

# NIHR Post-Doctoral Fellowship Writing Retreat Overview and Application Guidance

**Dates: 26-27<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## **Overview**

This NIHR Post-Doctoral Fellowship Writing Retreat aims to support individuals with the potential, and on a trajectory, to become future leaders in health and care research, in submitting a Fellowship application to an appropriate NIHR Academy programme.

This is a collaborative event across all NIHR Infrastructures at the University of Exeter, bringing together expertise and experience of individuals leading on training and capacity development. As well as supporting members of our Exeter NIHR communities, we will also support individuals from partner health and social care organisations in the South West region.

The NIHR Infrastructures hosted at the University are detailed below:

- [NIHR Exeter Biomedical Research Centre \(BRC\)](#)
- [NIHR Applied Research Collaboration South West Peninsula \(PenARC\)](#)
- [NIHR School for Primary Care Research \(SPCR\)](#)
- [NIHR School for Public Health Research \(SPHR\)](#)
- NIHR Policy Research Unit in Dementia and Neurodegeneration (DenPRU)

This is a 2-day event to support delegates in shaping their Fellowship applications and will include a mixture of presentations to disseminate information, interactive workshops for discussion and provision of support, alongside blocks of time allocated to structured self-directed writing time.

Whilst the content of the event will be tailored largely to the needs of the delegates in attendance, based on information gathered through the application process, there are several core areas that will be included as outlined below:

- Panel Q&A session with the University of Exeter NIHR Funding Advisory Network (FAN)
- Writing a narrative CV
- Framing your research question
- Creating a detailed budget plan
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)
- Patient and Public Engagement and Involvement (PPIE)
- Training and Development
- 1:1 bookable clinics

## **Event details**

**Dates:** 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 running from 10:00 – 15:30 each day

\*It should be noted that attendees are required to attend both days in-full. This retreat includes an optional overnight stay at [Northgate House](#) (on-site accommodation). We acknowledge that due to personal/parental/caring responsibilities, a 2-day overnight event may not be feasible for everyone wanting to attend. However, we have included this option as the benefits of being

removed from day-to-day surroundings and responsibilities with no distractions are extremely valuable when writing a fellowship application, in turn, increasing productivity. The overnight stay will also provide further networking and peer-mentorship opportunities.

**Location:** [Buckfast Abbey Conference Centre](#)

\*This venue had been selected to ensure accessibility needs can be accommodated. Further details pertaining to venue and wider accessibility accommodations will be circulated to attending delegates, and should you have any specific requirements, we kindly ask that you inform us so that they can be accommodated.

**Transport:** We will provide transport, in the form of a minibus, from the University of Exeter St Lukes Campus to the venue (leaving at 09:00am on the 26<sup>th</sup> and returning at approx. 16:30 on the 27<sup>th</sup>). Should you wish to seek alternative means of transport, directions and further details can be found [here](#). Please note that there is ample parking at the venue.

**Cost:** this is a free event.

### **Eligibility**

This event is open to members of our NIHR Exeter communities (as listed above), alongside individuals from partner health and social care organisations in the South West region. It should be noted that priority will be given to current NIHR Academy members – the definition of an academy member can be found [here](#).

Prospective NIHR Fellowship applicants must hold a relevant doctoral degree or have submitted their thesis for examination at the time of their application, with the expectation that they will have been awarded a Doctorate by the time of the event.

In alignment with objectives underpinning our local NIHR infrastructure facilities alongside those of the NIHR, we will particularly encourage applications from individuals from:

- underrepresented disciplines (such as allied health professions, nurses, social workers and pharmacists)
- NIHR priority research areas (such as multiple long-term conditions, dementia, prevention)
- underserved groups

Spaces are limited to 15 individuals in order to provide intensive support during the event. As a result, we please ask for a light-touch application outlining how the retreat will benefit you. This is an in-person event only, but we will aim to record some of the presentations and make relevant notes to be shared after the event with both attendees and those who were not able to attend.

### **How to apply**

It is essential that we understand the specific needs of delegates to tailor the programme of sessions. You will be asked to identify the specific NIHR Academy Programme to which you are applying, alongside a timeline for submission, what support you would benefit from receiving at this event and what you would gain from this training opportunity.

It should be noted that delegates will be asked to bring their most up to date application draft to work on over the 2 days, where structured self-directed writing blocks will be worked into the programme of the event to implement learning from the facilitated sessions.

We will be accepting applications up until **5pm Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024**. For general enquires about the application process, and to submit your application, please contact NIHR Exeter BRC Training and Events Manager Dr Sophie Gould ([S.L.Gould@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:S.L.Gould@exeter.ac.uk)).

### **Our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Commitment**

The University of Exeter NIHR Infrastructures strongly adhere to Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) principles, and they share a fundamental objective to empower better health outcomes for all patients and the public.

We are committed to ensuring that the consideration of EDI is second nature to all our community members, fostering a fully inclusive environment where everyone feels supported, valued, and is provided the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our strategies purposefully share overarching EDI visions with those of the NIHR, UoE and NHS Trust partners to allow for collaborative working to reach our mutual goals. Whilst all applicants will be judged on merit alone, we particularly welcome applications from groups currently underserved within our working community.