

Oxford-Harrington Scholarship Programme 2015 Application Guidance

Oxford-Harrington Scholarship Programme

In November 2014, the Oxford-Harrington Scholarship Programme was launched to support researchers at the University of Oxford to translate discovery science into medicines that improve human health. This new collaboration between the University of Oxford and the Harrington Discovery Institute at University Hospitals in Cleveland will leverage their combined expertise and resources to advance drug discovery projects. It is expected that three awards will be made in the first half of 2015 to Oxford researchers working on clinical translational projects.

The Oxford-Harrington Scholarship Programme will provide consultancy based support to researchers working on novel drug discovery research problems that have demonstrable potential to become new therapies, but may not be far enough along the drug development path to receive support from financial investors. Oxford-Harrington Scholars will have access to the Harrington Discovery Institute's Innovation Support Center for strategic project management that includes dedicated drug development experts from industry that will be charged with advising on and materially helping the translational and drug development efforts of Oxford-Harrington Scholars.

In addition, Scholars may be introduced to BioMotiv LLC as a potential investor. Biomotiv is a for-profit commercialisation company, aligned with the non-profit Harrington Discovery Institute in its mission to advance drug discoveries by clinical researchers. BioMotiv will work in collaboration with Isis Innovation, the University's own technology transfer company.

Support for researchers includes:

- Paid consulting services from highly experienced [drug development personnel](#)
- Business and commercialisation advice
- Clinical development advice
- Regulatory assistance
- IP review and advice
- Assistance identifying and securing additional financial support based on the needs of the project
- Networking with the cohort of Harrington Scholars in the US through attendance of the annual Harrington Discovery Institute Scientific Symposium

Professor Alison Simmons was selected as the first Oxford-Harrington scholar in 2014 and discusses the benefits of being an Oxford-Harrington scholar in the November 2014 issue of the [Medical Sciences Division newsletter](#). In this round, it is expected that three new Oxford-Harrington scholars will be selected.

For each of the three new Oxford-Harrington scholars, in kind support and commercial advice (worth up to £60k, over two years) will be provided by the Harrington Discovery Institute. To match this support in kind, the PI must be able to demonstrate that they have at least £60k of existing external grant income or departmental funds available to take forward the aims of the project included for consideration in this application. Projects should start by May 2015 and will be supported by the Harrington Discovery Institute for the following two years. Oxford-Harrington Scholars will also be candidates for Supplemental Funding that will be provided by the Harrington Discovery Institute to projects that achieve development milestones.

The US Harrington Scholar-Innovator Program has supported US physician-scientists since 2013. The launch of the Oxford-Harrington Scholarship Programme represents a major stage of expansion of this successful programme to the UK. Scholars meet at the annual Harrington Discovery Institute Scientific Symposium, which brings together Harrington Discovery Institute scholars, leadership and Scientific Advisory Board; drug development experts of the Harrington Discovery Institute's Innovation Support Center and BioMotiv; and leadership of major US disease foundations. Over the two days of the symposium, clinical researchers engaged in cutting-edge research connect with the drug development expertise that is essential to realise the commercial potential of their discoveries. New scholars will be expected to attend this event on 20 – 21 May 2015 in Cleveland, Ohio, US.

Eligibility criteria

The applicant must be

- a PI, an independent researcher and eligible to apply for external grants in their own name
- an employee of the University of Oxford
- available to attend the Harrington Discovery Institute Scientific Symposium on 20 – 21 May 2015

Clinician-scientists or a scientist with a clinician collaborator are particularly encouraged to apply.

Deadline and Submission

Please submit your application documents as a single combined PDF, which should include

- Scientific proposal (see guidance below)
- CV (max 2 pages)
- List of relevant publications (max 4 pages)
- Letter of support from your Head of Department (max 2 pages)

The application pack should be emailed as a single PDF to [Leila Whitworth](#) by **4pm** on **Monday 12th January 2015**. You must copy the email to your Departmental Administrator.

Decisions will be made by April 2015. Up to three new scholars will be selected in this round.

Scientific proposal format

Proposal layout: The scientific proposal should include a header on every page that contains the PI's name and Project Title. Documents should be clear and easy to read and include the following sections:

1. Applicant Details

- First name, initial, last name and university email address and department of the Principle Investigator
- Title of the proposed project
- List of any co-investigators including their first name, initial, last name, institution, university email address and department
- List of any academic or commercial collaborators including their name, title, and institution/organisation
- Name and e-mail address of departmental administration contact for the application
- Start and end date of project (projects should start before May 2015 and last two years)

2. Field(s) of investigation

Applications should indicate the field(s) of study that the project covers. Fields should be chosen from the following list, applicants can select up to 3 fields.

- Cell signalling
- Cell Biology
- Genomics
- Membrane Biology
- Proteomics
- Receptor Biology
- Redox
- RNA
- Stem Cell Biology
- Systems Biology
- Transcription
- Cardiovascular
- Endocrine
- Gastroenterology
- Haematology/Oncology
- Infectious Disease
- Nephrology
- Neuroscience
- Obstetrics and gynaecology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- Respiratory Medicine
- Radiology
- Urology
- Other

3. Abstract (250 words maximum)

In this section applications should include a summary of the research plan including goal, hypothesis and specific aim(s); clinical justification, impact, and potential commercial opportunity (if known); and highlight aspects which are novel and innovative.

4. Project description (2 pages maximum)

This section should outline the initial hypothesis, background, science and rationale, work completed to-date, and current stage of the project. It should also explain how discovery, fundamental science, project goals and objectives fit into the translational pathway and eventual clinical use. References will not count towards the maximum page length but total list of references should not exceed one page.

5. Innovation (250 words maximum)

In this section applications should explain how the project is situated within current medical practice and/or scientific literature in order to highlight the novel and innovative nature of the project.

6. Impact (250 words maximum)

In this section, applications should describe the potential clinical, medical impact and/or commercial opportunity of the research project. The specific embodiment or 'product' (drug, biologic, diagnostic, other) of the project should be stated if applicable/known.

7. Intellectual property (250 words maximum)

This section should discuss the current status of any relevant intellectual property.

8. Demonstration of matched funding (250 words maximum)

In order to match the £60k of commercial advice provided by the Harrington Discovery Institute, applicants must demonstrate in this section that they have at least £60k of existing external grant income or departmental funds available to take forward the aims of the project.

Assessment criteria

Projects will be assessed against three criteria

1. Quality of the science and the scientist
2. Novelty and innovative quality of the work
3. Potential for impact on human health

A detailed market assessment is not required for a successful application.

Contact

Questions about the scheme should be directed to [Leila Whitworth](#)

FAQ

Q Who gets the intellectual property (IP) rights to my work?

A All IP is retained by the University. The scholars and their institution maintain full rights and ownership of their pre-existing IP and any newly generated IP and are under no obligations with respect to the decisions they make.

Q How does this programme interface with Isis?

A Isis Innovation Ltd is the University's Technology Transfer Office and scholars will be expected to work with Isis and Harrington Discovery Institute's Innovation Support Center to disclose and review the potential of any arising IP. Where there is a good rationale for protecting arising intellectual property Isis will be responsible for filing patent applications, in consultation with the scholars and with Harrington Discovery Institute's Innovation Support Center. The parties will agree and support a suitable development and commercialisation strategy for the intellectual property.

Q What funding is eligible to demonstrate the £60k match?

A Any external funding or internal departmental funds are eligible to demonstrate the £60k match. The key criteria are that you can demonstrate that you have at least £60k of existing funding available to take forward the aims of the project. For example, a PI may have an existing Wellcome Trust Senior Investigator Award that has already started where a translational workstream is included in the project plan. This work could be proposed as the Oxford-Harrington Scholar project.

Q Is market size or indication an important consideration?

A Not *per se*. This call values discoveries and drugs that address unmet needs and orphan indications. The call is disease agnostic.

Q Do I need to have a drug or biologic candidate in hand?

A No. Studies aimed at identification and/or validation of molecular targets are of interest. Please note that pathway analyses, expression profiling, and similar projects should be specifically focused on target discovery and validation rather than on cataloguing, correlating, or description. If the study provides strong evidence that modulation of a specific molecular target may provide therapeutic benefit, then the project falls within scope.

Q Are you interested in biomarkers and/or diagnostics?

A Not *per se*. Biomarkers are of interest as part of a therapeutic development program as a means to identify appropriate patients (“companion diagnostics”) or monitor drug effects in human trials.

Q Are you interested in drug-device combinations?

A Such projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis. If the therapeutic benefit results primarily from the drug component, the project is of interest. If the benefit is due primarily to the device with the drug serving a secondary role (e.g. an antibacterial coating for an implant), the project may be considered if highly novel or addressing a major unmet need.

Q Does the project proposed need to be a new project?

A No, you may wish to include a workstream that already has some external funding.

Q Can I propose a joint application with two PIs?

A No, there must be one PI but you can name co-investigators.

Q Can I name co-investigators from other institutions?

A Yes.