

## **CRIS Cancer - Clinical Career Fellow Award 2025**

### **Description and Specification**

#### **Overview**

Clinical academics play a critical role in cancer research communities. This Clinical Career Fellow award has been established by the [CRIS Cancer Foundation](#) and [Oxford Cancer](#) to support individuals who are seeking to develop an independent academic career that integrates cancer research and medical practice. The award can be tailored at the discretion of the award holder and mentorship group to support their chosen clinical and research training path.

Two fellowships will be awarded with each being worth up to £224K for up to 3 years, with a maximum of £74,600 p.a. The significant funding can be used to support the salary of the individual, research consumables and services, and clinical activity as needed. This unique opportunity provides a pathway towards independence whilst facilitating collaborative research which ultimately translates to patient benefit.

#### **Description of the award**

This fixed-term award is open to any UK-recognised, medically qualified applicant. The award holder will be expected to develop their own independent, innovative research programme, working in collaboration with both basic and translational groups in Oxford encompassing the following broad scientific themes:

- Immuno-Oncology
- Cancer Big Data
- Novel Therapeutics
- Early Cancer Detection

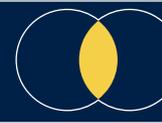
**To apply for the award, applicants will need to identify a cancer research group, laboratory or department willing to host the individual and their research. This group must be based at Oxford University and the group leader must hold a contract of employment with their department for the duration of the award. A letter of support from the group leader will be required.**

For applicants in clinical training: the award may be taken as a period of full-time out of clinical training research or as part-time research alongside clinical training (potential clinical lecturer model). This needs to be clear on the application and be accompanied by supporting documentation showing provisional approval from your Training Programme Director for your application.

An academic mentor will be assigned who will meet the appointee on a six-monthly basis to ensure that mutually agreed academic milestones are being achieved. Academic milestones will focus on the development of specific research and training milestones determined with the academic mentor.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Medically qualified.
- Candidate must be a trainee on a recognised UK postgraduate medical training programme, at ST3 or above.
- GMC registered or eligible for registration.
- At appointment, to hold a Higher Degree (PhD/MD/ DPhil) in a relevant subject area
- Holding an honorary NHS contract or able to obtain one, if required.
- Applicants may have completed an Academic Clinical Lectureship (ACL) but should not currently be employed as an ACL.



## Visa and Health Coverage Information for International Candidates

For candidates who require a visa to work in United Kingdom, please be advised that you will be responsible for covering all costs associated with obtaining the necessary visa for employment. This includes, but is not limited to, the visa application fee, processing costs, and any related administrative expenses. Additionally, you will be required to cover the costs of NHS Surcharge.

We encourage candidates to thoroughly review the requirements for the visa application process and ensure they have sufficient financial resources to cover these expenses. Please note that while support can be provided for the necessary documentation and guidance, the financial responsibility for securing a visa and NHS Surcharge will lie with the awardee.

## What we're looking for?

We're looking for research-qualified (PhD/DPhil/MD) clinicians with both a desire and robust plan for establishing an independent research career. We welcome project proposals across all remits and interest areas of Oxford Cancer with projects ranging from basic discovery science to translational and applied health research. Your proposed project should be tailored to your interests and expertise, and those of your research partner, and designed to provide a mutually beneficial collaboration. The awards are flexible so you can tailor the support to your individual and collaborative plans. Awards will be for at least one year and no more than three years.

## How will we assess your application?

Ultimately, we will fund the individuals that are considered to have the best chance of becoming an independent clinical researcher. When we receive your application, we will check it to make sure the proposal is within remit of the award. It will then be peer-reviewed by at least three independent experts from Oxford University and/or the Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust. Peer reviewers will assess your application and provide comments. They will also score it using the peer reviewer scoring system against the following criteria:

- importance: how important are the questions, or gaps in knowledge, that are being addressed?
- scientific potential: what are the prospects for good scientific progress?
- resources requested: are the requested funds essential for the work? And do the importance and scientific potential justify funding on the scale requested? Does the proposal represent good value for money?
- the track record of your proposed research partner, including their funding and current productivity, and their ability to provide you with a suitable research environment and mentorship
- the strength of the plan for achieving independent funding at the end of the fellowship.

We will review these scores and comments at a triage meeting carried out by a sub-committee of members of the DPhil in Cancer Science Oversight Committee and scored against the following criteria:

- evidence of your research capabilities, shown by your productivity and the skills you have gained during your research career to date
- how well the proposed project aligns with your research strengths and interests and those of your research partner and Oxford Cancer
- the strength of the plan for achieving independent funding at the end of the fellowship.
- progress in clinical training to date and practicalities of the combined research/clinical training plan proposed.

The top 4 applicants judged to have scored most highly across these two levels of review will be invited to interview at which point, up to two will be selected for funding.

## Contact Information

Please contact [cancertraining@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cancertraining@medsci.ox.ac.uk) with any questions or queries prior to making your application if needed.

## Oxford Cancer

Oxford Cancer is a city-wide network and partnership between Oxford University and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust based on the University’s Translational Biomedical Research Campus. It harnesses Oxford’s world-leading cancer research from across disciplines, with the core aim of facilitating collaboration to ensure rapid translation from scientific discovery to treatments for patients. Oxford Cancer currently comprises over 900 members from around 90 different Departments, Units, Institutes of the University, as well as the NHS Trust who invest over £55m each year into translational cancer research. Oxford Cancer is an inclusive network of organisations in Oxford for whom cancer research is a priority focus. We support and connect people working across a range of disciplines and aim to facilitate research collaboration on a local, national and international scale to speed up translation from scientific discovery to treatments in patients. Our mission is to enable and combine the best research and clinical resources in order to innovate cancer treatment and care world-wide. We aim to do this through discovery, collaboration and education – and empowered by strategic leadership and world-leading facilities.

### Oxford Cancer Values

Empowering	Coordinated	Innovative
We aspire to give everybody in Oxford the tools to advance and translate their discoveries in cancer science.	Through a city-wide cancer strategy, we facilitate collaborations between researchers across many disciplines, from across Oxford and beyond.	Oxford is at the forefront of delivering better care for cancer patients through world leading cancer research.

For areas of research interest, please follow the hyperlinks from [Research — Oxford Cancer](#).

## CRIS Cancer Foundation

The CRIS Cancer Foundation is an international non-profit organisation created with the objective of investing in cutting-edge research that provides improved treatments for people with cancer. CRIS Cancer stands for “Cancer Research Innovation in Science”. For more than 10 years we’ve been investing in pioneering research into cancer with more than € 29M to support 198 scientists in 81 research lines to promote 418 clinical trials and resulting in 634 congress communications.

CRIS Cancer is based in UK, Spain and France and has significant partnerships across Europe and North America. Our aim is to provide scientists with resources to enable and accelerate innovative ideas in the race to treat and defeat cancer. CRIS Cancer is an international community. We support the brightest researchers who are working tirelessly on new treatments to help on survival, live longer and improve the quality of life of cancer patients.

Our mission: To invest in cutting-edge research that provides treatments for people with cancer.

Our vision: A world where pioneering research gives every adult and child with cancer the best chance of survival.

Our values:

- We are passionate and ambitious about making our vision a reality.
- We make long-term commitments to scientists so they can carry out innovative research into cancer treatments.
- We promote excellence in cancer research as we know this will lead to pioneering new treatments for people with cancer.
- We collaborate with international institutions, research scientists, clinicians, people with a cancer diagnosis, volunteers and donors.
- We inspire everybody to take action. We all have a role to play regardless of our background, experience or situation.

For further information, please visit us at [CRIS Cancer Foundation](#).