

Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS)- Springboard Scheme- RHUL INTERNAL SELECTION PROCESS

When a round is open, prospective applicants should first contact the RHUL Springboard Champion at researchservices@rhul.ac.uk to express their interest in the scheme and find out more about RHUL internal selection process.

Background

In May 2015, the Academy partnered with the Wellcome Trust to initiate the Academy of Medical Sciences Springboard - a scheme to support biomedical researchers newly appointed to their first independent position. In 2017 they welcomed the British Heart Foundation and the Government Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, alongside the Wellcome Trust, to form a funding consortium for the scheme. The scheme welcomes applications that contribute to the Academy's mission to improve health through research.

Aim

These awards provide up to £100,000 over two years and a personalised package of career support to help newly independent biomedical scientists to launch their research careers. **The Academy of Medical Sciences embraces the broad diversity of biomedical research and they encourage Springboard applicants from molecular, cellular and structural biology to anatomical, physiological, psychological, epidemiological and public health research areas.** You may use experimental or theoretical approaches and be undertaking basic laboratory research through clinical application to healthcare delivery but your work must reflect the Academy's mission to improve human health through research. Research-active Higher Education Institutions may put forward up to four applications per round. Please refer to the funder's website for further details [Scheme's website](#).

RHUL Timetable

2021 deadlines	Action
01 February	RHUL opens internal selection process Please contact your Springboard Champion to express your interest in the scheme at researchservices@rhul.ac.uk and send us a recent CV (no more than 2-A4 pages) including: current post (include start date, full time or part-time); career history; all research grants secured (past and current; as PI or Co-I; Funder; type of funding -e.g. research grant, fellowship; total amount awarded and percentage share of the funding); all research grants in the pipeline including funder and size of the grant; publications, other research outputs, prizes, invited talks or career recognition you may have. We will do an eligibility check and will contact you if we have further queries.
29 March	Deadline for applicants to submit their Research Expression of Interest (EOI) Eligible applicants submit an expression of interest (1000 words) by this date. <u>No new applications will be accepted after this deadline.</u> It should include aims and objectives, why the research is important and innovative, background work undertaken so far including preliminary data, plan of investigation, budget (this does not count towards the 1000 words; for costs contact researchservices@rhul.ac.uk , expected outputs and references. This EOI will be assessed by an expert review panel.
19 April	Review panel meeting to select up to four applications
21 April	RHUL results are announced. A senior mentor to support the development of the full proposal will be allocated to each selected applicant.
03 May	RHUL to inform AMS about our 4-final candidates by 12noon
Early May	AMS invites RHUL selected applicants via email to submit a full application form on line.
15 June	AMS deadline for full applications
25 June	AMS confirms eligibility of RHUL 4-final candidates
Feb 2022	AMS outcomes are released

Eligibility

This scheme is targeted at those who are in the early stages of their first independent research position and have not yet obtained substantial research funding support from other sources, such as large research grants or large fellowships. To be eligible to apply the candidate must:

- Hold an established academic research position at your institution.
- Be in their first independent (salaried) position (i.e. group-leader level, line managed not supervised).
- Be within 5 years (FTE) of your first independent (salaried) position and have sufficient time remaining in your current post to complete the proposed Springboard project.
- Candidates who have moved institutions within the first five years of their first appointment as a group leader may now be eligible, if it can be shown that this was a side-ways move and not a promotion.
- Be based within one of the eligible higher education institutions (we are).

And they must not:

- Hold a clinical contract.
- Be in receipt of substantial research funding as the Principal or Co- Investigator exceeding £150,000 for the two year Springboard award (excluding your personal salary, overhead and indirect costs).

Any lecturer who will be in post by the AMS submission date can be considered for this scheme.

Research proposal

AMS are looking for a research proposal of high scientific merit and your application will be peer reviewed to assess this, as well as your research environment and your career plans. Please provide as much methodological detail as possible to help AMS assess the quality of your proposal.

Applicants will be asked to explain how COVID has impacted their research and career on the application form.

Preliminary data

You are specifically encouraged to present preliminary data in support of your proposal, if you have any. You are allowed to submit up to two pages of preliminary data, which must be presented as tables and/or figures, with accompanying legends. No additional text is permitted.

What is offered?

The maximum amount available is £100,000 over two years towards your research costs and professional development. For example, funds can be used towards the employment of support staff, purchase of consumables and equipment, access to technical support, training and travel; funds cannot be used to pay for your personal salary costs. Springboard applicants put forward by their institution will be invited to participate in the Academy's one-to-one mentoring scheme and a programme of events and activities will be developed for their benefit.

AMS Springboard assessment criteria

The key assessment criteria which have equal weighting are:

1. The applicant: your academic track record; potential benefit of the project to your career; clarity of plans for obtaining further funding; and your career aspirations
2. Research quality (importance and relevance of the research question; quality and appropriateness of the research methodology; and degree of innovation).
3. Research environment and support (quality of the research environment and availability of appropriate support; quality of Data Management and Sharing plans, where provided; and satisfactory statements of support from their Head of Department and Springboard Champion).