

Lectureship Awards Guidance for Applicants

Purpose of the award

The Stroke Association Lectureship programme aims to address succession and sustainability in the careers of stroke researchers. We aim to develop a collaborative multidisciplinary community in which to nurture and build upon the careers of early stage researchers, encourage more driven and high-calibre researchers into the field of stroke research, and ultimately start to develop the research leaders of the future in stroke research, training and clinical excellence.

This award will provide secure and stable long-term funding for researchers to establish themselves as independent researchers, whilst leading high quality programmes of research. This award also aims to leverage further funds to support PhDs, Postdocs or other junior research and fellowship positions, as well as inspiring the next generation through a high quality lecturing and training programme.

We anticipate driving a step change in stroke research, teaching and training in universities and hospitals to improve our knowledge of stroke treatment, rehabilitation and prevention as well as addressing research career succession in stroke and providing a platform for mentoring and training the next generation of stroke experts. We expect to bring the highest standards of research innovation into the heart of clinical and academic training and education. This will in turn serve to raise the profile of stroke within the UK and lead to the improved service delivery and higher standards of care for stroke survivors.

These awards will support the establishment and embedding of research posts within Universities for the first 4 or 5 years, allowing award recipients to establish their success. After this period, the Universities will be expected to commit to long term (tenured) funding of these posts, provided that adequate progress and success has been demonstrated by the candidate in this role to date. The Lecturer/Reader will be required to apply for further grant funding from the Stroke Association or other sources. This is to cover salaries for further research and training of staff and related research costs. However, they will not be permitted to apply for further funds for their own salary, or to offset their own salary costs within this award.

Clinical Lectureships are for candidates who are still spending up to 50% of their time in clinical practice, Non-Clinical Lectureships are for those with or without a clinical qualification spending 100% of their time in academic research and lecturing, with no clinical employment. Only those applicants with an exceptional clinical and/or academic record will be considered for this award.

Types of lectureship award

We have eight different types of award and we encourage you to consider which is most appropriate for you:

- Clinical Lectureship for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals
- Senior Clinical Lectureship for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals
- Clinical Lectureship for Medical Professionals
- Senior Clinical Lectureship for Medical Professionals
- Non-Clinical Lectureship
- Senior Non-Clinical Lectureship
- Reader Award (Clinical)
- Reader Award (Non-Clinical)

Eligibility

This award is open to applicants based in a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI).

This award is open for all types of research across all aspects of the stroke care pathway. Whilst applications which address one or more of our [‘Priority’ areas](#) are welcome in this programme, we will not prioritise or apply special merit in any way to these applications compared to others.

If applicable, we must have a copy of your ethical approval and any animal license necessary before you can take up the award.

Please see [Appendix 1: Eligibility Criteria](#) at the end of this document for the standard eligibility criteria for candidates applying to each type of Lectureship award.

Amount offered

There is a maximum cap that can be requested for each award over 5 years or 4 years:

1. Clinical lectureship for Nurses and AHPs:
 - a. max award 5 years: £200,000
 - b. max award 4 years: £160,000
2. Senior clinical lectureship for Nurses and AHPs:
 - a. max award 5 years: £225,000
 - b. max award 4 years: £180,000
3. Clinical lectureship for Medical Professionals:
 - a. max award 5 years: £200,000
 - b. max award 4 years: £160,000
4. Senior clinical lectureship for Medical Professionals:
 - a. max award 5 years: £235,000
 - b. max award 4 years: £190,000

5. Non-clinical lectureship	
a. max award 5 years:	£200,000
b. max award 4 years:	£160,000
6. Senior non-clinical lectureship:	
a. max award 5 years:	£225,000
b. max award 4 years:	£180,000
7. Reader award (Non-Clinical):	
a. max award 5 years:	£235,000
b. max award 4 years:	£190,000
8. Reader award (Clinical):	
a. max award 5 years:	£260,000
b. max award 4 years:	£215,000

Stroke Association support programme

The maximum amount includes a £4,500 per year support stipend of which £1,500 is ring-fenced for a programme of support led by the Stroke Association, offering skills training in areas such as leadership and coaching through training days with other Stroke Association lecturers. The remaining £3,000 per year should be used by the award holder to cover travel costs to attend and present at Stroke Association events, attend conferences, round tables and networking events with students and fellows and actively engage and participate in the UK Stroke Forum each year as an Ambassador for the Stroke Association.

Lecturer's salary:

The Stroke Association will pay up to a maximum of 50% of the Lecturer's salary. The HEI only (Non-Clinical Lecturer/Senior Lecturer and Reader (Non-Clinical) applications), or the HEI and NHS/Clinical Employer (Clinical Lecturer/Senior Lecturer or Reader (Clinical) applications), will need to provide the remainder of the candidate's salary that is not requested from the Stroke Association. The breakdown of this proportional salary payment should be included in each of the support letters from the HEI and the NHS/Clinical Employer (Clinical Lectureships, Senior Clinical Lectureships and Reader (Clinical) only) to confirm and guarantee their commitment to this salary cost for the duration of the Lectureship/Reader Award.

Research expenses:

Any remaining funds of the maximum capped amount that are not used by the salary (after deduction of the £4,500 per year for support costs) can be used to apply for research expenses. Candidates who have a higher proportion of their salary paid for by the NHS/HEI will find they are able to apply for more research expenses in their overall award allocation.

University research costs and NHS Costs:

The Stroke Association supports the AMRC statement on supporting research in universities, as such we will only support the directly incurred costs of research and do not pay indirect or directly allocated costs.

<http://www.amrc.org.uk/publications/statement-supporting-research-universities>.

For guidelines on attributing the costs of health and social care research and development (AcoRD), and if you will request NHS Support Costs and NHS Treatment Costs, please refer to extra guidance in our [guidance for NHS Supports Costs/NHS Treatment Costs/AcoRD document](#).

Adjudication

Lectureships are awarded annually in March. Applications are invited by means of advertisements in the medical press and the Stroke Association website (www.stroke.org.uk).

Lectureship/Reader applications will be adjudicated by an awards panel appointed by the Stroke Association.

Once your application is received by the Research Department, all applications are sent out for peer review by external experts as well as being reviewed by an awards panel appointed by the Stroke Association. Reviewers and the interview panel will score applications based on the Person (candidate), the Programme (of research) and the Place (host institution); however, the score for the person will be weighted differently and will be worth 50% of the total score.

Peer review scores are used to rank applications and shortlist for interview with agreement from the Chair of the Adjudication Panel. If an application is shortlisted, the candidate will be invited to attend an interview. The Research Department will send out invitation letters for interview. Please hold the interview dates in your diary from now on until we confirm if you have been shortlisted. You will receive a letter confirming this approximately three weeks before the interview date.

The interview will be conducted by a panel made up of up to four members of the Research Awards Pool and invited experts (if applicable) and members of the Research Team from the Stroke Association. The interview usually lasts for around 50 minutes. The candidate will be invited to give a short (8 minute) presentation to the panel outlining their background, the research proposal, and why it is important for the Stroke Association to fund the proposal. The interview will focus on the calibre of the candidate, primarily track record, output and evidence of research excellence. The interview panel will also assess the planned programme of novel and competitive research with plans to establish a sound research programme and build critical mass with training of PhDs and other training posts as a key part of this. The HEI and their current strategy and commitment to stroke research, teaching and training will also form part of the Assessment Committee's decision.

Awards will be made to the highest calibre candidates. Following the interview, the awards panel will discuss each of the candidates, and will make a recommendation to the Stroke Association Council of Trustees on who should receive a Lectureship/Reader Award. Candidates will be informed in writing of the final decision by the end of March.

Successful applicants will be informed in writing. Unsuccessful applicants will also receive a letter containing feedback from their interview and anonymised external peer reviewer comments.

Appendix 1: Eligibility Criteria for Stroke Association Lectureship Awards

All applicants will have to comply with the following:

- Applicants must commit at least 50% of their time to research activities in this lectureship programme; this may include conducting research, leadership, supervising and mentoring, training and conferences, grant-writing, peer review and participating in awards panels, and all other activities related to building their research programme and their own personal development and experience as a research leader.
- Applicants can apply to stay at their current HEI, or may apply with a HEI; however, all the relevant support, endorsement and commitments would be required from a new HEI.
- The HEI must provide a statement of support and outline what support will be available to the lecturer/reader e.g. access to administrative support, how will they ensure they start to recruit PhD students, how many PhD studentships are guaranteed or available to compete for each year, any support/mentoring processes for grant writing.
- The University or HEI must have either i) a clear strategy in stroke research or an aspect of stroke research that aligns with the Research Strategy of the Stroke Association or ii) a future plan and commitment to build capacity in stroke research and a current strategic commitment in at least one area closely aligned with stroke.
- Applicants must evidence their support (previous and/or current) of the Stroke Association and outline how they plan to fulfil their role as an Ambassador for the Stroke Association, promoting and supporting the work of the Stroke Association throughout their lectureship, should their application for funding be successful.
- All applicants must demonstrate an emerging reputation (local/national, or international for senior posts) in an aspect of stroke research that will relate to

and enhance the research strategy of the sponsoring institution.

- All candidates must deliver a programme of high quality research, as outlined in their application, to make a significant contribution to knowledge and/or clinical practice in field of stroke.
- Applicants must have a demonstrable track record in publishing in peer reviewed journals, holding grants as principal investigator and/or co-investigator or co-applicant, networking and establishing collaborations at national and international level, research team development and management, mentoring, training and capacity building in research. This will be assessed relative to the level of position/award applied for.
- There should be evidence of continuing outstanding achievement particularly in high quality publications and grants.
- A demonstrated commitment is required from the applicants to continue in this post following the funding period and the sponsoring institution should demonstrate commitment at the time of application that the funding will continue beyond the period of the funding from the Stroke Association, subject to satisfactory progress.
- Proposals will be considered in any aspect of stroke care with no priorities applied during assessment to the type of research applied for.
- The research should have a strong patient involvement element and must demonstrate patient/public benefit (either short term, or longer term).

Below are more specific criteria for the 8 available award types.

1. Clinical Lectureship for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals

- Applicants must have obtained a PhD/Prof Doc (research doctorate or equivalent) and hold current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or the Health Care Professionals Council (HCPC) at the point of award. Applicants may apply without a PhD/equivalent award but will not be eligible to take up their award if they have not obtained their PhD or equivalent qualification by March.
- Applicants should have held a previous clinical and/or academic position in an area relevant to stroke.
- Candidates that have already completed one Clinical Lectureship may not apply for another.

- Applicants must not currently hold a Chair (personal or other).
- Applicants must be endorsed by their host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation. Applicants must be nominated by the prospective Head of Department, and have an undertaking from the Director/Head of the Institution, Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Dean that their personal support will be taken over by the institution at the end of the award.
- The host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation must provide explicit assurance of their intention to work together to afford the applicant with a funded clinical academic position post award, subject to satisfactory progress and performance throughout the award. The HEI must commit to matching the salary level that is offered by the NHS on the NHS pay scale. A guarantee will be expected from the HEI that this salary match-funding will be in place. Failure to meet this expectation throughout the award will result in withdrawal of the award by the Stroke Association (as stated in the Conditions of Award).
- General Practitioners (GPs) should apply to this award.
- Applicants should propose to spend at least 50% of their time in research and agree their clinical and academic commitments within their Clinical Lectureship with their employers.
- A Clinical Lectureship should enable the award holder to make a significant contribution to research as well as clinical practice and support their development as a potential clinical academic leader.

2. Senior Clinical Lectureship for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals

- Applicants must have obtained a PhD/Prof Doc (research doctorate or equivalent) and hold current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or the Health Care Professionals Council (HCPC) at the point of award. Applicants may apply without a PhD/equivalent award but will not be eligible to take up their award if they have not obtained their PhD or equivalent qualification by March.
- Candidates must have completed their clinical training.
- Applicants should have held a previous clinical and/or academic position in an area relevant to stroke. Applicants must have already completed, or be near to completion of, a Clinical Lectureship. Alternatively, candidates must previously have held a senior clinical position in an area of stroke care as well as having held an academic position (e.g. Senior Research Fellow or

Lecturer). We strongly encourage applications from individuals with the appropriate experience who currently hold positions based in either a NHS Trust or a HEI.

- Candidates that have already completed one Senior Clinical Lectureship may not apply for another.
- Applicants must not currently hold a Chair (personal or other).
- Applicants must be endorsed by their host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation. Applicants must be nominated by the prospective Head of Department, and have an undertaking from the Director/Head of the Institution, Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Dean that their personal support will be taken over by the institution at the end of the award.
- The host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation must provide explicit assurance of their intention to work together to afford the applicant with a funded clinical academic position post award. The HEI must commit to matching the salary level that is offered by the NHS on the NHS pay scale. A guarantee will be expected from the HEI that this salary match-funding will be in place. Failure to meet this expectation throughout the award will result in withdrawal of the award by the Stroke Association (as stated in the Conditions of Award).
- Candidates must have an outstanding research track record, with evidence of successful supervision and mentoring of students and/or early career researchers.
- Candidates should ideally have previous experience of up to 5 years as a Clinical Lecturer and should have postdoctoral research experience with evidence of continuing outstanding achievement particularly in publications, grants, mentoring and training of students and junior fellows.
- Applicants should propose to spend at least 50% of their time in research and agree their clinical and academic commitments within a Senior Clinical Lectureship with their employers.
- A Senior Clinical Lectureship should enable the award holder to make a significant contribution to research as well as clinical practice and support their development as a potential clinical academic leader.

3. Clinical Lectureship for Medical Professionals

- General Practitioners (GPs) should apply for our Clinical Lectureship for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals award.

- Doctors with specialist/ty experience (as an SHO, LAT or equivalent) who meet the criteria for entry into specialty training and who have completed a PhD/MD (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area are also eligible.
- Applicants no longer registered and no longer participating in clinical practice should apply for a Non-Clinical Lectureship post.
- Applicants should hold an MD and may only apply for this post if they have already submitted their PhD/MD or equivalent thesis at the time of application. Successful candidates may not take up their post until their PhD/MD/equivalent has been fully awarded.
- Applicants should have held a previous clinical and/or academic position in an area relevant to stroke.
- Candidates that have already completed one Clinical Lectureship may not apply for another.
- Applicants must not currently hold a Chair (personal or other).
- Applicants must be endorsed by their University and must be nominated by the prospective Head of Department, and have an undertaking from the Director/Head of the Institution, Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Dean that their personal support will be taken over by the institution at the end of the award. The host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation must be open to Specialist Registrars (SpR) or Specialty Registrars (StR) who have completed a PhD/MD (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area or a MB PhD programme.
- Applicants for Clinical Lectureships must be endorsed by the relevant Deanery, with a commitment to allow at least 50% of the applicant's time out of their medical training programme.
- Applicants must be medically qualified and must hold a National Training Number (NTN) to take up the award. If the applicant does not currently have an NTN, the Lectureship post will be awarded conditionally by the Stroke Association. This criterion must be met before the award can begin. Lectureships can be taken up within 6 months of receiving the award letter.
- Applicants to Clinical Lectureship posts must be in a specialty training area relevant to stroke at level ST4 or above. N.B. There are six specialty training areas relevant to stroke: Geriatric Medicine, Rehabilitation Medicine, Cardiology, Neurology, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and General Internal Medicine.

- Applicants require the support of a host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation, which must provide explicit assurance of their intention to work together to afford the applicant with a funded clinical academic position post award.
- Applicants should propose to spend at least 50% of their time in research and agree their clinical and academic commitments within a Clinical Lectureship with their employers.
- A Clinical Lectureship should enable the award holder to make a significant contribution to research as well as clinical practice and support their development as a potential clinical academic leader.

4. Senior Clinical Lectureship for Medical Professionals

- General Practitioners (GPs) should apply for our Senior Clinical Lectureship for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals award.
- Applicants should hold an MD and may only apply for this post if they have already submitted their PhD/MD or equivalent thesis at the time of application. Successful candidates may not take up their post until their PhD/MD/equivalent has been fully awarded.
- Candidates must have completed their clinical training (CCT) and must have already completed, or be near to completion of, a Clinical Lectureship. Alternatively, candidates must previously have held a senior clinical position in an area of stroke care as well as having held an academic position (e.g. Senior Research Fellow, Lecturer).
- Applicants should have held a previous clinical and/or academic position in an area relevant to stroke.
- Candidates that have already completed one Senior Clinical Lectureship may not apply for another.
- Applicants must not currently hold a Chair (personal or other).
- Applicants must be endorsed by their University and must be nominated by the prospective Head of Department, and have an undertaking from the Director/Head of the Institution, Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Dean that their personal support will be taken over by the institution at the end of the award. The host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation must be open to Specialist Registrars (SpR) or Specialty Registrars (StR) who have completed a PhD/MD (or equivalent) in a relevant subject area or a MB PhD programme.

Applicants for Senior Clinical Lectureships must be endorsed by the relevant Deanery, with a commitment to allow 50% of the applicant's time out of their medical training programme.

- Candidates must have completed their clinical training and must have already completed, or be near to completion of, a Clinical Lectureship. Alternatively, candidates must previously have held a senior clinical position in an area of stroke care as well as having held an academic position (e.g. Senior Research Fellow or Lecturer). We strongly encourage applications from individuals with the appropriate experience who currently hold positions based in either a NHS trust or a HEI.
- Candidates must have an outstanding research track record, with evidence of successful supervision and mentoring of students and/or early career researchers.
- Candidates should ideally have previous experience of up to 5 years as a Clinical Lecturer and should have post-doctoral research experience with evidence of continuing outstanding achievement particularly in publications, grants, mentoring and training of students and junior fellows.
- Applicants require the support of a host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation, which must provide explicit assurance of their intention to work together to afford the applicant with a funded clinical academic position post award.
- Applicants should propose to divide their time equally between their clinical and academic commitments within a Senior Clinical Lectureship.
- The award should enable the award holder to make a significant contribution to research as well as clinical practice and support their development as a potential clinical academic leader.

5. Non-Clinical Lectureship

- Applicants must have obtained a PhD/Prof Doc or equivalent.
- Applicants will usually have between 3 and 6 years post-doctoral research experience, with some experience in teaching/lecturing and supervising PhD students during that time. Applicants should have held a previous or academic position in an area relevant to stroke.
- Applicants must be endorsed by their University and must be nominated by the prospective Head of Department, and have an undertaking from the

Director/Head of the Institution, Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Dean that their personal support will be taken over by the institution at the end of the award.

- Candidates that have already completed one Non-Clinical Lectureship may not apply for another.
- Candidates may only apply for a Non-Clinical Lectureship at any level if they are not in clinical practice, either due to switching from a clinical or partially clinical career path to pure academic research, or having trained via an entirely scientific, non-clinical career pathway.
- Candidates must have an outstanding research track record, preferably with evidence of successful supervision of research students and mentoring of other early career researchers.

6. Senior Non-Clinical Lectureship

- Applicants must have obtained a PhD/Prof Doc or equivalent.
- Applicants will usually have between 6 and 10 years post-doctoral research experience, with some experience in teaching/lecturing and supervising PhD students during that time. Applicants should have held a previous or academic position in an area relevant to stroke.
- Applicants must be endorsed by their University and must be nominated by the prospective Head of Department, and have an undertaking from the Director/Head of the Institution, Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Dean that their personal support will be taken over by the institution at the end of the award.
- Candidates that have already completed one Senior Non-Clinical Lectureship may not apply for another.
- Applicants must not currently hold a Chair (personal or other).

Candidates may only apply for a Senior Non-Clinical Lectureship at any level if they are not in clinical practice, either due to switching from a clinical or partially clinical career path to pure academic research, or having trained via an entirely scientific, non-clinical career pathway.

- Applicants must demonstrate success in research leadership.
- Applicants must demonstrate sustained success in obtaining research grants at a high level for the discipline area.
- Applicants must demonstrate successful supervision of research students.

7. Reader Award (Clinical)

- Applicants must have obtained a PhD/Prof Doc or equivalent.
- Applicants must hold current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) or the Health Care Professionals Council (HCPC) at the point of award.
- Applicants must have obtained a PhD/Prof Doc or equivalent.
- Applicants must be endorsed by their host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation. Applicants must be nominated by the prospective Head of Department, and have an undertaking from the Director/Head of the Institution, Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Dean that their personal support will be taken over by the institution at the end of the award.
- The host HEI and NHS funded healthcare organisation must provide explicit assurance of their intention to work together to afford the applicant with a funded clinical academic position post award. The HEI must commit to matching the salary level that is offered by the NHS on the NHS pay scale. A guarantee will be expected from the HEI that this salary match-funding will be in place. Failure to meet this expectation throughout the award will result in withdrawal of the award by the Stroke Association (as stated in the Conditions of Award).
- Applicants should have held a previous or academic position in an area relevant to stroke.
- Applicants must not currently hold a Chair (personal or other).
- Reader positions will normally only be awarded to those who are already Senior Lecturers at their University, in recognition of their personal distinction in their subject, and of their contribution to its advancement through scholarship and research.
- In some cases, those who already hold a Reader position will be considered. In this scenario, the Reader must be able to demonstrate that this award would add value and in some way enhance their current position, allowing them to take their career to the next level. For example: if the Reader is currently employed at 0.6FTE and this award will enable them to move into a position at 1.0 FTE and spend more time in research and mentoring of early career researchers. Those who are already tenured in a Reader position may not apply to offset their salary costs.

- Reader position applications will require evidence of excellence in the candidate's field beyond the expectation for senior lecturers. Demonstration of a sustained and innovative contribution to knowledge in their field will be required.
- Applicants must demonstrate innovative research and scholarship within the discipline, as evidenced by high impact and quality publications of original research with high numbers of citations in peer reviewed high quality journals and/or through influential monographs; and by attested knowledge and excellence in the discipline field.
- Applicants must show evidence of external recognition, such as invitations to deliver keynote lectures at international conferences, positions on/awards from national/international and/or professional bodies, or sustained success at external funding from competitive sources and/or novel knowledge exchange leading to significant impact on external organisations.
- Applicants must demonstrate excellence in research leadership and sustained success in obtaining research grants and successfully supervising research students to completion.
- Applicants must demonstrate knowledge exchange activities as evidenced by external collaboration, consultancy, membership of professional bodies and review committees.

8. Reader Award (Non-Clinical)

- Applicants must have obtained a PhD/Prof Doc or equivalent.
- Applicants should have held a previous or academic position in an area relevant to stroke.
- Applicants must be endorsed by their University and must be nominated by the prospective Head of Department, and have an undertaking from the Director/Head of the Institution, Vice-Chancellor, Principal or Dean that their personal support will be taken over by the institution at the end of the award.
- Applicants must not currently hold a Chair (personal or other).
- Reader positions will normally only be awarded to those who are already Senior Lecturers at their University, in recognition of their personal distinction in their subject, and of their contribution to its advancement through scholarship and research.

- Candidates may only apply for a Non-Clinical award at any level if they are not in clinical practice, either due to switching from a clinical or partially clinical career path to pure academic research, or having trained via an entirely scientific, non-clinical career pathway.
- In some cases, those who already hold a Reader position will be considered. In this scenario, the Reader must be able to demonstrate that this award would add value and in some way enhance their current position, allowing them to take their career to the next level. For example: if the Reader is currently employed at 0.6FTE and this award will enable them to move into a position at 1.0 FTE and spend more time in research and mentoring of early career researchers. Those who are already tenured in a Reader position may not apply to offset their salary costs.
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