

# **FIGHT FOR SIGHT (BRITISH EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION) CLINICAL FELLOWSHIPS – GUIDELINES**

*Fight for Sight (British Eye Research Foundation) is the leading national charity dedicated to funding research into the causes, diagnosis and prevention of blindness and the treatment of eye disease.*

## **Guidelines for Applications**

Applications are invited for Fight for Sight Clinical Fellowships to start in October 2007 in any area of vision research relevant to the Charity's aims (stated above). It is hoped that this invitation will encourage clinicians to further their career in ophthalmic research. These awards are open to medical, nursing and allied health professional graduates (including optometrists and orthoptists) and will lead to the presentation of a PhD over 3 years (or exceptionally an MD over 2 years).

1. Applications must be submitted on the Clinical Fellowship Application Form, which is available from the website [www.fightforsight.org.uk](http://www.fightforsight.org.uk) under 'Research' or by contacting The Grants Officer at [grants@fightforsight.org.uk](mailto:grants@fightforsight.org.uk) or telephone 020 7929 7755. The font size used to complete the form must be at least 12pt. The layout of the form should not be altered relative to the original.

2. The closing date for return of completed applications is **5.00pm on Monday 22 January 2007**. Applications received after this time will not be considered. Final decisions should be confirmed in April 2007. When submitting your application, please send the completed form by email and **the original (including supporting original documents and signature page) and 20 unbound single-sided original copies** to The Grants Officer, Fight for Sight, 1st Floor, 36-38 Botolph Lane, London EC3R 8DE. Both the emails and posted applications must reach the office by the respective closing times. Please mark the outer envelope with the sender's details.

3. A Fight for Sight Clinical Fellowship will provide a grant of up to £170,000 for 3 years. This may cover:

- a. Salary
- b. The compulsory Fellowship fees for PhD or MD
- c. Consumables expenses
- d. Other expenses (including travel)
- e. Equipment expenses

Nurses and members of allied health professions must have completed professional training and have some experience of research.

4 The Fellowship is awarded on the understanding that Fight for Sight does not under any circumstances accept liability as 'sponsor' under any relevant legislation. The host institution is responsible for acting as or organising a sponsor if required.

5 The Fellowship will be awarded subject to Terms and Conditions applied following approval of the Fellowship. For information purposes only please find below an outline of some of the conditions included:

5.1 The Fellowship will be awarded for three years (or two years in the case of MDs). Extensions will not be available.

5.2 Candidate Fellows may be invited for interview by the Grants Allocation Panel of Fight for Sight.

5.3 Grant holders will be expected to provide full written reports at the end of years one, two and three. Fight for Sight may also invite the Fellow to report orally on their progress.

5.4 Grant holders should ensure that the Fellow is known as the 'Fight for Sight Clinical Fellow' and that Fight for Sight's support is suitably acknowledged on all publications, presentations and posters resulting from the work. Copies of research papers should be forwarded to Fight for Sight. Any written press statement associated with the research must be approved by Fight for Sight before release.

5.5 The Fellow may be 'adopted' by a local fundraising group and may be asked to give a presentation to a lay audience during the Fellowship. If appropriate, they may also be asked to show a fundraising group round their laboratory.

5.6 The Fellowship is awarded on condition that the host institution administering the grant accepts full responsibility for the management, monitoring and control of the research work, the staff working on the project and the dissemination of the results of the research.

5.7 Fight for Sight requires the host institution to protect any and all intellectual property rights arising from the Fellowship. The Terms and Conditions also require the sharing of any financial benefit arising from the Fellowship.

6 This information does not form the whole or part of the terms and conditions of Fight for Sight Clinical Fellowships. A copy of the Terms and Conditions on which Fight for Sight Clinical Fellowships are provided can be obtained from our website [www.fightforsight.org.uk](http://www.fightforsight.org.uk).

## **Completing the Application Form**

Please use headings given using not less than 12 pt font.

### **1. Applicant**

Please provide details including current post(s) held.

### **2. Contact Details**

Please list the address, work telephone and mobile numbers, email and fax of where we can contact you.

### **3. Proposed Supervisor(s)**

Please list the details of your proposed supervisor(s) giving their name, department, institution, address, work telephone and mobile numbers, email and fax.

### **4. Title of Project**

Please enter a brief title of your project and the proposed start date and duration of project (in months) up to a maximum of 36 months.

### **5. Scientific Abstract of Research Project (250 words).**

Note: Sharing information and knowledge about Fight for Sight's research portfolio is important and consequently summary information including the research abstract and lay summary for successful applications are published on our web site. Please take this into account when preparing your abstract and lay summary. If you do include information on the use of animals, please be aware that the information, including your name and institution, will be freely available to users of our website.

**6. Description of Research for Lay Trustees (200 words)**

Include the relevance of the proposed project to the charity's aims, with no more than 200 words.

**7. Other Support**

Please explain whether the application has been submitted to another funding body in the past year. Also detail whether the application will be submitted elsewhere.

**8. Use of Animals**

Please indicate whether the appropriate Home Office Project licences and Personal licences are in place.

**9. Ethics Committee Approval**

For projects requiring ethics committee approval, applicants should submit one copy of the appropriate ethics committee submission and confirmation of approval, or the date on which this expected.

It is the responsibility of the host institution to ensure that all ethical and legal requirements and Home Office regulations are met.

**10. Proposed Research**

- 1) What is the research question? 100 words
- 2) Please explain why your research is important in no more than 250 words.
- 3) Please explain the clinical relevance of your research and its potential clinical impact in the short to medium term in no more than 250 words.
- 4) Proposed project description. Please describe your proposed research in no more than 3500 words using 12pt font. Please use the headings given.

**11. Summary of support requested**

Please list staff costs, PhD/MD registration fees, consumables, other expenses and equipment costs. For salary costs please indicate basic salary, spine name, grade, spine point and increment date and include incremental increases in years two and three, where appropriate. Requests for equipment may also be made, where it is justifiable and essential to the success of the project. Equipment costs should be exclusive of VAT. Departmental bench fees and overseas' students PhD fees will not be paid by the charity. Please also give details of current remuneration.

**12. Details of support requested**

Please give full details of the support requested with a full justification for these costs. If you plan an overseas trip please fully justify the benefits to be gained.

**13. Background information**

Please describe the considerations that led you to choose this laboratory and supervisor. Description of Department/ Institution(s), previous experience in vision research, special features and facilities of the research training environment, relevant collaborative projects and basic research resources available (1 side).

**14. Curriculum Vitae of Applicant (Maximum of 3 sides.)**

Please provide details where applicable.

**Career Objectives and Clinical Status**

You should indicate your reasons for applying for this fellowship and your short and long-term research and career intentions.

Fight for Sight would not normally agree to more than eight hours each week spent in routine clinical duties, except when additional clinical time is essential to the research project, or essential to the minimum requirements for the maintenance of clinical skills in the candidate's specialty. It is expected that the fellow will spend the majority of his or her time carrying out research.

**15. Curriculum Vitae of Proposed Supervisor(s)**

Maximum of 3 sides. Please use the format specified and also include a letter of support for the applicant.

**16. References**

Please list details of three external referees. Of these, at least one and preferably two should be outside the UK. We may contact one or more of these and we may also send your application to other referees of our choice.

Fight For Sight operates a Peer Review System which we believe enables an equitable and efficient way to review grant applications.

Peer review comments will be sent to applicants prior to the Grants Allocation Panel meeting. Applicants will then be given the opportunity to comment on these reviews. The applicant comments and the reviews will be sent to the Panel members for discussion at the Grants Allocation Panel meeting.

**17. Supporting Documents**

Please include signed original letters of support from the applicant's current Head of Department and Proposed Supervisor(s).

Ethics Committee letters of submission and approval (where applicable).

Only where completely unavoidable, should photographs or colour figures that cannot be photocopied successfully in black and white be submitted. Where submission of such photographs is necessary, please send 6 copies of each.