ResNet ECR funding application – guidance v4.0

NIHR SPHR has set aside a development fund for early career researchers within the School for pump priming of ECR-led collaborative research, as part of the Researchers Network (ResNet).

The purpose of this funding is to give ECRs in SPHR an opportunity to gain experience in developing and leading their own research project and to build their networks in ResNet and across SPHR. Please focus on the purpose of each section of the form and interpret this flexibly to fit with the work that you propose.

Timetable for call

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding call launch</td>
<td>Thursday 4th May 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual ResNet meeting</td>
<td>Wednesday 17th May 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deadline for applications</td>
<td>4pm on Monday 31st July 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Review and consideration</td>
<td>By 30th September 2023</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projects to start</td>
<td>From 1st November 2023</td>
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Please note:

- SPHR PhD students are not eligible to apply for this funding but can collaborate or be involved in projects where appropriate.
- Researchers that are named PI on SPHR programme projects/work packages are not eligible to apply for this funding. Named collaborators are eligible but must be clear in their application (section A.e. personal statement) how this funding will further their research and career aspirations.
- NIHR SPHR pre- and post-doctoral launching fellows are eligible to apply.
- Previous successful applicants/recipient of ResNet funding are not eligible to apply.

Guidance

SECTION A – this section of the form should be duplicated for applications that are co-led.

4. SPHR Sponsor
Your sponsor should be a member of SPHR and be in a position to guarantee support for you to undertake your project. They will need to confirm that your salary is secure for the duration of the project. They will need to confirm that you have the time to spend on the project. **You should discuss your application with your proposed sponsor at the earliest opportunity.**
SECTION B – Please submit one section B per application.

6. Costs
It is anticipated that projects will last for up to 18 months and cost around £30k (note: projects must end before the end of the School funding period 31/03/2027). Full costing should be included with your application in the form of a completed SPHR costing spreadsheet for each SPHR member involved. You should approach your SPHR Administrator early to discuss your costing and to ensure you get sign-off in time for the deadline.

Eligible costs include;
Staff time
Travel
Consumables
Funding to spend time at another SPHR member institution

7. Description of project to include the following headings (3 pages maximum)
Please use the headings a-e to assist you in describing your project.

8. Plain English summary
Please provide a plain English summary that can be used by lay reviewers in assessing your proposal. The lay summary may also be used on our website if the project is funded. For help with writing lay summaries you may wish to refer to the NIHR ‘make it clear’ guidance and/or use the Flesch–Kincaid readability tests.

Public and community involvement refers to research done with or by members of the public and communities of interest or place – the public are active partners rather than participants or subjects of research. (Engagement refers to activities aimed at sharing information and knowledge about research with the public).

It is important that we take diverse approaches to involving the public/communities in SPHR research, understand the impact public partners are having and provide opportunities for feedback on their experience.

Please detail how members of the public/communities of interest/place have been involved in developing the project to date, how they will be involved in the future and initial ideas for evaluating the impact of public/community involvement by providing answers in each of the sections i-v on the application form.

10. Equality, diversity & inclusion (EDI)
Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) are key principles within the School. SPHR aims to create an environment where equality and diversity are considered at all stages of the research journey, with any individual impacted or involved with the School, feeling included and valued.

The draft SPHR EDI strategy and action plan are currently under review by NIHR but you can find a final draft here.
Our aim is to create an inclusive, welcoming and equitable research and training structure and environment that celebrates diversity and values, respects and recognises contributions from all.

Please detail how you have taken account of EDI in your project, this should include in the delivery of the research, appointment of research staff and public partners and also in dissemination and knowledge sharing strategies. Please provide answers in each of the sections i-vi on the application form (these reflect the pillars of the SPHR EDI Strategy).

You may find the following resources helpful; NIHR EDI website; NIHR RDS EDI Toolkit and YouTube video (other videos are available on NIHRTV channel); EPSRC EDI expectations guide.

11. How will the proposed project address the six SPHR knowledge sharing principles? You should consider all six principles; if one, or more does, not apply in your research, you should provide a strong justification of this.

- **Clarify your purpose and knowledge sharing goals** - What do you want your findings to do, or to change?
- **Identify knowledge users and stakeholders** - Who would be interested in this research, or need to know about it?
- **Design the research to use the expertise of the knowledge users and stakeholders** - How will you design the research to benefit from knowledge users’ expertise and knowledge?
- **Agree expectations** - How will you get a shared understanding what is expected of everyone and what can be achieved?
- **Monitor, reflect and be responsive in sharing knowledge** - How will you know if your knowledge sharing activities have met your goals?
- **Leave a legacy** - How can you develop, capture and sustain any benefits?

Please note: questions around KE can be directed to Katie Appleby, SPHR Knowledge Exchange Broker (katie.appleby@ncl.ac.uk).

SPHR research aims to make a difference and have an impact on public health outcomes. Making plans for knowledge exchange (the two-way interaction between our policy and practice partners and researchers) helps to make our research timely, useful and accessible, therefore more likely to have an impact. The SPHR Knowledge Sharing Principles were co-produced by practice and policy partners and academics, underpinned by the existing literature in this area.

12. Ethics and governance

Please think carefully whether or not the proposed project raise ethical issues? Please outline any ethical issues associated with this research and the arrangements for handling them. Please also describe any research governance arrangements that would apply to the proposed project.
SECTION C – this section of the form should be duplicated for applications that involve more than one SPHR ECR.

SECTION D – this section of the form should be duplicated for applications that involve more than one PhD student.

FAQs

Q1. One thing I would be very grateful if you could clarify as soon as possible regards eligibility to apply. Please could you let me know (and include on the guidance) how you are defining ECRs?

A1. You must be a member of ResNet to be eligible to apply for this funding. There is not a set definition for ECR in terms of years post-doc but we ask you to justify in your application why you are applying and how this funding will further your career.

Q2. How would this work with several people being co-leads? I know the form is being framed around a fellowship application, and rightly so to give experience for researchers wanting to follow this path, however, I'm not sure it lends itself that easily to collaborative projects

A2. Where there are co-leads on a project, one complete section A of the form (questions 1-4) should be submitted by each co-lead. Section B should be completed together by the co-leads and only one section B should be submitted.

Q3. When can my research project start/end?

A3. You can start your project any time after 1st November 2023. Projects can be up to 18 months duration. Projects must end on or before 31st March 2027.

Any further comments or questions you have to help inform the guidance would be welcomed. Questions to sphr.training@ncl.ac.uk.