

The College of Radiographers will use application details for purposes associated with the Doctoral Fellowship scheme, such as education, the administration of events, research, promotion and fundraising. Our lawful basis for processing your information is to manage your funding application and fulfil our legitimate interest as a professional body. Some of your information will be shared with the Society of Radiographers. We will retain all information you submit for the duration of the application process and, should you be successfully awarded funding, the duration of the funding period. Thereafter, your information will be retained as verification of your application and for reference in relation to the Doctoral Fellowship scheme. For detailed information about how we use your information please see <http://www.sor.org/privacy-statement>

College of Radiographers Doctoral Fellowship Grant

Guidelines

Introduction

The College of Radiographers (CoR) Doctoral Fellowship Grant will be available annually to support two appropriately qualified, experienced members of the Society of Radiographers to undertake doctoral-level projects. For 2026, we have an additional Fellowship Grant to offer, funded by a legacy from a retired radiographer, for a project focussed on sonography.

The main focus of each project must be in one of the following areas, aligned to the [CoR research priorities](#):

- Accuracy and Safety
- Technological Innovations
- Public and Patient Experience
- Service and Workforce Transformation
- Education and Training

A key condition of this grant is that the successful individual will implement and disseminate the work into practice for the benefits of patients, their families and carers. Successful applicants also agree to prepare an article for publication in *Radiography* and to give an address at one of the College's conferences.

Applications for funding to the value of £25,000 will be considered.

The College of Radiographers is committed to promoting equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB) in all aspects of research. We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds and encourage those from underrepresented or marginalised groups to apply. We encourage applicants to consider how diverse identities are reflected in their proposed research projects.

Support for Research in England - NIHR Research Delivery Network

The Society and College of Radiographers is a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) non-commercial Partner. This means the studies that we fund may be eligible to access NIHR Research Delivery Network (RDN) support. The NIHR RDN supports researchers and the life sciences industry in planning, setting up and delivering high-quality research to the agreed timelines and study recruitment target, for the benefit of patients and the NHS, including relevant research in public health and social care in England. In partnership with your local R&D office, we encourage you to involve your local RDN team in discussions as early as possible when planning your study to fully benefit from the support the NIHR RDN offers as outlined in their Study Support Service. To find out more about how you can apply for this additional support to help deliver your study, please visit <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/support-and-services/support-for-delivering-research/research-delivery-network>

Support for Research in the devolved nations

Similar support for research is available within the devolved nations from the following organisations:

In Northern Ireland: <https://research.hscni.net/>

In Scotland: <https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/>

In Wales: <https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/>

Patient, Public and Stakeholder Involvement and Engagement (PPSIE)

Stakeholder input and the patient or service user voice is a fundamental requisite for any research proposal. With this in mind, it is imperative that you plan from the design stage to have user involvement in your research and ensure inclusion of underrepresented groups. You should describe how patients and service users will be involved, ensuring diverse perspectives (e.g. ethnicity, disability, socio-economic background) are represented, where relevant. As previously stated, this is an essential part of the application; it must be clearly explained how stakeholders/service users/patients have been involved and engaged with to date, and how this has impacted on the proposal. Equally, it must be explained how this will be continued throughout the project, including at the dissemination stage. There are many resources that can help with this essential feature. Applicants are encouraged to refer to these publications:

1. Getting into Research: A Guide for Members of the Society of Radiographers [Getting into Research: A Guide for Members of the Society of Radiographers | SoR](#)

2. Patient Public and Practitioner Partnerships within Imaging and Radiotherapy: Guiding Principles, as a starting point. [Patient Public and Practitioner Partnerships within Imaging and Radiotherapy: Guiding Principles | ...](#)

Applications will not be funded if PPSIE has not been demonstrated.

Criteria for applications

The CoR Doctoral Fellowship Grant will be available by competition annually to members of the Society of Radiographers (SoR) who meet the following criteria.

The applicant(s) must:

- Have been in continuous membership with the Society of Radiographers for a minimum of five years at the date of application for the grant (student membership does not contribute to this time period);
- Hold current registration with the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) or appropriate voluntary register;
- Evidence continuing professional development demonstrating clear previous engagement with research or service/practice development;
- Have a well composed doctoral-level research proposal aligned to the CoR research priorities, and conditional or full acceptance as a doctoral-level student at an appropriate UK university;
- Provide evidence of support from their employer if remaining in part-time employment during the year in which the grant is successfully awarded (those intending to maintain full-time employment will not be eligible);
- Have an agreed dissemination and publication plan that includes at least one submission to *Radiography*;
- Agree to participate in CoR promotional work related to the award of the grant;
- Agree with and adhere to the terms and conditions of the grant.

Please note: unfortunately, we are unable to fund applicants who have previously received Doctoral Fellowship funding.

Applications

There will be one grant call, with two successful allocations, per year in April. For 2026, we have an additional Fellowship Grant to offer, funded by a legacy from a retired radiographer, for a project focussed on sonography. The deadline for submissions will be **5pm on Tuesday 7 April 2026**.

Those wishing to apply for the grant are required to submit an electronic proposal in Microsoft Word format to pande@sor.org. This should include:

- Detailed plan of investigation
- Patient, Public and Stakeholder Involvement and Engagement (PPSIE) plans
- Dissemination plans
- Integration of this project into the ongoing work of the group/department and into patient care
- Approach to ensuring equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging
- Potential impact of the project

The application must be accompanied by:

- Two references
- Evidence of commitment from the applicant's employer
- Evidence of commitment from the applicant's supervisory team
- Detailed anticipated costs

Assessment

All applications will be assessed by an open, competitive, peer-reviewed process. Panel interviews of shortlisted candidates will be used to finalise funding decisions. The panel will consider:

The person:

- Your commitment to research
- Your research experience to date, including any publications
- Your research training to date
- Your vision for the future, i.e. post PhD / Prof Doc

The project:

- The alignment of the proposal with the SoR research priorities
- Feasibility for delivery
- Whether your aims / objectives / research question are at a doctorate level
- Appropriateness of the chosen methodology / methods
- Consideration given to possible ethical issues
- Proposed approach to data collection and analysis
- Plan for Patient, Public and Stakeholder Involvement, and engagement with Patient, Public and Stakeholder groups to date
- How diverse identities are reflected in the proposed research project
- The potential to meet the requirements for doctorate level research

Training and development plan:

- A clear plan for how you will deliver on your PhD / Prof Doc
- The wider training and support available to you within the institution (all HEIs awarding PhDs will have a suite of training activities to support students)
- Any professional practice / career development opportunities which would support your PhD / Professional Doctorate
- How the award will support your career development

Site and support

- The research culture available to you in your HEI, and if appropriate clinical centre. This could include:
 - Research culture
 - Research groups
 - Research meetings
 - Mentoring

- Suitability of supervisors:
 - Area of expertise
 - Number of PhD / Prof Doc students supervised
 - Number of completions
 - Wider research activity, funding, publications
 - ORCID ID
- That a minimum of two supervisors are in place – these could be from different HEIs

Value for money

- That the budget is appropriate for the proposed work packages
- Whether any matched funding would be provided by your HEI or other sponsor
- An explanation of how any other costs will be met