorary member of the AACR, no additional letters of reference will be accepted.

The letters of reference are uploaded directly from the PhD Supervisor/Mentor, the Independent Academic Career Adviser, the postdoctoral Supervisor (if applicable), and endorser (if necessary)

to proposalCENTRAL. Letters of Intent cannot be submitted without these Letters of Reference. Applicants can view letter submission status in Section 6 of the online Letter of Intent.

- 7. SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT.** The abstract is limited to 3,000 characters (including spaces) and must provide a clear, concise, and comprehensive overview of the proposed work, including the background, objective or hypothesis and its supporting rationale, specific aims, study design, and relevance of the proposed work.

If funded, this Abstract will become public information; therefore, do not include proprietary/confidential information.

NOTE: The proposalCENTRAL system does not lock the scientific abstract field after 3,000 characters have been entered. You may erroneously enter more than the maximum allowed. Excessive spacing in your scientific abstract (e.g., line breaks or spaces between paragraphs) also affects the character limit. To ensure that your abstract submission is not too long, before proceeding to the next section, click the blue “Save” button at the top or bottom of the screen. If your scientific abstract is too long, you will receive an error message at the top of the page.

From the lists provided, select the research areas that are most applicable to this project (*select no more than two*), select the tumor site that is most applicable to this project (*select only one*), and indicate how you found out about this grant opportunity.

8. LETTER OF INTENT DOCUMENTS.

- **Formatting Instructions.** Applicants must adhere to the following instructions in completing the template. Failure to observe type size specifications and page limits may result in the return of the Letter of Intent without review.
- **Type size.** Must use 12-point Calibri for the text, and no smaller than 9-point type for figures, legends, and tables.
- **Single-spaced text.** Single-spacing is acceptable, and space between paragraphs is recommended.
- **Margins.** The page margins must be no less than 0.75 inches on each side.
- **Page numbering.** The Letter of Intent Narrative must be numbered consecutively; do not use section designations such as “3A” or “3B”.
- **Tips and techniques for inserting images in documents.**
 - Reduce the file size of documents with images by “inserting” the image (as opposed to “cutting” and “pasting”). Save graphical images as JPG or GIF files. Insert the image into the document by selecting “Insert – Picture – From File” from the MS Word menu.
 - Insert only GIF or JPG graphic files as images in your Word document. Other graphical file formats are either very large or difficult to manipulate in the document.
 - Do not insert Quick Time or TIFF objects into your document.
 - Anchor the images you embed in your document.
 - Once you have anchored the inserted image, you can format text to wrap around the image.
 - Do not edit your images in Word. Use a graphics program.
 - Do not embed your images in tables, text boxes, and other form elements.
 - Do not add annotations over the images in Word. Add annotations to the images in a graphics program.

When a template is provided, the template MUST be used. Prepare and upload the following documents into your application in portable document format (PDF):

A. Letter of Intent. Applicants are required to use the Letter of Intent template available from the proposalCENTRAL website. The information must be presented in this order:

- I. Letter of Intent Narrative.** Limited to two pages, including figures and tables. The Letter of Intent Narrative should include a brief description of the proposed research. The information should be presented in this order and include these subheadings: (A) Title of Research Project; (B) Background; (C) Aims; and (D) Research Plan.
- II. References.** Limited to two pages. AACR reference style follows that of the [Uniform Requirements for Manuscripts Submitted to Biomedical Journals](#). Note that the Uniform Requirements specify that, for articles with more than six authors, the names of the first six authors must be listed, followed by "et al." For articles with six or fewer authors, all authors must be listed.
- III. Skills and Experience form.** Limited to three pages. The Additional sections do not count against this page limit. The information should be presented in this order: Current research experience & impact; Future research ambitions; Supporting & enabling skills; Additional sections if relevant. Please refer to the template for more instructions.
- IV. Justification of choice of Research Sponsor(s) and Research Host Institution(s).** Limited to one page per Research Sponsor/Institution. The information should be presented in this order: (A) Name of the Research Sponsor and Research Host Institution; (B) Justification Statement; and (C) Short Bio of Research Sponsor

B. Applicant's Curriculum Vitae (CV). The CV must be in English and include a complete list of publications. CV should be limited to 2 pages, plus the complete list of outputs and publications.

Note: The NIH Biographical Sketch Form will not be accepted from the applicant.

C. Signed Signature Page. In order to ensure that the applicant and administering institution have approved the Letter of Intent, applicants must obtain all required signatures on page one of the Signature Pages. Electronic/digital signatures are permitted. These signatures transmitted by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as original signatures.

The **signed Signature Page** must be uploaded to your online Letter of Intent in the Letter of Intent Documents section.

Uploading the attachments into your submission. Once you have converted your attachments to PDF files, the next step is to upload the files to your online Letter of Intent. *Only PDF attachments are permitted for this Letter of Intent submission.*

- Open your online Letter of Intent and go to the section for attaching files. Click the blue "Attach Files" button.
- Select the appropriate type of attachment from the drop-down list.
- Enter your own description of the file in the "Describe Attachment" field.
- Click on the "Browse" button to select the file from your computer.
- Click on the "Upload and Continue" button. You will get a confirmation message on your screen that the file was uploaded successfully. You will also see that your file is now listed in the "Uploaded Attachment" section of the screen. Clicking the "Back" or "Upload and Return" button allows you to go back to the main page of this section where the uploaded documents should now be listed. **Click the download icon next to the file name to open**

and view your uploaded documents. To delete the file, click on the trashcan icon to the right under the “Delete” column.

In the section for attachments, all the required attachments are listed in the middle of the screen, just below where you upload your files. This list of required attachments helps you track completion and uploading of your required attachments. Once you upload a required attachment, that attachment type will be removed from the required list and will be displayed in the “Current list of uploaded attachments”.

If you wish to modify the attached file, make the revisions to your **original** file on your computer, convert the file to PDF, and use the same process above to attach the new file. **Delete any previously submitted versions of the file before submitting your Letter of Intent.**

6.5 Submitting complete Letter of Intent

9. PI DATA SHEET. This is an automatically populated data sheet based on the applicant’s proposalCENTRAL profile. Information for gender, race, and ethnicity must be provided to AACR. If fields are not populated, click the “Edit Professional Profile” tab in the center of the screen. The applicant must then go to the column on the left side of the screen, select “4) Personal Data for Applications”, and enter their gender, race, and ethnicity. The Scientific Review Committee does not receive this information.

Applicants who have an ORCID ID are also invited to include this identifier with their application.

10. VALIDATE. Validate the Letter of Intent on proposalCENTRAL. This is an essential step. A submission that has not been validated cannot be submitted. “Validate” checks for required data and attachments. You will not be able to submit if all the required data and attachments have not been provided.

11. SIGNATURE PAGE(S). Use the “Print Signature Pages” button to download the Signature Pages. Signatures are only required on the first page. This page can be printed, original signatures obtained, and then uploaded to your online Letter of Intent OR electronic/digital signatures are permitted. These signatures transmitted by electronic means shall have the same force and effect as original signatures. Do not upload the Application Contacts and Scientific Abstract pages with the signed Signature Page.

NOTE: Data entered in the online Letter of Intent submission are automatically included in the signature pages. The following signature page fields will remain blank until the full application process: Dates of Proposed Project, Proposed Budget, Human Subjects, Vertebrate Animals, Recombinant DNA, and Biohazards. If information is missing in the signature pages, it could be because you have not entered the information in one of the online sections **OR** the information is not required for this grant program. If the administering institution’s Employer Identification Number (EIN) is not completed on the signature page, please request your administering institution to provide that information in their proposalCENTRAL profile.

While the “Print Signature Pages” option allows applicants to download the Signature Page, Application Contacts, and Scientific Abstract, the AACR **strongly encourages** applicants to also use the “Print Signature Pages and Attached PDF Files” option. This option can be used if your institution wishes to review the full Letter of Intent but also should be used by the applicant to ensure that the Scientific Abstract does not cut-off in this view and that your attachments were loaded properly. The following application materials will **not** be present when using this option: Letter(s) of Reference and the Signature Page containing the required signatures. Absence of these materials should **not** be considered an error. If your institution requires all components of the Letter of Intent submission to review, the above documents need to be printed individually by the applicant and added; however, as the Letter(s) of Reference are uploaded directly from the PhD Supervisor/Mentor, the Independent Academic Career Adviser, the postdoctoral Supervisor (if applicable), and endorser (if necessary), the applicant will be unable to access these letters.

Excessive spacing in your Scientific Abstract (e.g., line breaks between paragraphs) can cause the abstract to not fully appear in the Signature Page view, even if under the 3,000 character limit. You may want to further edit your Scientific Abstract prior to submission if it does not fully appear. In addition, errors may occur when the uploaded PDF files are assembled by the system. Please check to ensure that all pages of every document included appear in the “Print Signature Pages and Attached PDF Files” option. If you are having any issues with this print option, please contact proposalCENTRAL customer support 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.

- 12. SUBMIT.** After successfully passing the validate check, click the “Submit” link. An e-mail will be sent to you confirming your submission.

Once your Letter of Intent is submitted you may view it by accessing the ‘Submitted’ link under the ‘Manage Proposals’ tab. The status column will show “Submitted” and the date submitted. You may need to refresh your browser screen after submitting the Letter of Intent to see the updated status.

6.6 Changes to your Letter of Intent

Withdrawal of Letter of Intent. Please advise AACR promptly, in writing, should you decide to withdraw your Letter of Intent for any reason. Your correspondence must include your name, the grant opportunity to which you applied, the project title, and the reason for withdrawal.

Change of Address. Notify AACR of any changes of address, e-mail, or phone number, following the submission of a Letter of Intent. Include your name and the proposalCENTRAL identification number. The e-mail address provided with your Letter of Intent will be used for all official communication about your submission including the recipient selection results. Your Professional Profile in proposalCENTRAL must be kept up to date.

Change of Institution or Position. If you change your institution or professional position, contact AACR’s SRGA to determine whether your Letter of Intent is still eligible for review.

6.7 Inquiries

Inquiries or technical issues regarding proposalCENTRAL and the online submission process should be directed to customer support 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. Inquiries about the Letter of Intent Guidelines, eligibility requirements, and Letter of Intent materials can be directed to AACR’s SRGA at grants@aacr.org.

APPENDIX 1: ELIGIBLE RESEARCH AREAS

BASIC BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH	<p>Any cancer-relevant area of basic biological research, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer cell metabolism • Cancer genetics • Cell transformation and oncogenesis • Genomic instability and cell cycle • Inflammation • Migration, invasion, metastasis and tumour dormancy • Tumour immunology • Tumour biology • Tumour microenvironment • Tumour heterogeneity • Tumour evolution <p>Studies may include the use of model systems (e.g. yeast/fly/mouse/cell lines etc.) or primary tumour material. Please specify how the chosen model relates to the question being addressed.</p>
PRECLINICAL STUDIES	<p>Research that generates biological data for developing therapeutics, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and functional characterisation of biological targets in cell lines, primary tumour material or model systems • Biological mechanisms of therapeutic interventions • Mechanisms of resistance to therapies • Biological investigation of exceptional responders or non-responders • Discovery research to identify and/or provide biological insight regarding potential biomarkers utilising samples from defined patient cohorts (e.g. retrospective trial or cohort)
IMAGING	<p>The following areas of imaging research, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole-body preclinical studies • Cellular imaging to address questions of tumour biology in animal models or through whole-body imaging • Development of imaging or contrast agents and other imaging technologies • Imaging research associated with surgery
RADIOTHERAPY RESEARCH	<p>Research to optimise radiotherapy, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiotherapy physics e.g. improving treatment planning, reducing toxicity and increasing efficacy of treatment to improve patient outcomes • Radiobiology e.g. mechanisms of radiotherapy resistance and drug interactions • Imaging radiotherapy

ENGINEERING & PHYSICAL SCIENCES APPLIED TO CANCER	<p>Research across all EPS disciplines, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics • Engineering • Mathematical and computational modelling • Chemical and molecular sciences • Materials science • Molecular and/or tissue engineering and regenerative medicine
POPULATION RESEARCH	<p>Research areas, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early diagnosis of cancer – e.g. cancer symptom awareness or interventions to increase uptake of screening • Prevention – e.g. adherence to chemoprevention • Epidemiology
EARLY DETECTION RESEARCH	<p>Research areas, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biological research underpinning early detection • Epidemiology/risk stratification for early detection • Data/computation-driven approaches to early detection • Development of preclinical early detection model systems to recapitulate early cancer and precancerous states
DRUG DISCOVERY	<p>Research areas, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biotherapeutic drug discovery (therapeutic discovery and development approaches that are derived from biological sources such as antibody and cell based therapeutics) • Small molecule drug discovery (identification and validation of novel therapeutic targets and the discovery and development of novel small molecule therapeutic agents) <p>Biotherapeutic and small molecule drug discovery research ranging from target identification through to early preclinical studies</p>

APPENDIX 2: 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?

As your PhD has been obtained in the U.K., 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.S.

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:

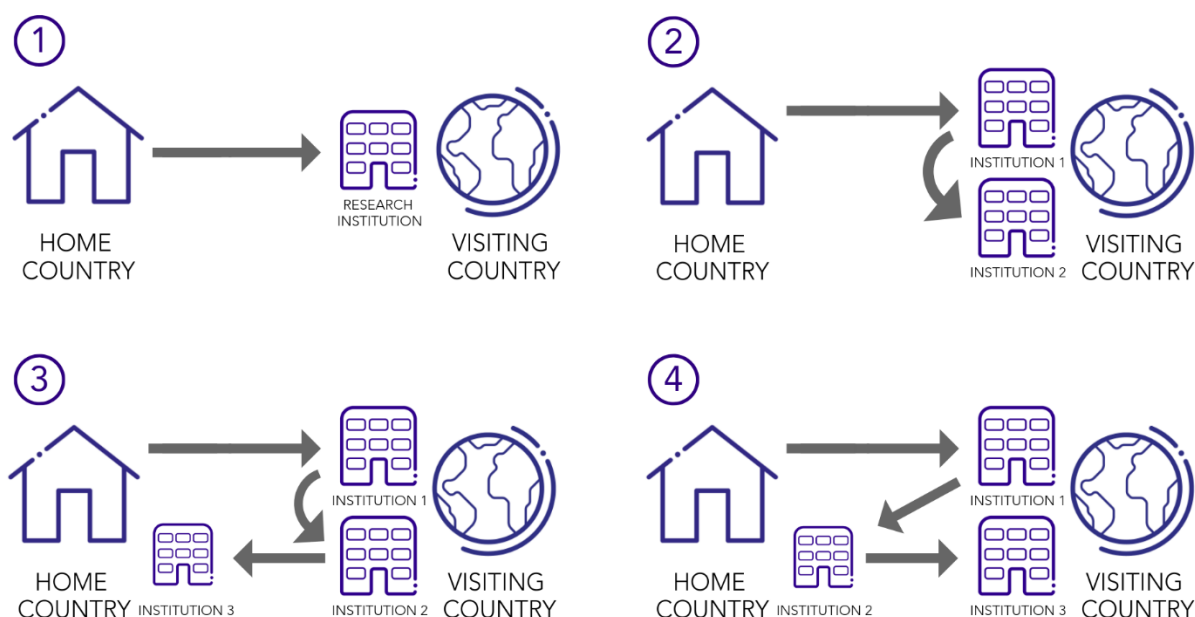


Figure 1: Four examples of how the AACR-Cancer Research UK Transatlantic Fellowships may be held (these fellowships could be held with different arrangements to the ones shown in this illustration). 1) In **Example 1** the fellow would spend the 4 years of their fellowship in a single Research Host Institution 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.