

## BNSSG ICB Launching Fellowship 2025 – Guidance

Applications are invited for the 2025 BNSSG ICB Launching Fellowship from individuals with a developing academic record who wish to progress their career in primary care, community care, social care, or public health research. The goal of the fellowship is for the appointee to publish papers from their PhD and write an application to secure future funding (e.g., an NIHR fellowship). This opportunity provides successful candidates with a platform to develop as an independent researcher and future research leader. The Launching Fellowship award is open to applicants from the University of Bristol and the University of the West of England.

### Eligibility criteria

- Applicants will have obtained their research doctorate or submitted their PhD or MD thesis for examination, within 3 years of the time of applying, allowing for career breaks or other extenuating circumstances.
- Applicants must have experience of research in primary care/community care/social care/public health.
- The applicant must be looking to secure their first research grant or first post-doctoral fellowship. Therefore, a key selection criterion is the likelihood of the individual making a successful grant or fellowship application within 18 months of taking up this fellowship.
- The fellowship is intended to support individuals at the **start of their postdoctoral research careers**. The award is intended for individuals currently holding the following roles:
  - At University of Bristol: Equivalent to **Senior Research Associate** and grades below
  - At UWE Bristol: Equivalent to **Senior Research Fellow** and grades below

This scheme is part of the ICB's strategy to increase research opportunities for under-represented professions. The award is open to all disciplines relevant to research in primary care, community care, social care, or public health. Work that aligns with a published health care system priority area is preferred.

This Launching Fellowship award was not designed for clinical academics however candidates who are medically or dentally qualified can apply, although the funding award may not stretch as far due to comparable pay differences between medical and non-medical academics.

## **Purpose of the Fellowship**

The Launching Fellowship is not intended to fund a standalone research project. Instead, it provides protected time for early-career researchers to:

- Develop their academic profile and publish papers from their PhD.
- Strengthen their track record in preparation for applying for competitive external fellowships (e.g. NIHR).
- Build national and international research collaborations
- Explore new research ideas for future grant or fellowship applications.

The Launching Fellowship must start by 31st March 2026. Although the successful candidate will be employed by and based at their current institution, this is a collaborative venture between NHS Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board and the University of Bristol or the University of the West of England. The post can be taken full-time or part-time if preferred. This should be outlined within your application.

Remuneration for Launching Fellowships will be £60,000.

Launching Fellowship awards may involve working on specific development work that will prepare the way for a larger externally funded grant or successful post-doctoral fellowship application. It will also involve attachment to a research group involved in a programme of research.

Applicants will need to demonstrate outstanding potential to obtain an externally funded research grant or fellowship within 18 months of taking up the fellowship. This might be evidenced, for example, by a growing publication record (taking into account their stage of career), involvement in grant applications, and/or signs of high academic ability.

## **HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION**

The application process consists of two stages.

### **Stage 1: Application**

Interested individuals are invited to send a completed application form and submit a 2-page CV.

Your application should be sent by email to [bnssg.research@nhs.net](mailto:bnssg.research@nhs.net)

Please put **Launching Fellowship 2025** as the subject of the email. Applications must be received by **11<sup>th</sup> August 2025**.

## **Stage 2: Interview**

Candidates will be invited to attend an interview in September 2025, either online or at the office of NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB (100 Temple Street, Bristol. BS1 6AG).

## **TIMELINES**

Competition launch	23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025
<b>Online Launching Fellowship Seminar</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Applicants to submit application form and CV by	11th August 2025
All applicants receive outcome of Stage 1 by	29th August 2025
Interviews to be held on	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025
Start of Fellowship	Before March 2026